



Northwest Public Power Association

## Northwest Public Power Association eBulletin



Northwest Public Power Association

Legislation | Public Power Industry | Association News | Educational Opportunities | Industry Events | Job Openings | This Day in History

# eBulletin

Published by the Northwest Public Power Association



facebook.com/NWPPAssoc

twitter.com/NWPPAssoc

[www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org)

[View Online](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Advertise](#)

**The NWPPA office will be closed Monday, July 4 for the Fourth of July holiday.**

### Monday, June 27, 2016

#### Legislative Announcements

House democrats hold sit-in on House floor; NWPPA submits comments on Quadrennial Review; "Big six" meet again on energy bill, conference still in limbo; Senate Energy considers wildfire and forest management proposal; Cantwell tells FERC to protect consumers given California's gas shortage; EPA reverses course on recognizing hydropower in clean power incentive program; Senate Natural Resources panel holds hearing on BLM's management 2.0; President signs TSCA and pipeline safety; FAA finalizes drone rules, rejects public power "governmental use" bid; FERC issues notice of proposed rulemaking to implement FAST Act; and Senate cybersecurity caucus announced.

[Read more...](#)

---

## Public Power Industry Announcements

Welcome new members; Please report fraudulent calls to E-ISAC; Governor Walker announces new Department of Natural Resources commissioner; Ravalli celebrates Valley Solar with grand opening, ribbon cutting; Chelan Board cites customer value in decision to modernize original units at Rock Island Dam; CRPUD to receive storm reimbursement; City of Alameda Public Utilities Board approves FY 2017 budget; SMUD Tiny House Competition to be held at Cosumnes River College this fall; NCPA may add the City of Shasta Lake; partners with PCWA; and New Alameda board to begin planning for undergrounding power lines.

[Read more...](#)

---

## Associate Member Announcements

ABB completes upgrade of first major HVDC link in U.S. transmission history; Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories expands operation in Brazil; ABB inverter dramatically boosts performance of solar power installations; NRTC begins new era, continues ongoing commitment to members; and McLaren Inc. offers steel poles and substation structures by ROHN Products LLC.

[Read more...](#)

---

## Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Looking to plan your training for the second half of 2016 or looking at training for 2017? To view a catalog of training events scheduled through the year click on the button below.

[eCatalog PDF](#)

Don't miss out – **Register now** for these upcoming training events:

- [Avian Protection Plan Workshop](#)
  - July 14-15, 2016, Vancouver, WA
- [Senior Leadership Skills #3, Series 4 – InsideOut Coaching](#)
  - July 19-20, 2016, Richland, WA
- [Power Supply Conference](#)
  - August 1-2, 2016, Portland, OR
- [Leadership Skills #4: HR Basics & Building a More Effective Workplace](#)
  - August 10-11, 2016, Leavenworth, WA
- [Nuts & Bolts of Work Orders](#)
  - August 3-4, 2016, Billings, MT
- [Electric Utility System Operations](#)
  - August 10-11, 2016, Great Falls, MT
- [Leadership Skills #4: HR Basics & Building a More Effective Workplace](#)
  - August 10-11, 2016, Leavenworth, WA
- [Diversified Communications](#)
  - August 16-17, 2016, Great Falls, MT
- [Leading Millennials, Preparing for Generation Z](#)
  - August 18, 2016, Great Falls, MT
- [Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference](#)
  - September 11-14, 2016, Missoula, MT
- [Administrative Professional Certificate Level 3: Day 1 – Organizational Dynamics, Teams and Diversity](#)
  - September 13, 2016, Leavenworth, WA
- [A Guide to the Wonderful World of RUS Accounting](#)
  - September 14-15, 2016, Leavenworth, WA

Search Events...

Mark your calendars for these upcoming public power meetings.

[Read more...](#)

---

## 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. To post your RFP/RFQ, visit our [RFP/RFQ page](#). For more information, contact Debbie K. at [debbie@nwppa.org](mailto: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 June 27, 2016!

[Read more...](#)

---

## Recent Industry Job Openings

View the job opportunities posted to NWPPA's website in the past week.

[Read more...](#)

---

## On This Day in History

First Newbery Medal for children's literature; U.N. approves armed force to repel North Korea; Elvis Presley tapes his famous TV "comeback special"; and Route 66 decertified.

[Read more...](#)

Copyright ©2016 Northwest Public Power Association.  
All rights reserved.  
9817 N.E. 54th Street, Ste. 200, Vancouver, WA 98662  
(360) 254-0109 – [nwppa@nwppa.org](mailto:nwppa@nwppa.org)

You have received this email because you are a member of NWPPA. If you no longer wish to receive emails like this from NWPPA, please [click here](#) to unsubscribe via email.

## Legislative Announcements

[→ Next Section](#)[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)

### House democrats hold sit-in on House floor

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 22, House Democrats led by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) held a sit-in on the floor of the House of Representatives in an attempt to force the Republican Majority to take action on gun control legislation after the Orlando massacre. Earlier in the week, the Senate was unable to pass compromise gun control legislation offered by Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME).

As a result of the Democrats' sit-in, the Republican majority adjourned the House until July 5, stalling action on S.2434, the "*Separation of Powers Restoration Act.*" The bill would undo a judicial doctrine under which courts defer to a government agency's reasonable interpretation of an ambiguous statute that Congress has charged it with executing. (This is commonly called "*Chevron* deference," from the decision in *Chevron v. NRDC.*) The deference principle is the primary lens through which courts typically approach challenges to environmental and other federal regulation, which creates a high bar for those challenging a rule.

The House and Senate GOP majorities see S. 2434 as a way to rein in Executive Branch "overreach," as they characterize the Administration's aggressive approach to rules like the Clean Power Plan and the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. The White House has said the President would veto the bill.

The early adjournment also squeezes the number of days the House will have to consider FY 17 appropriations bills and increases the likelihood of pushing those bills through under rules that restrict amendments. However, it is still unlikely that any appropriations bills will pass into law in their current form, given the policy riders added that attempt to block various Administration initiatives.

