Monday, February 22, 2016

Legislative Announcements

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Public Power Industry Announcements

Community reward for information on criminal violence against OPALCO apprentice; Chelan PUD commissioners continue high-density load moratorium until October 3; Okanogan PUD commissioners award Pateros-Twisp project to Michels Power; EWEB now taking orders for emergency water containers; Rocky Reach Visitor Center getting ready for 2016 season;
and PCWA Board commits to water resources stewardship.

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Associate Member Announcements

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Read more…

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Looking to plan your training for 2016 or view a catalog of training events? Click on the button below.

2016 eCatalog PDF

Check out these upcoming training events:

- **IT Conference: Partly Cloudy with a Chance of Recovery**
  - March 9 – 11, 2016

- **NWPPA Labor and Employee Relations Member Meeting (formerly the Northwest Wage & Hour Group)**
  - March 18, 2016

- **Revenue Metering: Introduction and Application**
  - March 22 – 23, 2016

- **Distribution Engineering Series: Session 2 – Overcurrent Protection**
  - March 30 – 31, 2016
NWPPA Distributed Energy Resource Conference – Call for Presentations and Displays

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) has scheduled a Distributed Energy Resource Conference on October 12-13, 2016 in Spokane, Washington, and is seeking presentations and displays. The due date for presentation submissions is March 18, 2016.

NWPPA’s Distributed Energy Resource (DER) Conference is designed to assist NWPPA’s 145 member utilities and its 300+ associate members look at distributed energy resources (DER) in an interactive and informative 1.5 day conference.

Conference Objective
The objective of the conference is to provide ideas, options, and resources to our member utilities and vendors in order to help initiate or improve their plans for DER through speaker and panel presentations, vendor displays and networking among the utility attendees and vendors.
Presentations Sought
NWPPA is seeking presentations, panel discussions, and vendor displays. Case studies are especially sought.

Target Audience
The target audience of the conference is utility and industry vendor personnel including utility presidents / general managers, engineering managers, system engineers, system planners, transmission, distribution and generation engineers, operations managers and superintendents, system operators, and anyone that would benefit from presentations and discussions on DER.
(For more information on NWPPA go to www.nwppa.org.)

Suggested Topics Sought
Topics of interest to the NWPPA Distributed Energy Resource Conference audience include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Renewable energy options – utility to residential scale options for solar, wind, small hydro, etc.
- Integration of renewables – solar, wind, smart invertors, supporting software and systems, etc
- Energy storage options – utility-scale and small scale (such as EV and residential) batteries, flywheels, pumped storage, compressed air, ice storage etc.
- Demand response –utility and government pilot programs and research, energy efficiency products and services, etc.
- Government agency research, pilots, programs and incentives

Presentation Submission Due Date is March 18, 2016
Detailed abstracts and attachments are not required for consideration, only a one paragraph description that may be printed in our conference program. **March 18, 2016 is the due date** to return the attached form to NWPPA; Attn: Scott Lowry at slowry@nwppa.org or (360) 254-5731 (fax). Selected
speakers will be contacted by no later than April 15, 2015.

Displays
Information on sponsorship displays is included in the attachment.

Please use the attached form for submitting presentation ideas and for more information on sponsorship displays.

Industry Calendar of Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming public power meetings.

RFP/RFQs

Utilities: NWPPA offers its utility members the opportunity (at no cost) to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. Reach out to NWPPA’s almost 4,000 associate member contacts that supply goods and services to the utility industry and might be interested in responding to your utility RFP/RFQ. For more information, contact Debbie K. at debbie@nwppa.org.

Associate Members: Make sure to check out NWPPA’s RFP/RFQ Web page to view utility RFP listings. Listings are posted as they are received by NWPPA.

New RFP posted February 9th, 2016!

Recent Industry Job Openings

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA’s website in the past week.
On This Day in History

Lee Petty wins first Daytona 500; Tet Offensive ends; U.S. hockey team makes miracle on ice; and Milli Vanilli win the Best New Artist Grammy.
Scalia death ignites political firestorm

Update provided by Morgan Meguire

On February 13, conservative Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia was found dead at a West Texas hunting resort. Scalia served on the court for 30 years, and he was known for his originalist, textualist reading of the U.S. Constitution. His reluctance to read individual rights into the text of the Constitution made him a controversial figure in modern times, while his eloquent and impassioned opinions made an indelible mark on jurisprudence as a whole.

Scalia’s passing has policy and political ramifications that are difficult to overstate. The Supreme Court now stands with eight jurists – four who espouse a reliably liberal perspective, three who are generally conservative, and “swing vote” Anthony Kennedy – in a constellation prone to deadlocking on many of the critical issues facing the court in the near term.

Of interest to the electric sector, one of Scalia’s final acts as a justice was as the deciding vote to approve the stay of the Clean Power Plan,
which will not be lifted until the case is heard by the Supreme Court. A more liberal-leaning justice may be more likely to uphold the underlying rule, while a conservative might be more likely to side with challengers. If a successor is not confirmed and the court reaches a 4-4 tie, the lower court’s ruling (which has not yet been rendered) would stand, or the justices could rehear the case when a ninth jurist is empanelled.

The stakes for both political parties in the selection of the next jurist became immediately apparent. Less than an hour after news of Scalia’s death was released to the public, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) declared that the vacancy on the bench should not be filled until a new president has been elected, saying that “the American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court justice.”

President Obama has vowed to send the Senate a nominee “in due time.” Potential names include D.C. Circuit Court Judge Sri Srinivasan (on deck to hear the challenge to the Clean Power Plan at the lower court) and U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch. It is also possible that Obama could name a moderate conservative in an attempt to short-circuit the politics of shifting the balance of the bench.

**DOE approves siting of UAMPS’ SMR at the INL**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On February 18, the Department of Energy (DOE) approved the request of NWPPA member Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
(UAMPS) for a site-use permit to place a small modular reactor (SMR), being developed by Oregon-based NuScale Power, within the DOE’s Idaho National Laboratory (INL) just outside of Idaho Falls.

“Small modular reactors are an important new step toward safe, reliable, carbon-free technology. Today’s announcement is a part of the Department of Energy’s ongoing commitment to strengthening nuclear energy’s role in America’s low-carbon future,” said Lynn Orr, under secretary for Science and Energy at DOE.