---

# NWPPA submits comments on Quadrennial Energy Review

*Update provided by Morgan McGuire*

On June 23, NWPPA submitted comments to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Quadrennial Energy Review (QER), Second Installment. The QER was ordered by President Obama in 2014 ([Presidential Memorandum](#)) in response to a recommendation by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. The administration-wide QER enables the federal government to translate policy goals into a set of executive actions, legislative proposals, and budget and resource requirements for proposed investments over a four-year planning horizon.

The second installment is titled "An Integrated Study of the Electricity System," focusing on the power sector, from generation to end-use. NWPPA made clear that, as locally owned not-for-profit utilities, its members believe in and live the public power mission: to deliver safe, reliable energy at the lowest possible cost to consumers. To do that, they rely heavily on the communities they serve for guidance and are responsive to their needs. "When it comes to federal policies, preservation of local decision-making is paramount to NWPPA's distribution utility members," NWPPA said.

NWPPA further urged DOE to "keep in mind this need for flexibility, regional differences, timing, and costs that can have unintended impacts to consumers."

NWPPA then made four specific comments with regard to the QER:

1. Any recommendations associated with markets must include the ability for public power entities to self-supply capacity and allow for voluntary participation in a capacity market;
2. Distribution utilities that serve small and mostly rural communities would benefit from research and development or demonstration projects that enable cost-effective and locally appropriate programs to reduce energy needs;
3. Cyber security support for all levels of the electric delivery value chain, especially small rural utilities remains an important area for the QER to address; and
4. Workforce development is an important need across the electric sector.

---

## "Big six" meet again on energy bill; Conference still in

# limbo

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

While the Senate has yet to hold a vote on naming conferees to the energy bill, on June 22 a second closed door meeting took place among the top six negotiators – including Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) and Ranking Member Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA). The meeting is the second in as many weeks of the group, but nothing concrete on process or substance was decided.

Sen. Murkowski is the strongest proponent of passing a final bill, and would like the conference to follow a process similar to that used in crafting and defending the bipartisan Senate bill: less controversial items are addressed early on and included, with more contentious issues saved for later, or jettisoned if time runs out.

Rep. Bishop has been hesitant to take controversial items – many of which fall under his Committee’s jurisdiction – off the table at the outset. However, House Republicans have softened their rhetoric somewhat, now signaling their interest in finalizing a bill. On June 20, Reps. Upton and Bishop released a joint statement saying, “At the end of the day, our goal is to get something to the president that he will sign into law. From our perspective, a bill that the president will veto is a waste of time and effort and casts aside the hard work we’ve put in up to this point. We remain committed to working in a bicameral, bipartisan manner and remain hopeful we can set aside our differences and move ahead with a formal conference between the two chambers.”

## ***Controversy Continues over Energy Bill Hydropower Improvements***

Rep. Jerry McNerney (D-CA), the lead Democrat on hydropower licensing reforms in the House-passed energy bill, requested the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to analyze provisions he authored in response to allegations about their impact on the environment. The House provisions received a veto threat from the Administration, which, along with environmental groups, argued the language would undermine the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Like the Senate version, which did not draw a veto threat, the House hydropower provisions would allow the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to act as the lead agency and set schedules for state and federal resource agencies when conducting environmental reviews of new and existing hydroelectric projects. The House bill would also allow FERC to “move forward with proposed action”

if state or local permitting entities missed Commission deadlines or failed to get more time through the courts (the Senate bill sends disputes to the Council on Environmental Quality).

Rep. McNerney has said licensing reform is critical to “unlocking projects that currently face up to a decade — and cost companies millions of dollars — to permit.” However, he recently signaled there may be need for improvements to the language he crafted with Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). McNerney said he will keep pushing the conference committee to find a middle ground. “I see it being negotiated,” he said. “I imagine it will get more clear (sic). If you work hard enough, you can find that compromise.”

McNerney requested CRS to analyze whether the House language would:

1. Allow FERC to waive ESA or CWA requirements if state, tribal, or federal agencies do not meet the FERC schedule;
2. Fail to account for studies, reviews and any other procedures required for state environmental processes;
3. Prohibit FERC from imposing conditions on hydropower licensees; or
4. Override statutory deadlines for review under the CWA or the ESA.

CRS found the House hydropower provisions “are unlikely to be considered a waiver” of the statutes if an agency or tribe cannot meet FERC’s schedule. CRS also determined that the schedules that FERC would set under the bill would adequately account for state environmental processes, and allow state agencies to identify – and seek federal attention to – areas of concern.

However, CRS pointed out the House language does not clearly explain what happens if an agency is unable to satisfy those federal laws, even if it exceeds FERC’s timeline and gets a 90-day extension in court. Such “ambiguities,” CRS said, would have to be dealt with at FERC, state agencies or in court “with the final result possibly constituting a ‘waiver’ of certain aspects of the ESA or the CWA in the eyes of some observers.”

In a related development, a coalition of non-governmental organizations sent a June 21 letter to all Democratic Senators urging them to oppose any motion to agree to conference on the House-passed amendment to S. 2012. In addition, the environmental community, including American Rivers, sent a June 6 letter to Ranking Member Cantwell encouraging her to oppose the hydropower provisions in the House-passed bill.

---

## Senate Energy considers wildfire and forest

# management proposal

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 23, the full Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard testimony on the draft wildfire and forest management proposal authored by Chair Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA). The draft bill would provide a budget cap adjustment when the cost of wildfires exceeds a 10-year rolling average. The plan aims to prevent the Forest Service from dipping into other accounts to cover rising fire costs, which now consume slightly more than half the agency's budget.

This was one of NWPPA's priority issues when it met with its congressional offices in late April.

The proposal has drawn fire from the Obama Administration. Mr. Robert Bonnie, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment with the U.S. Department of Agriculture testified before the Committee, saying that the draft bill is not environmentally sound and does not solve the Forest Service's bigger budget problem – the rising cost of wildfires – which consumes more than half the agency's budget. Bonnie said the Murkowski-Cantwell draft deals with the budget transfers but does not address the rising 10-year average, meaning the agency would continue struggling to fund forest management.