The INL Site-Use Permit signed by DOE and UAMPS allows UAMPS to access the INL site to analyze environmental, safety, and siting conditions. UAMPS is currently working to identify potential locations that may be suitable for building the UAMPS Carbon-Free Power Project (CFPP) for further characterization and analysis.

Small modular reactors feature compact, scalable designs that are expected to offer a host of safety, construction, and economic benefits, and could potentially supply low-carbon baseload energy to small electric grids and locations that cannot support larger reactors.

There are still regulatory hurdles to be overcome. NuScale must obtain design certification from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and UAMPS needs a construction and operating license from the NRC.

California legislature weighs in on regional RTO

Update provided by Morgan Meguire
On February 4, California Senate Speaker Pro Tem Kevin De Leon and Speaker-Elect of the Assembly Anthony Rendon, along with other senior members of the legislature, sent a strongly worded letter to Governor Gerry Brown (D) regarding the proposed California Independent System Operator (CAISO) – PacifiCorp (PC) grid merger, and the potential impact of any new CAISO governance structure.

The legislators want the governor “to ensure that California preserves its authority over energy efficiency, demand response, distributed energy resources, and clean fossil generation.” The legislators said they are watching with interest, and are “open to considering a new governance structure provided it retains state climate leadership, lowers grid costs to California consumers, exports our clean energy in ways that benefit California jobs and economy, enhances transportation electrification consistent with the new state targets, and promotes open governance and regional stability of the grid.”

The letter noted a number of unanswered questions to be resolved, and verified by “independent outside parties” before the state proceeds to regionalization. They have asked for a response from Governor Brown before any next steps are taken. The legislature’s principles include:

1. No preemption or weakening of California’s clean energy and climate laws. “Our recent travels to Paris show that California is a world leader in climate and energy policy. At the same time, the U.S. Congressional majorities and other states – including several of which are within the current [PacifiCorp’s] service area – actively oppose these policies.”

2. Air and GHG pollution should be reduced. “Expansion of the CAISO into a western regional grid would add states heavily
invested in coal and other high-GHG-emitting resources. California law prohibits our utilities from investing in new coal resources that do not meet a GHG emissions performance standard.”

3. Protect California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard. “This past year, California’s renewable portfolio standard (RPS) was carefully revised and extended to mandate that half of the state overall energy portfolio come from clean energy by the year 2030. Any regionalization proposal should maintain – and not weaken – the RPS.”

4. Lower costs to California ratepayers. “Any merger proposal should demonstrate that costs for capacity, energy, and transmission borne by California customers under the proposal would be less than costs California customers could reasonably be expected to pay, absent the merger.”

5. Maintain public transparency and access. “Any regionalization proposal should ensure that open meetings, transparency, and public access to an expanded grid operator are maintained, with appropriate exceptions for grid security.”

6. Support new state targets for low-cost charging of electric vehicles. “Achievement of California’s ambitious clean energy and climate goals depends heavily on electrifying our transportation system. Any regionalization proposal should not undermine this opportunity either by resulting in new renewable generation built far from California with no transmission capacity to delivery to California electric vehicles or by exporting most of that power to PC customers.”

7. Promote economic growth and job creation. “California’s clean energy policies are also good economic policy. According to the Advanced Energy Economy, advanced energy employment in the state in 2015 was 431,800, an increase of 5 percent over the prior year. Employers are optimistic about the future as well, with about half of all firms expecting to add employees during the coming year…”

Expansion of the CAISO must be accompanied by changes in
governance, to ensure that the new regional entity is not governed solely by California, and the California Legislature has final approval of any such changes. It remains to be seen how the states served by PacifiCorp and other entities contemplating joining an expanded RTO will respond to the California legislators’ “shot across the bow.”

17 governors sign clean energy accord

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On February 16, a bipartisan group of 17 governors signed a “Governors’ Accord for a New Energy Future” to boost renewable energy, reduce transportation emissions, and modernize the electric grid. The plan provides a platform for participating states to collaborate and partner in energy planning and policy making.

Signatories to the accord commit their states to action in seven key areas: diversifying energy generation and expanding clean energy sources; modernizing energy infrastructure; encouraging clean transportation options; planning for this transition; working together to make these transformational policy changes; and securing a stronger national energy future.

Specifically, the agreement will target enhancing electric vehicle charging infrastructure opportunities, using technologies to store renewable energy, and developing energy workforce training programs.

Participants include the governors of California, Connecticut,

California Governor Edmund Brown said, “With this Accord, governors from both parties have joined together and committed themselves to a clean energy future. Our goal is to clean up the air and protect our natural resources.”

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**Dems to FERC: not so fast on PURPA conference**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*


Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), ranking member on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Reps. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), ranking members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its Energy and Power Subcommittee, respectively, said the conference should not be used as a springboard for the Commission to narrow the scope of the act beyond what Congress expressly authorized in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. All three members are strongly pro-renewables and supportive of the current law, with its “must purchase” requirement.

The trio listed a series of questions that would be appropriate for
consideration at the conference, including, among others:

1. “Whether methods used by states to calculate avoided costs accurately reflect the full value of all avoided costs provided by qualifying facilities (QFs) included avoided energy, capacity, ancillary service, transmission, and distribution costs;
2. Whether independent state policies, including integrated resource planning, competitive procurement requirements, net metering, and renewable portfolio standards, have generally been stable enough to provide a reliable investment climate for renewable generation; and
3. Whether independently administered, voluntary energy imbalance markets on their own have ever approached the volume and liquidity of the comparable markets contemplated under [the 2005 Act] that would send a sufficient market signal to develop independent renewable generation in the absence of a must-purchase requirement.”

Republican members of Congress had previously called on FERC to hold the conference in response to questions raised during hearings on the energy bills about the ongoing need for PURPA must-purchase requirements by energy companies such as Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company.

The letter from Congressional Democrats signals that any effort to amend PURPA to remove the “must purchase” requirement will likely face stiff opposition.

NRC’s Ostendorff to step down

_Update provided by Morgan Meguire_

On February 17, Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Member
William Ostendorff announced he would step down at the conclusion of his term on June 30. He plans to teach at the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated before serving in the Navy.