Sen. Murkowski, who is also Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, included the draft wildfire budget language in the fiscal year 2017 Interior Appropriations spending bill. In the hearing, Sen. Cantwell said she would like to see more flexibility for the Forest Service to conduct controlled burns at certain times of the year.

On June 10, NWPPA and eight other Northwest trade associations sent Sens. Murkowski and Cantwell, and other Senate sponsors, a letter of comments on their discussion draft. The letter praised the Senators for their willingness to seek a workable solution wildfire suppression funding and forest management, stating that as the frequency and intensity of fires increase, so does the damage to association members' facilities.

The letter further urged the Senators to consider adding provisions to the draft expediting approvals by federal land management agencies for utilities to conduct "timely" vegetation management as found in the House passed Zinke-Schrader language. Such management is essential to avoid situations where vegetation creates a hazard that leads to fires.

---

# Cantwell tells FERC to protect consumers given California's gas shortage

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 21, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-WA) sent a strongly worded letter urging FERC to stay vigilant in its oversight of energy marketers and electric generators, given significant natural gas shortages resulting from a major leak at the Aliso Canyon storage facility in Southern California. Cantwell expressed concern that energy marketers may “take advantage of the situation” and “artificially raise western electric and natural gas prices throughout the region.”

“Westerners still remember 2000-2001, when the ‘perfect storm’ of a poorly designed California energy market, drought conditions that dramatically reduced hydropower generation, and FERC’s inaction combined to enable unscrupulous individuals and companies to gouge consumers throughout the region for billions of dollars in unwarranted energy costs,” Sen. Cantwell wrote. “History must not be allowed to repeat itself.”

Aliso Canyon currently has only 15 Bcf of natural gas on hand, and officials estimate there could be up to 31 days this year during which gas deliveries will need to be curtailed because demand will exceed supplies, potentially causing 14 days of rolling blackouts in Southern California this summer. It is unclear when it will be safe to resume injection at the facility or when an alternative will be developed to address the gas shortage.

Aliso Canyon provides an important reserve and balancing function to Southern California’s natural gas supply and demand, which includes 17 power plants in the Los Angeles Basin and other power plants throughout the region. In addition, Aliso Canyon is the largest and one of just four natural gas storage facilities in the area; the other three facilities are either too small or located too far away to provide timely resource dispatch to the region.

In her letter Cantwell, urged FERC to use its current statutory authority “to enhance transparency and prevent gas and electric market participants from engaging in manipulative practices that distort function markets and harm consumers.”

---

## EPA reverses course on recognizing hydropower in

# clean power incentive program

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

The EPA's [final rule](#) outlining the Clean Energy Incentive Program (CEIP), released June 16, will recognize hydropower as an eligible technology for incentives.

The proposed rule, released as part of the final Clean Power Plan to reward certain early action before the underlying regulation takes effect, had not included hydro. In response, the National Hydropower Association (NHA) filed [comments](#) on the program, and over the past month held meetings with EPA and White House officials to educate them on hydropower's growth potential and clean energy attributes.

In response to the rule change, NHA said, "Hydropower's inclusion in the CEIP sends a strong signal to agencies within the federal government, states, and clean energy advocates that hydro is an important resource to meeting our clean energy goals."

---

## Senate Natural Resources panel holds hearing on BLM's management 2.0

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 21, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze appeared before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands to defend the bureau's Planning 2.0 initiative. According to the BLM the initiative aims to increase public involvement and incorporate the most current data and technology into land use planning. Through Planning 2.0 the BLM hopes to enhance the way it involves the public in its planning efforts, including measures to provide earlier, easier, and more meaningful participation in federal land management.

Mr. Kornze told the subcommittee that the Planning 2.0 program is the first update in 30 years of the complicated process to revise and amend land-use plans. He informed the members that the proposed rule is strongly supported by sportsmen's and conservation groups. The program, however, has drawn fire from some Western leaders who fear it would weaken the influence of states and counties over critical federal decisions.

Subcommittee Chair Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) called on Mr. Kornze to scrap the effort. Sen.

Barrasso said that given the feedback he has received from constituents, from the plan's public comments, and other experts some involved in the subcommittee hearing, it seemed clear to that there were serious flaws in the proposed program.

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) lectured Kornze on the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's requirement that state and local governments have a prominent seat in the federal land-use planning process.

"The proposed rule that we're discussing today," Lee said, "flouts, I believe, BLM's legislative mandate by undermining coordination between BLM and local officials, relaxing consistency standards, and watering down state and local input, and doing so in the early planning stages."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) told Mr. Kornze that the BLM's efforts to modernize the land management planning process is "a laudable goal" but expressed concern that the plan shortens the public comment periods. BLM says the shortened comment periods are needed to allow the agency to more quickly revise and amend the 160 resource management plans (RMPs) that guide energy development, wildlife protections, and recreation on the agency's 245 million acres.

Sen. Warren said she was troubled by the proposal that would limit the minimum public comment period for draft RMPs, which are typically thousands of pages long, to 60 days from 90 days, and for draft environmental impact statements (EISs) that analyze those plan amendments to 45 days from 90 days.

"I understand BLM's desire to move these plans in a timely fashion, but I think it's important to get them done right and that everyone has a chance to have their voice heard in this process," Sen. Warren said. "Modernizing the planning process is a very important goal, but I don't think that shortening the comment period at the expense of public input is the way to accomplish that."

---

## President signs TSCA and pipeline safety

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 22, President Obama signed the bipartisan "*Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act*" (H.R. 257). He was flanked by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, as well as the late Sen. Frank Lautenberg's widow, Bonnie. It is the first time in 40 years that the Toxic Substances Control Act has been updated.

The law will give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) broader authority to regulate chemicals

and reaffirm the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government in this field. For a number of years, TSCA has been regarded as one of the country's least effective environmental laws. The chemical industry has preferred a strong federal regulator as opposed to a patchwork of various rules across the states. Of interest to utilities are provisions that maintain the current federal preemption of state action on polychlorinated bisphenyls (PCBs). Some states would like to require infrastructure containing PCBs, such as large transformers, to be replaced.