Ostendorff, a republican, had been seen as key to a bipartisan “pairing” to reconfirm, alongside pending Democratic nominee Jessie Roberson. Since no more than three members of the NRC may be from the same party, a potential Republican president could nominate two Republican candidates of his own choosing, if the Senate refuses to confirm Roberson and President Obama’s Republican selection.

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**APPA forms Electric Vehicle Interest Group**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On February 17, APPA’s Electric Vehicles Interest Group (EVIG) held its first conference call to convene the group and discuss activities taking place regarding electric vehicles. While APPA has followed this issue for many years, their focus to date has primarily been on research and development. The creation of the group signals a shift to providing a vocal perspective from the municipal electric sector in the conversation.

The primary purposes of the group are to gather information on issues related to electric vehicle use by public power utilities, states, and industry partners; provide updates from the federal level; create a forum for public power utilities to share information from the local and state levels; and direct APPA’s collaboration with the Department of Energy (DOE). Of these topics, participants on the call were most
interested in using the group for information sharing and project collaboration.

The six primary impacts to utilities from electric vehicles identified by APPA include planning for new electric load; developing fair and equitable rates; infrastructure planning and ownership structures; environmental credits; customer engagement; and economic development. APPA supports leaving infrastructure investment up to communities.

APPA is working with DOE’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office and Office of Electricity Delivery on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate collaboration between the government and public power, to accelerate plug-in electric vehicle and charging infrastructure deployment.

The next EVIG call is scheduled for May 25, 2016.
Community reward for information on criminal violence against OPALCO apprentice

During the early morning hours of February 9, a newly hired OPALCO apprentice lineman was held at gunpoint in his home on Orcas Island. The assailant made threats against his safety and that of his family. The following day, death threats were scrawled across the front of OPALCO headquarters in Eastsound, Wash. The San Juan County Sheriff’s office and the FBI are investigating and the community is raising a significant reward for information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible for these crimes.

“This is serious crime that has created fear in the community,” said Randall Gaylord, prosecuting attorney. He added that “the first step is to find the perpetrator and those who may have provided assistance. Even the smallest detail may be helpful.”

The investigators are reviewing video footage and analyzing handwriting samples. Persons of interest are being interviewed. The
consequences for felony crimes of this magnitude include serious prison time for the perpetrators and their accomplices.

“We will not tolerate acts of violence,” said General Manager Foster Hildreth. “This is about the lives and well-being of the people who work hard every day to serve our membership.”

**Chelan PUD commissioners continue high-density load moratorium until October 3**

On February 16, Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners voted to continue, until October 3, the moratorium on applications for electric service from energy-intense users, such as data servers, block-chain, and bitcoin operations.

The decision followed continued discussion and public comment on a proposed high-density load (HDL) rate that would affect customers using 250 kilowatt-hours (kWH) of electricity per square foot or more per year.

PUD commissioners also continued the public hearing on the proposed HDL rate until their board meeting on March 21. Board members will be asked at that meeting for guidance on three rate design options, upfront system impact fees, and options for implementing a possible rate.

On Tuesday, commissioners received additional information about the proposed HDL rate. Staff presented a scenario on the potential impacts an illustrative high-density load of 100 average-megawatts
might have on the District over five years. (See presentation.)

also heard from customers, industry representatives, and community members about the proposed high-density load rate. Three speakers asked the board to consider broad economic development impacts before making a decision.

Board members have targeted June for considering a decision on the HDL rate to provide time through the summer for implementation.

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**PUD commissioners award Pateros-Twisp project to Michels Power**

The Okanogan PUD (Wash.) Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to award the Pateros-Twisp 115-kilovolt transmission line project to Michels Power of Tumwater, Wash., during a special meeting held on February 16. Michels Power submitted the lowest responsive proposal received by the District, coming in at $5,018,003.93. Eight companies submitted bids for the construction of the transmission line.

The PT Project will create a loop feed to the Methow Valley area to increase reliability and reduce line losses. Currently, the line is a radial feed from Okanogan. The project will consist of 27 miles of transmission line; 5 miles of 13.2-kilovolt, 3-phase, distribution underbuild; and 2 miles of 13.2-kilovolt, 3-phase, double-circuit distribution underbuild.

The structures for the transmission will be steel H-frame, three pole
and single pole, for approximately 20 miles; there will be WRC wood poles and laminated poles for approximately seven miles. Polymer 115-kilovolt class insulators will be utilized throughout the line. The distribution underbuild sections will be of a crossarm and pin type construction.

The bidding process began on December 30, 2015, with the advertisement of the project and bid documents sent to pre-qualified contractors. Line construction is scheduled to be complete by December 31, 2016.

**EWEB now taking orders for emergency water containers**

Eugene Water & Electric Board (Ore.) customers who want to prepare for earthquakes, forest fires, or other emergencies that could interrupt the delivery of drinking water can now pre-order three-gallon water storage containers at a discounted price.

Storing an emergency supply of water – along with food and other life-sustaining items – is a critical component in any household emergency kit.

EWEB wants to help its customers prepare for such emergencies by making the three-gallon BPA-free water storage containers easily available. The utility has been working for more than two years with the American Red Cross and other participating agencies to raise awareness that emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility.
“Following a disaster or loss of water supply, clean drinking water may not be available, so it makes sense to store enough water for several days,” said Roger Gray, EWEB’s general manager. “You need a minimum of one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and basic sanitation.”

Starting last week, EWEB customers can pre-order containers online at [www.eweb.org/waterreliability](http://www.eweb.org/waterreliability). The $5 charge per container will be applied to a customer’s water bill when the containers are picked up in early May. One dollar of every purchase will support local Red Cross emergency preparedness and disaster response. This year, container distribution will coincide with Drinking Water Week (May 1-8) to allow multiple days for pick-up.

Due to limited supplies, EWEB is asking customers who received containers in 2014 and 2015 not to sign up for more so other customers can start their emergency kits.

Last year’s order sold out quickly, helping more than 2,000 households prepare for the unexpected. The discounted water containers are made available through partnerships with the local chapter of American Red Cross, local water utilities, the city of Eugene and other agencies.

In addition to the water containers, EWEB’s water emergency preparation efforts include fortifying and upgrading critical infrastructure such as water distribution pipes, reservoirs, and the Hayden Bridge Filtration Plant on the McKenzie River. The utility is also planning to build a second, smaller filtration plant on the
Willamette River that should be online in the next several years.