On the same day, the President signed S.2276, a bill reauthorizing the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through 2019. The bill includes a measure that would give PHMSA new authority to impose emergency restrictions on pipeline operators in the event of unsafe conditions. Of particular interest to WPUDA, the new law mandates that the agency set federal minimum standards for underground natural gas storage facilities, a response to the methane leak at Aliso Canyon in California.

---

## **FAA finalizes drone rules, rejects public power “governmental use” bid**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 21, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) finalized the first operational and safety rules for small, non-recreational “unmanned aircraft systems” (UAS) – commonly known as drones. The rule will take effect 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

Utilities have become increasingly interested in the use of drones to monitor and inspect electric infrastructure, because the devices can help restore electric service more quickly, are often safer than sending crews to remote areas, and are cost-effective. When the rule is implemented, utilities and other commercial drone users will be able to fly a UAS by operating under the new rules, following the rules in their FAA-issued Section 333 exemption, or obtaining an airworthiness certificate for the aircraft.

The final rule closely tracks the proposed rule the FAA issued in February 2015, which limits drone usage to daylight and civil twilight operations (30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset) and visual line-of-sight operations. It also requires that a person operating a drone hold a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating or be under the direct supervision of a person who does. The agency estimates that the out-of-pocket cost of this certification is \$150.

The flight limitations are a disappointment to many utilities who anticipate using a drone to inspect remote facilities. The rule defends the limits by citing “two unique safety concerns” not present in manned aircraft: whether a person physically separated from a UAS during flight could see and avoid a mid-air collision with a manned aircraft; and the possibility that the person piloting a UAS may lose control of the aircraft due to mechanical failure or because it is beyond signal range.

However, the rule would allow a utility to seek a waiver to allow individual operations to deviate from the operational restrictions, if the FAA finds that the proposed operation “can safely be conducted under the terms of a certificate of waiver.”

### ***TID Governmental Use Waiver Rejected***

In a related development, the FAA on June 7 denied the request of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) for a determination that the water and power district meets the statutory test of a “governmental function for the purpose of conducting public aircraft operations.” TID had urged the FAA to find that its status as a political subdivision of the State of California under the state water code qualified TID to operate a drone as a “governmental entity,” instead of as a civilian user.

“That a state may choose to expand the reach of its own government to provide any number of services or goods for its residents is not at issue. But the actions of state legislatures to create entities such as public vendors of electrical power cannot be read to bind the terms of the public aircraft statute so as to allow any decision of a state legislature to be the basis for [public aircraft operations],” wrote Lorelei Peter, Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulations at the FAA.

Meanwhile, the FAA Reauthorization bill seems stuck in neutral, with a short-term extension seeming more likely in advance of the July 15 expiration of authority.

---

## **FERC issues notice of proposed rulemaking to implement FAST Act**

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 16, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to implement provisions of the “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation” (FAST) Act that direct FERC to issue regulations regarding the designation, protection, and sharing of Critical Electric Infrastructure Information (CEII).

CEII is defined as “specific engineering, vulnerability, or detailed design information about proposed or existing critical infrastructure” that contains details regarding energy, may be used to plan attacks on infrastructure, is exempt from disclosure via the Freedom of Information Act, or gives locations of critical infrastructure.

The FAST Act changes CEII policy by requiring FERC to:

- Create new criteria and procedures for designating CEII;
- Prohibit unauthorized disclosure of CEII;
- Implement sanctions for FERC employees and other individuals who make unauthorized disclosures; and
- Facilitate voluntary sharing of CEII among federal, state, political subdivision and tribal authorities; the Electric Reliability Organization; regional entities; owners, operators, and users of critical electric infrastructure; and other entities deemed appropriate by the Commission

FERC’s proposal would broaden the scope of CEII to ensure that the public is aware that the revised regulations cover both energy and electric infrastructure.

FERC will also further specify that CEII is exempt from disclosure laws, when protecting law enforcement information that may endanger lives or safety.

The new approach stems largely from a critical analysis and letter written by the Department of Energy in regards to FERC’s previous methods of handling CEII. The issues came to life when an internal FERC document describing certain electric grid vulnerabilities was released publicly.

Currently, FERC’s CEII process limits the distribution of sensitive information to people with a “need to know” clearance, to avoid the possibility of its misuse. To comply with the FAST Act, FERC intends to change the scope and purpose of its regulations specifically referring to the “procedures for submitting, designating, handling, sharing, and disseminating CEII submitted to or generated by the Commission.”

Comments are due on July 31, 2016.

---

## Senate cybersecurity caucus announced

*Update provided by Morgan Meguire*

On June 14, Sens. Mark Warner (D-VA) and Cory Gardner (R-CO), Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee Subcommittee, announced the creation of the Senate Cybersecurity Caucus, which will focus on cybersecurity impacts on national security, the economy and digital security.

“We are launching the Senate Cybersecurity Caucus as a platform to engage in holistic discussions about cybersecurity across Committee jurisdictions, and to keep Senators and their staffs up-to-date on new cyber developments,” said Warner, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Gardner said, “Rifle shots targeting a massive, growing problem have fallen well-short of sufficient. We need a grand strategy to combat positively identified bad actors, and that requires a broad policy response that is adaptable to technological developments and the ever-changing cyber field.”

The Senators will focus on providing information to Members on recent cybersecurity developments; in particular, the challenge encryption has posed to law enforcement. The issue has become the object of jurisdictional wrangling among multiple Congressional committees who see the issue within their respective jurisdictions. Warner has also joined House Homeland Security Committee Chair Michael McCaul (R-TX) in an effort to establish a commission to study the challenges encryption poses to law enforcement.

Cyberattacks account for up to \$120 billion in economic and intellectual property loss annually and cost the average U.S. firm more than \$15 million per year, the lawmakers noted in a press release announcing the caucus.

---

[→ Next Section](#)

[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)



Northwest Public Power Association

## Public Power Announcements

[← Previous Section](#)

[→ Next Section](#)

[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)

---

## Welcome to new members

[OnLine Support](#)

[T&D PowerSkills](#)

---

## Please report fraudulent calls to E-ISAC

An Electric Information Sharing and Analysis Center (E-ISAC) member has reported that two phone calls from different persons claiming to be doing a survey from Arizona State University had been received. The calls came from a northern Iowa area code. The callers were looking to have questions answered about transmission equipment. When the second caller had been told about the same request earlier in the day, they immediately terminated the phone call. No names were given by either caller.