For guidance on assembling a household emergency kit, go to Be Red Cross Ready. For more information on why emergency preparedness is important, check out this July 2015 article in The New Yorker: www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/07/20/the-really-big-one

Rocky Reach Visitor Center getting ready for 2016 season

Where can you stand in the shadow of a hydro turbine, look for a Geocache, hug 42 kinds of trees, enjoy Mama D’s peanut brittle, visit a museum, and get eye-to-eye with a sockeye? Rocky Reach Dam, of course, and we can’t wait to welcome you for another great season of fun, exploration, and education.

The dam will open to the public for its 55th season at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1. The Visitor Center offers free tours of the powerhouse along with the Museum of the Columbia, plus art displays, a theater, and fish viewing.

In 2015, Rocky Reach Dam hosted more than 71,000 visitors and welcomed almost 650 tour groups.

Guests will enjoy new playground equipment in the Rocky Reach Park this spring. The playground has been modernized with improved toys for all ages, taking better advantage of the park space. It’s also ADA accessible. New equipment includes an enclosed slide, swings, and various climbing equipment. Stop by, check out the new play area,
and join us in April for our ribbon-cutting ceremony once the finishing touches are complete. Watch our Facebook page for details.

Always popular is the award-winning D3 Tour – a GPS-assisted scavenger hunt where visitors can find the hidden treasures of hydropower on the Columbia River. Anyone who finds all the geocaches at Rocky Reach will get a stamp on a D3 passport and a prize. To complete the challenge and receive a unique patch, “cachers” must fill their passport by finishing the geocache courses at all three dams, including Chief Joseph Dam, near Bridgeport, and Grand Coulee Dam, near Coulee Dam, on the upper Columbia River in Washington State.

Guests need to be sure and sample Mama D’s Kitchen at Rocky Reach. Run by local foodie and baker-extraordinaire Gina Dugger, guests are welcome from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays with extended hours and weekends April – September. Dugger offers breakfast, lunch, and a variety of local canned and baked goods, including gluten-free options.

Reserve park shelters for birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, and family reunions at no cost. The grounds are open until 6 p.m. daily, until May 1, when park hours extend to 9 p.m. Guests can reserve Rocky Reach park shelters by calling (509) 663-7522.

Chelan County PUD welcomes visitors to tour the exhibits and the Museum of the Columbia at their leisure. Staff is on hand to answer questions and provide in-depth tours. To schedule a tour, visit our website, or contact Christina Detering, at (509) 663-7522.
The Visitor Center will be open March 1, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., daily, through October 31. Rocky Reach Dam is located 7 miles north of Wenatchee on Highway 97A. Click for directions.

Find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/VisitRockyReach.

**PCWA Board commits to water resources stewardship**

In a show of good faith and commitment to water resources stewardship, the Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.) Board of Directors adopted a resolution, at its February 18 meeting, directing staff to take the necessary actions to achieve PCWA’s state-mandated conservation target, despite recovering local supplies. The action followed the board’s decision to rescind the Agency’s declared water shortage emergency, which has been in effect since February 2014.

“As an Agency governed by the California water code, we are required to rescind our emergency declaration when local supplies have been replenished,” PCWA General Manager Einar Maisch said. “However, the statewide system has not fully recovered from the drought. As a result, we are seeking continued cooperation from our customers to conserve.”

In 2014, PCWA customers voluntarily cut back water use by over 20 percent. Since June 2015, under order by the State Water Resources Control Board, PCWA customers have reduced water use in excess of 30 percent, vastly surpassing the state mandate during the summer months. The board recognized customer efforts have benefited
California’s environment.

District 2 Director Primo Santini noted, “Our customers have done a tremendous job and will no doubt continue to meet conservation targets for the greater good of California.”

the state’s largest reservoirs, Shasta and Oroville, continue to sit below their historical averages, the State Water Resources Control Board extended its emergency water conservation mandate through October of this year. At the urging of PCWA and other water providers, the regulatory agency agreed to review water conditions in May, when a clearer picture of state supplies will be available. The extended regulation contains credits for climate and population growth; PCWA expects a 4-percent credit that can be applied to its current 32-percent conservation requirement.
Northwest power plan supports growth while preserving natural resources

Northwest Power and Conservation Council members approved its Seventh Power Plan at its February meeting, concluding a 60-day comment period.

The plan, developed to ensure that the Northwest will have a reliable and economical power supply, calls for energy efficiency and demand response resources, along with existing natural gas-fired generation, to meet our future energy needs.

The Council heard from a broad cross section of stakeholders, from utilities and energy organizations to environmental and fishery groups, in strong support of the plan, which also drew praise in a number of editorials.

The region’s population is forecast to grow from 14 to 16 million people by 2035 and industrial output from $125 billion to $170 billion. But by building energy efficiency, the region’s electricity loads are
expected to stay at the current level of 20,000 average-megawatts, continuing a 20-year trend of low load growth. Since 1995, annual energy loads grew at an average rate of only 0.4 percent, thanks to the region’s investment in efficiency.

Since 1978, the region has saved enough energy to supply five cities the size of Seattle, and the latest plan builds on that success. Today, energy efficiency is the region’s second largest resource, saving consumer’s about $3.75 billion per year on electricity, and lowering annual carbon dioxide emissions by 22.2 million tons. By 2035, the cumulative amount of energy efficiency will be 10,000 average megawatts, or equivalent to 72 percent of the power generated by the regional hydrosystem (Bonneville Power Administration and other hydrosystems in the region), and 128 percent of just BPA’s hydrosystem.

The combination of the region’s legacy hydropower and ongoing energy efficiency investments have helped to make the Northwest’s power system the cleanest in the nation.

“By investing in energy efficiency, at the levels recommended in the plan, we’ll be able to grow our economy without significantly increasing electricity costs and without sacrificing our quality of life,” said Council Chair Henry Lorenzen.

The plan includes a program to protect and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydroelectric dams, and the plan’s resource strategy, especially the energy efficiency measures, have allowed system operators over time to embed reliable fish and wildlife operations into
core system operations while maintaining a power supply that is adequate, reliable, and affordable.

To read the entire release, visit http://www.nwcouncil.org/news/blog/7th-pp-approved/.