If an NWPPA member experiences similar calls, the E-ISAC would like to be informed. The E-ISAC can be contacted at [www.e-isac.com](http://www.e-isac.com).

---

## Governor Walker announces new Department of Natural Resources commissioner



On June 23, Alaska Governor Bill Walker announced the appointment of Andy Mack as Department of Natural Resources commissioner; Mack fills the vacancy left by Commissioner Mark Myers, who retired in February. Marty Rutherford, who has been serving as acting DNR commissioner, recently informed the governor of her own plans to retire in June.

"I am pleased Andy has accepted this position, given his vast experience in oil and gas issues," Walker said. "As we look for more oil and gas exploration and development opportunities, Andy has the vision and passion Alaska needs to aggressively chart our own path. I am grateful to Marty, who has led the department seamlessly these past four months. Alaskans owe Marty a debt of gratitude for her nearly three decades of government service."

Mack is currently a managing director of Pt Capital, the only private equity fund based in Alaska. Born and raised in Soldotna, he brings over a decade of experience in Arctic policy and development. He currently serves as an advisor to multiple Alaska Native corporations engaged in oil and gas activities on the North Slope. In this role, he helped guide the regulatory drafting and implementation applied to drilling efforts in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.

For more than five years, Mack worked as both a civil and criminal defense attorney, and then worked as a legislative assistant for more than 10 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in Minnesota and a Juris Doctor from Loyola Law School in California. He is a former member of the Resource Development Council of Alaska Board of Directors.

---

## Ravalli celebrates Valley Solar with grand opening, ribbon cutting



*Flanked by Bitterroot Chamber members, Loren Stormo, the first REC*

On May 26, more than 70 members, local dignitaries, Bitterroot Chamber representatives, and Ravalli Electric Cooperative (Corvallis, Mont.) staff came together with special guest, Governor Steve Bullock, to celebrate the completion of Valley Solar.

Each of the two constructed 88-panel solar arrays represents a phase in the community solar project. Phase 1 solar output sold out in December 2015 with enough additional interest to warrant moving forward

*member to participate in the Valley Solar program, thanks Gov. Steve Bullock for cutting the ribbon. Dennis Schneider, the first REC Board member to purchase output in the program, holds the other side of the banner. Photo provided by Ravalli Electric Cooperative.*

with Phase 2 in February 2016. As of June 9, less than one quarter of Phase 2 (19 panels) remains available for purchase.

Since the system went live on April 4, it has generated nearly 15,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity (85 kilowatt-hours per panel), which is enough to power an average home for an entire year.

Members can now view Valley Solar's ongoing energy output by visiting [www.ravallielectric.com/valley-solar](http://www.ravallielectric.com/valley-solar).

---

## **Chelan Board cites customer value in decision to modernize original units at Rock Island Dam**

On June 20, Chelan County PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) commissioners decided to invest about \$60 million to modernize the four original generating units at Rock Island Dam. The decision came after the board reviewed the results of intensive staff analysis and concluded the project meets the strategic objective of investing in long-term assets that provide value to customer-owners.

The benefits would include reliable operation of the units for another 50 years; an expected 12-percent rate of return; and more flexibility in hydro operations, said Brett Bickford, Engineering and Project Management director. The project also has environmental and fish protection benefits and aligns with PUD values of safety, stewardship, trustworthiness, and operational excellence, Bickford said.

PUD staff studied the impacts of retiring the units, moving them to inactive status, and rehabilitating them. Analysis shows returning the units to service provides clear benefits for customers. The other alternatives create costs and removed all possible future revenue from power generation.

Dan Garrison, Hydro Operations director, said staff's recommendation includes schedule changes for ongoing modernizing of four other units in Powerhouse 1. It also calls for hiring at least 10 people for the workload at Rock Island and Rocky Reach over the next several years. Six of these positions will

provide succession planning for projected retirements in the future.

Analysis presented indicates the District's strong financial position makes it unlikely the work would require any change in electric rates under currently forecasted conditions.

Turbine blade cracks were found in 2015 on one unit originally placed in service in 1931; numerous attempts to repair all the cracks were unsuccessful. The extensive look into alternatives for the future began in early 2016 after cracks also were discovered on the three other original units. All four units are out of service until they can be rehabilitated.

The turbine and generator work underway at Rocky Reach Dam also was taken into consideration in setting the schedule for the new project, said Garrison. Modernizing units B1-B4 is expected to start in fall 2018 and finish in spring 2020. Similar work on the larger B5 and B8 units will be rescheduled for 2020-2022.

The board's action set up the \$60 million capital project with \$350,000 in work to be done this year, put the hiring for the 10 positions in motion, and approved the schedule changes.

Next steps for the board are action in September to advertise for bids and a request to award the contract in January 2017.

---

## CRPUD to receive storm reimbursement



*This broken pole was one of 49 poles replaced following the December storm.*

Columbia River People's Utility District (St. Helens, Ore.) will receive \$379,600 in Public Assistance funding from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) for recovery from the damage caused by severe winter storms that occurred in December 2015.

On December 21, heavily saturated soils and high winds combined to create the biggest power outage in the PUD's history. Downed lines were reported on more than 150 roads in the PUD's 240-square-mile service area and 80 percent of the PUD's 18,700 customers experienced outages. Eight agencies sent a total of 10 mutual aid crews to assist the PUD in the restoration effort, which spanned five days.

The total cost of the PUD's outage restoration was \$550,000; \$506,000 of those costs were eligible for a 75-percent Public Assistance reimbursement. PUD Interim General Manager John Nguyen said these funds will help the PUD stay on track with its budgeting.

"While the PUD has funds set aside for emergencies like the December outage, this reimbursement will go a long way toward keeping the PUD on budget as was planned before the storm," Nguyen said.