The mission of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council is to ensure, with public participation, an affordable and reliable energy system while enhancing fish and wildlife in the Columbia River Basin. For more information, visit http://www.nwcouncil.org/.

S&C and Tantalus forge strategic alliance for muni and co-op utilities

On February 9, S&C Electric Company, a smart grid leader shaping the future of power delivery, and Tantalus Systems, a smart grid platform partner for municipal and cooperative utilities, announced the formation of a strategic alliance. This strategic alliance allows utilities to support grid optimization and rapid self-healing solutions through the use of a powerful, layered communication architecture.

As part of this strategic alliance, S&C is approving the use of the Tantalus DA-1710 Bridge Modem™ in S&C’s IntelliCap® 2000 Automatic Capacitor Control to facilitate grid optimization applications such as Volt-VAR Optimization. This joint capability allows utilities to automate capacitor controls and voltage regulators to reduce peak demand, maximizing the value from their TUNet® AMI communications investments.
Additionally, S&C’s SpeedNet™ portfolio of high-speed communication solutions can be integrated with TUNet communications to enable S&C’s IntelliTeam® SG Automation Restoration System to rapidly self-heal targeted areas of the distribution grid and to allow utilities to gain further control and verification of self-healing operations.

“In order to deliver rapid, self-healing distribution automation applications, a communications network must provide crucial elements, such as high throughput and low latency,” said Donivon Hettich, director – Grid Control and Connectivity for S&C. “The typically deployed AMI communications network does not deliver the performance levels demanded by rapid self-healing grid applications, which reduce outages from minutes to seconds. The integration of Tantalus’ TUNet AMI capabilities with S&C’s SpeedNet™ high-speed communications portfolio will deliver a network capable of supporting both grid optimization and rapid self-healing distribution automation applications, such as S&C’s IntelliTeam SG Automation Restoration System. By combining our solutions with Tantalus, we jointly enable utilities to attack outage prone areas with a cost-effective, layered communication network architecture.”

“Tantalus continues to successfully deliver smart grid applications such as voltage optimization via SCADA integration and power status notification through the TUNet network,” said Peter Londa, president and CEO of Tantalus. “Our new Bridge Modem leverages TUNet’s distributed computing capability to support the delivery of standardized DNP3 messaging across the TUNet AMI platform, thus extending visibility and control to end-of-line distribution automation
devices on the distribution grid. By layering S&C’s industry-leading communications with TUNet, our utility users will gain expanded access to powerful grid optimization and rapid self-healing solutions.”

S&C, with global headquarters in Chicago, is applying its heritage of innovation to address challenges facing the world’s power grids and is thus shaping the future of reliable electricity delivery. The mission of employee-owned S&C is to continually develop new solutions for electricity delivery, fostering the improved efficiency and reliability required for the intelligent grid. Additional information about S&C is available at [www.sandc.com](http://www.sandc.com).

Tantalus provides a two-way, multi-purpose platform that enables access to data to power advanced smart grid applications for monitoring and control of electric, water, and gas municipal and cooperative utilities. TUNet® – the Tantalus Utility Network – is an award-winning end-to-end WAN/FAN/LAN/Grid Edge communications system that utilizes IP-based networks including fiber, WiMAX, and cellular, as well as 220 and 900 MHz wireless RF. For more information, please visit [www.tantalus.com](http://www.tantalus.com).

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**SEPA and ScottMadden review Hawaii’s solar market: a postcard from the future**

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA), an educational non-profit group, and ScottMadden, Inc., one of North America’s leading energy consulting firms, have released a report to share lessons learned for Hawaii’s grid transformation. The article, featured in the February
2016 issue of the Public Utilities Fortnightly magazine, provides an overview of the renewable energy market in Hawaii and reviews the transformation currently underway.

The evolving role of the Hawaiian utilities and the quickly changing solar market are, as officials there like to say, “postcards from the future” for mainland energy markets. The changes underway send a clear message about the solar market and what the mainland should expect in its future.

Driven by market forces and evolving customer demands, Hawaii has in a very short time integrated a significant amount of distributed renewables. This experience provides lessons to others on how to manage this transition: physical integration, stakeholder management, internal alignment, and customer focus. Utilities and regulators can either get ahead of the wave — with a focus on customer and grid solutions — or risk being overtaken by it.

Such insights are a few of the key takeaways that a group of nearly 20 utility and solar industry executives brought back from a recent fact-finding mission to Hawaii. This article builds on the “postcard” narrative and provides insight and understanding of Hawaii’s response to its booming solar market.

“Hawaii provides insights into the integration of high penetration of renewables,” said Chris Vlahoplus, partner and clean tech and sustainability practice leader. “One lesson is to approach these situations with a ‘test and adjust’ framework instead of the more conventional ‘prove and deploy’ strategy.”
The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is an educational non-profit dedicated to helping utilities integrate solar power into their energy portfolios for the benefit of the utility, its customers, and the public good. With 900 utility and solar industry members, SEPA provides unbiased utility solar market intelligence; up-to-date information about technologies and business models; and peer-to-peer interaction. From hosting national events to providing utility strategies, SEPA helps utilities make smart solar decisions. For more information, visit www.solarelectricpower.org.
2016 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2016 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at Debbie@nwppa.org.

February 2016

24-25 – APA Legislative Conference, Juneau, AK

March 2016

3 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

7-9 – APPA Legislative Rally, Washington, D.C.

April 2016

7 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

May 2016

1-4 – NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

5 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

June 2016

2 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

7-9 – APA Federal Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.
10-15 – APPA National Conference & Public Power EXPO, Phoenix, AZ

14-15 – WRECA Annual Meeting, Red Lion Hotel Richland Hanford House, Richland, WA

**July 2016**

7 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

12-14 – ORECA Mid-Year Meeting, Seven Feathers Casino Resort, OR

**August 2016**

4 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

**September 2016**

1 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

19-20 – National Hydropower Association Alaska Meeting, Cordova, AK

21-23 – APA Annual Membership Meeting, Cordova, AK

**October 2016**

4-6 – Regions 7 & 9 Meeting, Reno, NV

6 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

**November 2016**

3 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

29-Dec. 1 – ORECA Annual Meeting, Location TBA, OR

**December 2016**

8 – PPC Annual Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Submit an RFP or RFQ

NWPPA offers its members the opportunity to post RFPs and RFQs on our website at no charge. For more information or questions, contact Debbie K. at debbie@nwppa.org or complete the form below.