Columbia River PUD was one of several Oregon agencies to receive FEMA Public Assistance funds. Statewide, Oregon received more than \$2 million. Nguyen credited PUD employees for helping bring federal dollars into Columbia County.

"I am very appreciative of our CRPUD team and the work they did to ensure that FEMA had the information they needed to make this disaster declaration. The FEMA reimbursements are a great outcome, not only for our PUD, but also for Columbia County as a whole," Nguyen said.

President Obama declared Oregon's winter storms a disaster on February 17, 2016, which made FEMA's Public Assistance recovery program available to declared counties. The state and FEMA have been working closely with local officials since then to identify damage, develop project costs, and deliver funding to assist in the recovery.

---

## **City of Alameda Public Utilities Board approves FY 2017 budget**

At its regular meeting on June 20, the City of Alameda (Calif.) Public Utilities Board approved Alameda Municipal Power's (AMP) balanced budget of approximately \$64 million for fiscal year 2017.

The budget reflects the priorities set by the board through its adopted strategic plan, the annual planning workshop held in January 2016, and the annual budget workshop held in April 2016.

Major projects for FY 2017 include installation of advanced meters, initial development of a community solar program, and the designation of districts where overhead utility lines and equipment will be moved underground. The budget also includes funding to upgrade AMP's system operations, make infrastructure improvements, and expand energy efficiency programs for residential and commercial customers.

In a separate announcement on June 21, Fitch affirmed that AMP has an A+ bond rating and said the

utility is financially solid.

---

## SMUD Tiny House Competition to be held at Cosumnes River College this fall



SMUD announced that the inaugural Tiny House Competition will be held at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento the week of October 10, 2016. The Tiny House Competition challenges college and university

teams from across California to design and build net-zero energy homes with a footprint of 400 square feet or less. The teams will assemble and present their homes for judging beginning October 10 and will finish with a “public day” on October 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public day will provide opportunities for attendees to tour all of the houses, attend workshops, visit exhibits by home and garden vendors, and much more.

The Tiny House Competition is modeled after the U.S. Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon, but the “tiny” houses will be less than half the typical square footage of a home built for the decathlon. The tiny houses will be built on wheels and will cost significantly less to construct, making this competition accessible to a wider range of educational institutions.

The homes will feature smart appliances, green building materials and techniques, renewable energy technologies, and innovative designs scaled for small living. They will be judged on criteria divided into four categories: architecture, energy efficiency, home life, and communications. Winning teams will receive trophies and monetary awards.

Teams applied for the competition in the fall of 2014 and began working on their houses last year. Each team has also created a Facebook page and a series of video updates documenting their progress. For more information, visit [smud.org/tinyhouse](http://smud.org/tinyhouse).

---

# NCPA may add the City of Shasta Lake; partners with PCWA

On June 23, the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a leading public power agency in California consisting of 15 electric utilities, considered an application by the City of Shasta Lake for membership. By a vote of its governing board, NCPA passed a resolution supporting the application and recommending that each of its member utilities approve Shasta Lake's membership.

"It is a win-win to have Shasta Lake move forward as a member in NCPA," said Carol Garcia, chair of NCPA and mayor of the City of Roseville, which owns and operates its own electric utility. "NCPA's resources will assist Shasta Lake in protecting its customers, and Shasta Lake will be able to participate in many of the joint member efforts adding to continued aggregated benefits for all."

"Shasta Lake has similar goals as NCPA — we are a publicly owned electric utility that wants the ability to tailor programs for our community and offer affordable, clean, reliable power," said Tom Miller, the electric utility director for Shasta Lake. "With NCPA, we can unite with similar utilities and, through joint action, better protect the city's ratepayers."

By joining NCPA, the City of Shasta Lake will have access to NCPA's influential Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Program. This program has a long track record of shaping energy policy in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

"Energy policy is changing rapidly at both the state and federal level," said Randy Howard, general manager of NCPA. "Policymakers are constantly faced with decisions that have implications on utilities and ratepayers. Many times, these policymakers are attempting to put in place one-size-fits-all decisions that fail to consider the local needs of a small community, such as Shasta Lake. As a joint action agency, NCPA is able to keep its members engaged in these policy matters and provide cost-effective advocacy for their ratepayers and better serve the local needs."

It is expected that the City of Shasta Lake will participate in other ongoing programs at NCPA that bring aggregated benefits in resource procurement, public benefits, training, joint material and service procurement, as well as compliance activities.

The next action is for each of NCPA's 15 member utilities and the City of Shasta Lake to formally approve the city's membership. Once Shasta Lake becomes a member, the city intends to begin exploring other NCPA services as well as participation in NCPA's generation services.

Also on June 23, NCPA unanimously approved a resolution authorizing the agency to provide a variety of power management services to the Placer County Water Agency (Auburn, Calif.). These services include the scheduling and dispatch of energy generated from PCWA's hydroelectric generating facilities located on the middle fork of the American River, also known as the Middle Fork American River Project.

"This agreement brings more efficiency and cost savings to PCWA," said Einar Maisch, general manager of PCWA. "NCPA has the structure in place to effectively provide these services, and we save money by taking advantage of NCPA's economies of scale."

PCWA serves over 200,000 water customers and, on average, generates over one million megawatt-hours a year. Its Middle Fork American River Project, which came online in 1967, consists of five hydroelectric generating facilities with over 220 megawatts of generating capacity.

"NCPA is a good fit for utilities with hydroelectric generation like PCWA," said Howard. "We are a not-for-profit public agency that provides similar services to our own generation that serves other publicly owned electric utilities in California. Our member utilities have pooled their resources to have NCPA provide them with a range of quality services that would be more expensive and too large for them individually."

In addition to scheduling and dispatching energy from the Middle Fork American River Project, NCPA will provide other services, including those related to certain compliance and reporting obligations that PCWA is required to meet.

"NCPA member utilities benefit greatly from the services they receive from the agency," said Garcia. "We are pleased to bring in another Northern California publicly owned utility to share in the important benefits this agency provides to consumers throughout our region."