‡ Submit an RFP/RFQ for publication on NWPPA.ORG

CURRENT RFPs/RFQs

Cap and Pin Replacement at the District’s Wauna Substation

Offered by: Clatskanie PUD

Response deadline: March 22, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Posted on: February 26, 2016

Clatskanie People’s Utility District (District) is requesting proposals for Cap and Pin Replacement at the District’s Wauna Substation.

Sealed proposals must be received no later than 2:00 pm on March 22, 2016 at the District office:

Clatskanie People’s Utility District
Attention: Lynn Donner
PO Box 216
495 E. Columbia River Hwy
Clatskanie, OR 97016

A mandatory pre-bid site visit is scheduled for 9:00 am, March 15, 2016 – meet Brian Taylor in the District’s office lobby.
Complete details of the Request for Proposal can be viewed on the District’s website www.clatskaniepud.com under RFP: Cap and Pin Replacement.

Contact Brian Taylor, P.E. at 503-308-4591, btaylor@clatskaniepud.com with questions or to request additional information.

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**RP15-0657F: Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis Consultant**

**Offered by:** City of Tacoma

**Response deadline:** February 30, 2016

Must be received by 11:00 a.m.

**Posted on:** February 9, 2016

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**CITY OF TACOMA**

**NOTICE OF CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITY**

The City of Tacoma informs you that a new contracting opportunity has been issued for the following solicitation:

**Request for Proposals**

**Rate Design and Cost of Service Analysis Consultant**

**Specification No. RP15-0657F**

**Submittal Deadline: 03/01/16 11:00 AM, Pacific Time**

To view and download an electronic copy of the Specification, visit the City of Tacoma Purchasing website at [www.TacomaPurchasing.org](http://www.TacomaPurchasing.org) and click on “Contracting Opportunities” and then “Services Solicitations” and navigate to referenced specification.

*The Questions and Answers are being distributed via the website only.*

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**Notice of Request for Proposals for Design, Construction and Commissioning of a New Substation**

**Offered by:** Northern Wasco County People's Utility District

**Response deadline:** March 7, 2016
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING
OF A NEW SUBSTATION

Issued: February 8, 2016

Response Deadline: 5 P.M. Pacific Time on March 7, 2016

SUMMARY

Northern Wasco County People's Utility District ("NWCPUD") seeks to engage an engineering consultant to design, procure materials for, construct and commission a new substation in the North Industrial Area of its service area ("NIA Substation" and also referred to herein as the "Project"). The term "Services" refers to any Architectural, Engineering, Photogrammetric Mapping, Transportation Planning or Land Surveying Services or Related Services necessary to complete the Project. This document describes the Project, process and content for responses to this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

The Services may include, but will not necessarily be limited to:

- Site assessments and permitting
- Providing procurement specifications, bid documents, evaluation and recommendation for the power transformers
- Design of all aspects of the substation
- Procurement of substation components
- Construction management
- Project Commissioning

The approximate configuration of the Project is as follows:

- 2 x 20/27/33 MVA step-down power transformers
- 115 kV primary fed from Chenoweth-Harvey circuits #1 and #2
- 115 kV primary main-tie-main bus configuration
- 5 kV secondary with LTC tap range to reach 13.8 kV.
- 8 to 10 feeder positions with reclosing breakers and getaways to UG vaults.
- All air insulated switchgear.
- Substation metering, relays and instrumentation compatible and interoperable with existing PUD equipment

Due to the large quantity and complexity of the planned work, NWCPUD considers it necessary to use the services of an outside engineering consultant to provide design, procurement and construction management services for the identified work. Minimum requirements of Consultant’s resources and detailed description of required services are included in the RFP documents.

The ideal timeframe for the Permitting, Design, Procurement and Construction of the Project is from April 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. However, proposals may include project schedules that include construction activities in 2017.

NWCPUD is still evaluating the estimated cost to Permit, Design and Construct the Project. Preliminary estimates based on recent industry benchmark costs indicate a total cost between 4 and 5 million dollars. This estimate is highly preliminary.

Consultants must submit a notice of intent to respond and initial questions regarding this RFP no later than 12:00 p.m. (PST) February 22, 2016, via email to NIASubRFP@nwasco.com. Additional questions must be received three (3) working days prior to proposal due date.

Selection of the Consultant will be conducted pursuant to OAR 137-048-0220 Formal Section Procedure

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND COPIES OF THE COMPLETE RFP CONTACT:

NIASubRFP@nwasco.com
www.nwasco.com

RFP for Construction of the Haakenson Substation Project

Offered by: Elmhurst Mutual Power & Light Company

Response deadline: March 8, 2016
2:00 p.m.

Posted on: February 3, 2016

Elmhurst Mutual Power & Light Company (Elmhurst) is issuing an "Invitation to Bid" for the purpose of soliciting sealed proposals for the construction of the Haakenson Substation Project. Sealed proposals will be received by Elmhurst on or before Tuesday, March 8, 2016, at 2:00 P.M., at the
offices of Elmhurst at 120 132nd Street South, Tacoma, WA 98444.

The Project consists of the labor material and equipment to re-construct the 115 -13.2 kV, 16.8/22.4/28 MVA, Haakenson Substation. The Plans, Specifications and Construction Drawings, together with all necessary forms may be obtained via email from Elmhurst.

Parties interested in bidding shall contact Elmhurst at the above address or by e-mail at dianey@elmhurstmutual.org. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at Elmhurst's office located at 120 132nd Street South, Tacoma, WA 98444. Only bids from those attending the pre-bid meeting will be considered.

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**Skamania PUD No. 1 RSQ for Engineering Services**

**Offered by:** Skamania PUD No. 1

**Response deadline:** March 31, 2016

**Posted on:** February 3, 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SOLICITATION

Request For Statement of Qualification (RSQ)

Skamania PUD No. 1 RSQ for Engineering Services

Skamania PUD No. 1 is inviting statements of qualifications and performance information from firms interested in providing professional engineering services for calendar years 2016 and 2017 in conjunction with PUD sponsored projects for the electric system and two water systems.