---

## **New Alameda board to begin planning for undergrounding power lines**

The city of Alameda's (Calif.) "undergrounding" program, in which overhead power lines and equipment are moved underground, is the focus of a new District Nomination Board. Composed of four members of the public and one member from the Public Works Department, the board will hold its kick-off meeting on June 30.

The board will hear an overview of the Underground Utility District program at the meeting. In the coming months, the board will recommend districts in the city for undergrounding power lines and equipment. The board's recommendation will go to a Technical Advisory Committee for evaluation. The committee will then make recommendations on districts to the City Council, for its determination.

Alameda Municipal Power, which administers the city's undergrounding program, plans to start construction in the districts in fiscal year 2018, after the public process is complete and districts have been chosen. A survey and town hall meeting will be planned to provide the public with opportunities to comment on the recommended districts. About 50 percent of Alameda is currently served by underground power lines.

---

[← Previous Section](#)

[→ Next Section](#)

[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)



Northwest Public Power Association

## Calendar of Events

← Previous Section

→ Next Section

↻ Return to eBulletin

### 2016 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2016 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at [Debbie@nwppa.org](mailto:Debbie@nwppa.org).

#### 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

9-10 - [Intermountain Energy Summit](#), Idaho Falls, ID



**THIRD ANNUAL INTERMOUNTAIN ENERGY SUMMIT**

Supporting a coherent, coordinated, sustained and balanced approach to energy in the Intermountain Region.

**Aug. 9-10, 2016 • Idaho Falls, Idaho**

**REGISTER NOW!**

For more information or to register, go to [www.intermountainenergysummit.com](http://www.intermountainenergysummit.com)

**Presenting partners:**

**SN&E** **INL** **FLUOR**

Stellar Newport News Nuclear & Subsidiary of Westinghouse Electric Company Idaho National Laboratory

**Featuring:**

<b>Steve Curwood</b> Host and Executive Producer of NPR's "Living On Earth"	<b>Dr. Todd Allen</b> Third Way and University of Wisconsin
<b>Michael Shellenberger</b> Breakthrough Institute	<b>Robert D. Kahn</b> Director, Northwest and Intermountain Power Producers Coalition
<b>Rep. Mike Simpson</b> Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Water and Energy	<b>Mark Peters</b> Director of the Idaho National Laboratory
<b>John Kotek</b> Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, DOE	<b>Christina A. Back</b> Ph.D., Director of General Atomics' Inertial Fusion and Advanced Fusion Nuclear Technologies and Materials Division
<b>David Friedman</b> Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	<b>Susan Petty</b> President and Chief Technology Officer, AltaRock
<b>Jonathan Weisgall</b> Vice President for Government Affairs, Berkshire Hathaway Energy	<b>Sen. Mike Crapo</b> U.S. Senator for Idaho

## 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.

[← Previous Section](#)

[→ Next Section](#)

[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)

## Jobs

[← Previous Section](#)

[→ Next Section](#)

[↶ Return to eBulletin](#)

## Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

[Director of Member Relations](#) – Homer Electric Association, Inc.

[Finance Director](#) – Jefferson County PUD

[IT Administrator](#) – Salem Electric

[IT Systems Administrator II](#) – Franklin PUD

[Journeyman Lineman](#) – Kodiak Electric Association, Inc.

[Line Dispatcher Specialist III](#) – Portland General Electric

[Risk Control & Credit Analyst](#) – Tacoma Power

[Service & Design Project Manager II \(R16-334\)](#) – Portland General Electric

[Service & Design Project Manager II \(R16-370\)](#) – Portland General Electric

[Telecommunications Network Construction Technician](#) – Tacoma Power

[Telecommunications Planning & Designer](#) – The City of Tacoma

[Lineman](#) – City of Ukiah

[Journeyman Lineman](#) – Peninsula Light Company

[System Engineer](#) – Peninsula Light Company

[Cyber Security Operations & Compliance Supervisor](#) – Eugene Water & Electric Board

[Project Manager](#) – Chelan PUD

[Power Generation Principal Mechanical Engineer](#) – Tacoma Power

[Field Engineer I/II](#) – Columbia River PUD

[Staking Services Supervisor](#) – Glacier Electric Cooperative

 [View all available jobs](#)

 [Previous Section](#)

 [Next Section](#)

 [Return to eBulletin](#)

## This Day In History

[← Previous Section](#)[↻ Return to eBulletin](#)

### Frist Newberry Medal for children's literature

**June 27, 1922**

On this day in 1922, the American Library Association (ALA) awards the first Newbery Medal, honoring the year's best children's book, to *The Story of Mankind* by Hendrik Willem van Loon. The idea for an award honoring outstanding contributions to children's literature came from Frederic G. Melcher, a former bookseller who in 1918 became an editor of *Publisher's Weekly*. Over his long career, Melcher often looked for ways to encourage reading, especially among children. In 1919, he co-founded Children's Book Week with Franklin K. Mathiews, librarian of the Boy Scouts organization. Two years later, Melcher suggested the creation of a children's book award at a June 1921 meeting of the Children's Librarians' Section of the ALA. He proposed that it should be named for John Newbery, the 18th-century English bookseller and author who was considered the father or "inventor" of children's literature.

The group of children's librarians loved the idea, and Melcher's proposal was approved by the ALA Executive Board the following year. The official purpose of the Newbery Medal, as agreed by Melcher and the board, was to encourage originality and excellence in the field of children's books, to let the public know that children's literature deserved the same recognition as poetry, plays or novels for adults, and finally "to give those librarians, who make it their life work to serve children's reading interests, an opportunity to encourage good writing in this field." Van Loon's *The Story of Mankind*, a history of the world written especially for children, was the first book to receive the bronze Newbery Medal.

In 1937, Melcher and the ALA began giving another annual award, the Caldecott Medal, for the best children's picture book. Together, the Newbery and Caldecott awards are the top honors for children's literature in America. In addition to the medal-winning books, the award committees also cite a few other books each year as worthy of attention, which are today called Newbery or Caldecott Honor Books.

---

## **U.N. approves armed force to repel North Korea**

**June 27, 1950**

Just two days after communist North Korean forces invaded South Korea, the United Nations Security Council approves a resolution put forward by the United States calling for armed force to repel the North Korean invaders. The action provided the pretext for U.S. intervention in the conflict and was the first time the Security Council had ever approved the use of military force.

On June 25, 1950, communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Although some U.S. military personnel were in South Korea, the North Korean forces made rapid headway. Almost immediately, the U.N. Security Council issued a resolution calling for a cease-fire and an end to North Korean aggression. North Korea dismissed the resolution as "illegal." On June 27, Warren Austin, the U.S. representative on the Security Council, proposed a resolution. It noted that North Korea had ignored the earlier cease-fire resolution and that South Korea was pleading for assistance. Therefore, the resolution asked that "the members of the United Nations furnish such assistance to the Republic of Korea as may be necessary to repel the armed attack and to restore international peace and security in the area." The resolution passed by a vote of 7 to 1. Yugoslavia was the only dissenting vote; Egypt and India abstained. The Soviet Union, as a permanent member of the Security Council, could have easily vetoed the resolution, but the Russian representative was boycotting Security Council meetings until the communist People's Republic of China was admitted to the United Nations.

The Security Council vote meant that any member nation could now come to the assistance of South Korea, though it left unstated how the efforts of various nations might be coordinated. For the United States, the resolution was all that was needed to provide a foundation for American military intervention. Just three days after the resolution was passed, President Harry S. Truman dispatched land, sea, and air forces to beat back the North Korean attack. That action led to three years of U.S. involvement in the Korean War and over 50,000 U.S. servicemen were killed in the conflict. An armistice signed in July 1953 left Korea a divided nation.

---

# Elvis Presley tapes his famous TV “comeback special”

**June 27, 1968**

There was quite a bit more than just 12 years and a few extra pounds separating the Elvis Presley of 1968 from the Elvis that set the world on fire in 1956. With a nearly decade-long string of forgettable movies and inconsistent recordings behind him, Elvis had drifted so far from his glorious, youthful incarnation that he'd turned himself into a historical artifact without any help from the Beatles, Bob Dylan or the Stones. And then something amazing happened: A television special for NBC that Elvis' manager Colonel Tom Parker envisioned as an Andy Williams-like sequence of Christmas carol performances instead became a thrilling turning point in Elvis's legendary career. Elvis began taping his legendary “*Comeback Special*” on this day in 1968.

Much of the credit for the *Comeback Special* goes to the young director NBC turned to on the project. Only 26 years old but with a strong background in televised music, Steve Binder had the skills and creativity to put together a more interesting program than the one originally planned, but he'd also had the youthful confidence to tell Elvis that a successful show was an absolute necessity if he wanted to regain his relevance. “Basically, I told him I thought his career was in the toilet,” Binder recalled in an interview almost four decades later. From the beginning, Elvis embraced almost every suggestion Binder made, including what would turn out to be the best one, which came after Binder watched Elvis jamming with his friends and fellow musicians in his dressing room one night after rehearsals. “Wait a minute, this is history,” Binder recalls thinking. “I want to film this.” Binder sold Elvis on the idea that would become the most memorable segment of the show: an informal, “unplugged” session before a live audience.

Elvis went to Hawaii with his wife, Priscilla, and their infant daughter, Lisa Marie, in the weeks leading up to the taping, and when he returned, he was tanned, rested and thinner than he'd been at any time since leaving the Army. “He was totally keyed up now, on edge in a way he had rarely been since abandoning live performing a decade before,” writes Peter Guralnick in *Careless Love: The Unmaking of Elvis Presley*, the second volume of his Elvis biography. “His professionalism continued to be noted by the entire crew...but there was something else now, too. For the first time in a long time he didn't bother to hide the fact that he really cared.”

When Elvis took to the stage on this night in 1968 to record the “jam session” portion of the *Comeback Special*, he did so only after Binder talked him out of a last-minute case of stage fright. After a nervous start, Elvis Presley gave the legendary performance that would reinvigorate his flagging career.

---

# Route 66 decertified

**June 27, 1985**

After 59 years, the iconic Route 66 enters the realm of history on this day in 1985, when the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials decertifies the road and votes to remove all its highway signs.

Measuring some 2,200 miles in its heyday, Route 66 stretched from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, passing through eight states. According to a *New York Times* article about its decertification, most of Route 66 followed a path through the wilderness forged in 1857 by U.S. Navy Lieutenant Edward Beale at the head of a caravan of camels. Over the years, wagon trains and cattlemen eventually made way for trucks and passenger automobiles.

The idea of building a highway along this route surfaced in Oklahoma in the mid-1920s as a way to link the state to cities like Chicago and Los Angeles. Highway Commissioner Cyrus S. Avery touted it as a way of diverting traffic from Kansas City, Missouri and Denver. In 1926, the highway earned its official designation as Route 66. The diagonal course of Route 66 linked hundreds of mostly rural communities to the cities along its route, allowing farmers to more easily transport grain and other types of produce for distribution. The highway was also a lifeline for the long-distance trucking industry, which by 1930 was competing with the railroad for dominance in the shipping market.

Route 66 was the scene of a mass westward migration during the 1930s, when more than 200,000 people traveled from the poverty-stricken Dust Bowl to California. John Steinbeck immortalized the highway, which he called the "Mother Road," in his classic 1939 novel "*The Grapes of Wrath*."

Beginning in the 1950s, the building of a massive system of interstate highways made older roads increasingly obsolete, and by 1970, modern four-lane highways had bypassed nearly all sections of Route 66. In October 1984, Interstate-40 bypassed the last original stretch of Route 66 at Williams, Arizona, and the following year the road was decertified. According to the National Historic Route 66 Federation, drivers can still use 85 percent of the road, and Route 66 has become a destination for tourists from all over the world.

Often called the "Main Street of America," Route 66 became a pop culture mainstay over the years, inspiring its own song (written in 1947 by Bobby Troup, "*Route 66*" was later recorded by artists as varied as Nat "King" Cole, Chuck Berry and the Rolling Stones) as well as a 1960s television series. More recently, the historic highway was featured prominently in the hit animated film "*Cars*" (2006).

 Previous Section

 Return to eBulletin