For the electric system engineering services are needed for substation and distribution system design, distribution system model development and engineering studies, project management and commissioning of substation construction, and analysis and design for interconnection of small (<5MW) generation.

For the Carson and Underwood water systems engineering services for water reservoir site acquisition, design and construction project management, water resource development, water system infrastructure condition assessment studies, water system development feasibility studies and miscellaneous water distribution and transmission equipment replacement and upgrade design and construction project management.

Qualification and performance statements will be reviewed and placed on file for the 2016-2017 calendar years; they will be used as the source from which to select one or more qualified firms from
whom a detailed proposal will be requested for any specific project.

Please direct responses to Brent Bischoff, General Manager, Skamania PUD No. 1, PO Box 500, Carson WA 98610 or by email bbischoff@skamaniapud.com. Questions regarding the solicitation can be asked by email or telephone at (509) 427-5126. Response of interested firms is requested no later than March 31, 2016.

Contract No. 16039 Swan Lake Reservoir Expansion Construction Project

Offered by: Southeast Alaska Power Agency

Response deadline: February 30, 2016
Must be received by 4:00 pm AKST

Posted on: February 3, 2016

The Southeast Alaska Power Agency (SEAPA) is seeking bids from qualified firms for its Swan Lake Reservoir Expansion Construction Project to:

♦ Obtain and place structural steel components
♦ Form and place reinforced concrete
♦ Perform both demolition and re-construction of spillway concrete
♦ Install Owner furnished flash-boards and vertical gate
♦ Perform modifications to Intake Building concrete
♦ Remove existing intake components
♦ Replace both existing and new Owner furnished equipment in the Intake Gate Building

This project is located at SEAPA's Swan Lake Hydro-electric Project located near Ketchikan, Alaska. The successful bidder must comply with Alaska's Little Davis-Bacon Act, Employment Preference Act, and Alaska Products Preferences.

A mandatory site visit at Bidder's expense is required.

Bids must be received by March 1, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. AKST.

A copy of the proposal documents may be downloaded from SEAPA's website at: [http://www.seapahydro.org/ rfp.php](http://www.seapahydro.org/ rfp.php) or call Sharon Thompson at 907.228.2281 for a copy of the bid documents.
Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

**Accountant/Senior Accountant** – Columbia River PUD

**Campus Director** – Northwest Lineman College

**Electrical and Control Systems Engineer** – Eugene Water and Electric Board

**Electrical and Control Systems Planner** – Eugene Water and Electric Board

**Field Engineering Technician** – Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**General Manager** – Harney Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**General Manager** – Idaho County Light and Power Cooperative Association, Inc.

**Journeyman Lineman (Reedsport, Ore.)** – Central Lincoln People’s Utility District
Journeyman Lineman (U16-011) – Portland General Electric

Journeyman Lineman – Reedsport, OR – Central Lincoln People’s Utility District

Journeyman Tree Trimmer – South Beach – Central Lincoln People’s Utility District

Senior Financial Analyst – Eugene Water and Electric Board

Staking Engineer – Big Bend Electric Cooperative

Training Lead (Denton, Texas) – Northwest Lineman College

Training Lead (Meridian, Idaho) – Northwest Lineman College

Training Lead (Oroville, Calif.) – Northwest Lineman College

View all available jobs

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Lee Petty wins first Daytona 500

February 22, 1959

On this day in 1959, Lee Petty defeats Johnny Beauchamp in a photo finish at the just-opened Daytona International Speedway in Florida to win the first-ever Daytona 500. The race was so close that Beauchamp was initially named the winner by William France, the owner of the track and head of the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR). However, Petty, who was driving a hardtop Oldsmobile 88, challenged the results and three days later, with the assistance of news photographs, he was officially named the champ. There was speculation that France declared Beauchamp the winner in order to intentionally stir up controversy and generate publicity for his new race track.

Today, the 200-lap, 500-mile Daytona 500 is one of auto racing’s premiere events and the first race of the NASCAR season. France, a gas station owner and racing promoter, officially co-founded NASCAR in Daytona Beach in 1948. The following year, Lee Petty, a mechanic...
from North Carolina, began his racing career at the age of 35. He went on to win more than 50 races on NASCAR’s Grand National circuit (subsequently known as the Winston Cup from 1971 to 2003, the NEXTEL Cup from 2004 to 2007 and the Sprint Cup from 2008 onward) and three championships before being seriously injured in a crash during a qualifying event at Daytona in 1961. Following the crash, Petty drove in a handful of races before retiring from competition in 1964. He went on to found Petty Enterprises, which became NASCAR’s oldest and most successful racing team. In January 2009, Petty Enterprises merged with Gillett Evernham Motorsports and became Richard Petty Motorsports.

Petty’s son, Richard (1937- ) became one of the greatest drivers in NASCAR history, winning the Daytona 500 a record seven times between 1964 and 1981. Richard Petty’s sixth victory at Daytona, in 1979, also marked the first time the race was shown live, flag-to-flag, on television. Due to a snowstorm on the East Coast, a larger-than-anticipated TV audience tuned in to the race, which included a memorable fistfight between drivers Cale Yarborough and brothers Donnie and Bobby Allison, and the broadcast was a key moment in NASCAR’s rise to become one of America’s most popular spectator sports.

The Petty racing dynasty also includes Richard’s son, Kyle Petty, and Adam Petty, Kyle’s son, who died at the age of 19 in a crash at the New Hampshire International Speedway on May 12, 2000. Adam’s great-grandfather, Lee Petty, had died less than a month earlier, on April 5, at the age of 86.
Tet Offensive ends

February 22, 1968

The American war effort in Vietnam was hit hard by the North Vietnamese Tet Offensive, which ended on this day in 1968. Claims by President Lyndon Johnson that the offensive was a complete failure were misleading. Though the North Vietnamese death toll was 20 times that of its enemies, strongholds previously thought impenetrable had been shaken. The prospect of increasing American forces added substantial strength to the anti-war movement and led to Johnson’s announcement that he would not seek re-election.

U.S. hockey team makes miracle on ice

February 22, 1980

In one of the most dramatic upsets in Olympic history, the underdog U.S. hockey team, made up of college players, defeats the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York. The Soviet squad, previously regarded as the finest in the world, fell to the youthful American team 4-3 before a frenzied crowd of 10,000 spectators. Two days later, the Americans defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the hockey gold.

The Soviet team had captured the previous four Olympic hockey golds, going back to 1964, and had not lost an Olympic hockey game since 1968. Three days before the Lake Placid Games began, the Soviets routed the U.S. team 10-3 in an exhibition game at Madison
Square Garden in New York City. The Americans looked scrappy, but few blamed them for it—their average age, after all, was only 22, and their team captain, Mike Eruzione, was recruited from the obscurity of the Toledo Blades of the International League.

Few had high hopes for the seventh-seeded U.S. team entering the Olympic tournament, but the team soon silenced its detractors, making it through the opening round of play undefeated, with four victories and one tie, thus advancing to the four-team medal round. The Soviets, however, were seeded No. 1 and as expected went undefeated, with five victories in the first round.

On Friday afternoon, February 22, the American amateurs and the Soviet dream team met before a sold-out crowd at Lake Placid. The Soviets broke through first, with their new young star, Valery Krotov, deflecting a slap shot beyond American goalie Jim Craig’s reach in the first period. Midway through the period, Buzz Schneider, the only American who had previously been an Olympian, answered the Soviet goal with a high shot over the shoulder of Vladislav Tretiak, the Soviet goalie.

The relentless Soviet attack continued as the period progressed, with Sergei Makarov giving his team a 2-1 lead. With just a few seconds left in the first period, American Ken Morrow shot the puck down the ice in desperation. Mark Johnson picked it up and sent it into the Soviet goal with one second remaining. After a brief Soviet protest, the goal was deemed good, and the game was tied.

In the second period, the irritated Soviets came out with a new
goalie, Vladimir Myshkin, and turned up the attack. The Soviets dominated play in the second period, outshooting the United States 12-2, and taking a 3-2 lead with a goal by Alesandr Maltsev just over two minutes into the period. If not for several remarkable saves by Jim Craig, the Soviet lead would surely have been higher than 3-2 as the third and final 20-minute period began.

Nearly nine minutes into the period, Johnson took advantage of a Soviet penalty and knocked home a wild shot by David Silk to tie the contest again at 3-3. About a minute and a half later, Mike Eruzione, whose last name means “eruption” in Italian, picked up a loose puck in the Soviet zone and slammed it past Myshkin with a 25-foot wrist shot. For the first time in the game, the Americans had the lead, and the crowd erupted in celebration.

There were still 10 minutes of play to go, but the Americans held on, with Craig making a few more fabulous saves. With five seconds remaining, the Americans finally managed to get the puck out of their zone, and the crowd began counting down the final seconds. When the final horn sounded, the players, coaches, and team officials poured onto the ice in raucous celebration. The Soviet players, as awestruck as everyone else, waited patiently to shake their opponents’ hands.

The so-called Miracle on Ice was more than just an Olympic upset; to many Americans, it was an ideological victory in the Cold War as meaningful as the Berlin Airlift or the Apollo moon landing. The upset came at an auspicious time: President Jimmy Carter had just announced that the United States was going to boycott the 1980
Summer Games in Moscow because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and Americans, faced with a major recession and the Iran hostage crisis, were in dire need of something to celebrate. After the game, President Carter called the players to congratulate them, and millions of Americans spent that Friday night in revelry over the triumph of “our boys” over the Russian pros.

As the U.S. team demonstrated in their victory over Finland two days later, it was disparaging to call the U.S. team amateurs. Three-quarters of the squad were top college players who were on their way to the National Hockey League (NHL), and coach Herb Brooks had trained the team long and hard in a manner that would have made the most authoritative Soviet coach proud. The 1980 U.S. hockey team was probably the best-conditioned American Olympic hockey team of all time—the result of countless hours running skating exercises in preparation for Lake Placid. In their play, the U.S. players adopted passing techniques developed by the Soviets for the larger international hockey rinks, while preserving the rough checking style that was known to throw the Soviets off-guard. It was these factors, combined with an exceptional afternoon of play by Craig, Johnson, Eruzione, and others, that resulted in the miracle at Lake Placid.

This improbable victory was later memorialized in a 2004 film, Miracle, starring Kurt Russell.

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**Milli Vanilli win the Best New Artist Grammy**

February 22, 1990
With the benefit of hindsight, there might be Grammy awards that members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences wish they could take back, but there is only one that they actually did: the Best New Artist Grammy that was awarded to the famously fraudulent dance act Milli Vanilli on February 22, 1990.

The competition that night for the Best New Artist award included Neneh Cherry, whose album Raw Like Sushi had spawned the dance hit “Buffalo Stance”; Indigo Girls, whose eponymous debut included “Closer to Fine”; Soul II Soul, the group that absolutely dominated the British House Music scene; and Tone Loc, whose novelty rap records “Wild Thing” and “Funky Cold Medina” were both crossover pop smashes. But then there was Milli Vanilli, whose debut album Girl You Know It’s True had sold 14 million units behind the success of five Top 5 singles that sold a cumulative total of 8 million units, including the #1 hits “Baby, Don’t Forget My Number,” “Girl I’m Gonna Miss You,” and “Blame It On The Rain.”

That level of commercial success is not the kind of thing that Grammy voters—a notoriously industry-focused bunch—take lightly. Yes, there had been an Ashlee Simpson-like incident involving a jammed tape machine at a “live” concert the previous July, but it is fair to wonder whether those Grammy voters who hadn’t heard the murmured doubts about Milli Vanilli’s legitimacy would have cared one bit if they had. Academy members had, after all, nominated the Partridge Family for the very same award back in 1971. It was an open secret in the music industry that many hit records were made by musicians other than those whose faces graced album covers, but the Milli
Vanilli deception crossed that hard-to-define line separating “standard industry practice” from “ethically outrageous behavior.”

Or perhaps it was merely the very public way in which that deception came to light that forced the Academy to act. At a press conference on November 14, 1990, German record producer Frank Farian revealed that he had fraudulently put the names and faces of the gorgeous but talent-free Rob Pilatus and Fab Morvan on the dance records he was creating in his studio using less esthetically gifted real musicians. Four days later, Milli Vanilli’s Grammy award was withdrawn, and Pilatus and Morvan began a well-documented descent into drug abuse and failed comebacks.