
eBULLETIN

Legislative Announcements

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Associate Member Announcements

Ethan Roche Joins Ruralite Team; and Novinium Cablecure Injection Fluids Approved by OSHA & DOT.

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Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Check out NWPPA's class offerings in the *eCatalog of Events*. Click on the button below.

Don't miss these upcoming training events:

- [Substation Series: Print Reading and Electrical Circuit Troubleshooting Techniques](#)
March 14-15, 2018 in Sacramento, CA
- [Substation Series: Substation Transformers & LTC Diagnostics](#)
March 21, 2018 in Coeur d'Alene, ID
- [Substation Series: Substation Battery Maintenance and Testing](#)
March 22, 2018 in Coeur d'Alene, ID

- [Lineman Skills Series: Lineman Rigging](#)
March 22, 2018 in Coeur d'Alene, ID
- [NRECA CCD 2610 - Understanding the Electric Business](#)
March 28, 2018 in Eugene, OR
- [NRECA CCD 2630 - Strategic Planning](#)
March 29, 2018 in Eugene, OR
- [Future-Proof Your Business: Thrive in Times of Change](#)
April 9, 2018 in Tacoma, WA
- [Managing in a Multigenerational World](#)
April 10, 2018 in Spokane, WA
- [Communication Essentials for Success](#)
April 11-12, 2018 in Spokane, WA

[Event Catalog](#)



Industry Calendar of Events

A list of upcoming industry events and meetings.

[read more](#)

RFP's and RFQ's

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 at debbie@nwppa.org or Mark at mark@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 20 & 21, 2018!

[read more](#)

Recent Industry Jobs

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

[read more](#)



On This Day in History

Two National Parks Preserved, 10 Years Apart; World Trade Center Bombed; Stockton Gets 11,000th NBA Assist; and Oscar Winner Halle Berry Accepts Razzie for *Catwoman*.

[read more](#)

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Cantwell Introduces Several Bills on Grid Modernization and Security

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

On February 16, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Ranking Member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) introduced four bills relating to the modernization and security of the electric grid. Of interest to NWPPA, S. 2445, the Grid Modernization Act, would seek to advance innovative technologies, including microgrids and electric vehicles. NWPPA has an active resolution in support of federal funding for grid modernization technologies.

Another bill, S. 2444, would establish programs in the Department of Energy to reduce vulnerabilities in the electric grid. The text of this bill is not yet available, and therefore it is not yet clear if it would affect the current cybersecurity standards-setting process between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. NWPPA has an active resolution in support of the existing FERC-NERC process.

Cantwell also introduced the 21st Century Energy Workforce Act (S. 2449), which would create a grant program to fund training and development of in-demand energy jobs; and the Smart Building Acceleration Act (S. 2447), which would encourage energy-savings renovations to federal buildings. Meanwhile, Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) continues to push for the Senate to take up the comprehensive energy bill, S.1460.

House Solar Caucus Forms Amid Solar Tariff Implementation

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

The Trump Administration's recent imposition of tariffs on solar panel components has triggered a variety of responses. China has filed a challenge to the tariffs at the World Trade Organization, arguing that the tariffs violate international trade agreements. Taiwan, South Korea, and the European Union have also filed challenges. The tariffs were imposed through a process called "section 201," which focuses on the import's detrimental effect on domestic industry. The WTO has ruled against the use of this provision by the United States several times in the past. A similar ruling would not immediately end the tariffs but would give other countries permission to retaliate in a comparable way. In the past, the U.S. has typically chosen to rescind the offending tariffs to prevent the retaliation.

Anticipating the imposition of tariffs, many companies stockpiled foreign solar panel purchases late last year, which also will mitigate the tariff's financial impact this year. *Bloomberg New Energy Finance* reports that solar panel imports from China increased by 1,200 percent on the fourth quarter of 2017.

On February 16, Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.) and Rep. Ralph Norman (R-S.C.) announced the formation of the bipartisan Congressional Solar Caucus, which they intend to use to share policy ideas relating to renewable energy and technology. Both congressmen expressed support for solar energy and its impact on the American economy. They did not directly address the tariffs, but the timing of their announcement could portend future pressure for the Administration to change course.

EPA Holds Listening Session on Clean Power Plan in Kansas City, Mo.

Update provided by Meguire Whitney

On February 21, the Environmental Protection Agency held a "listening session" in Kansas City, Mo., to hear interested parties' thoughts on the agency's intention to repeal the Clean Power Plan. More than 180 witnesses signed up and spoke on the plan, including a representative from the Missouri Attorney General's office and the mayor of Kansas City. NWPPA has been active in the debate, providing comments in favor of withdrawal and replacement with a workable rule.

Trump's Budget on BPA Goes from Bad to Worse: Guest Opinion

By Scott Corwin, The Oregonian (02/19/2018)

After facing rejection by Congress in last year's budget process, President Trump doubled down last week with another attempt to sell off the electricity transmission assets of the Bonneville Power Administration and other power marketing agencies. Not only is the asset sale back again, but the president's fiscal year 2019 budget adds the equally harmful notion of raising money for the federal budget by changing the power rates charged by the Bonneville Power Administration.

The response from Congress to these misguided notions should be no and no.

While wrapped in the veneer of privatization, the president's budget proposals would have the ironic effect of harming private enterprise in the Northwest by raising costs. It is difficult to view these proposals as anything but a selective regional tax that would transfer wealth from businesses and residents in the Northwest to feed the unquenchable federal budget.

Northwest businesses operate in highly competitive global markets. Any increase in major inputs, such as power costs, directly pressures profitability and employment. Raising energy costs for business and industry is not the path to economic prosperity. And, raising electricity rates on families simply reduces disposable income and stifles consumer spending, savings and investment.

To be clear, rejecting these proposals should not mean that Bonneville can avoid some change. The Bonneville Power Administration doesn't receive any taxpayer support, and is funded completely by revenue from customers. There may be further potential for customer-financing of Bonneville projects in the future. The power agency serves an important role marketing mostly carbon-free power from 31 dams and one nuclear plant, and operating the 300 substations and 15,000 miles of transmission lines that form the backbone of the Northwest electricity system. It is a utility in transition that needs to work with the agencies that own the generation projects (the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation and Energy Northwest) to bring additional efficiency, stability and value for its customers if it is to compete in a quickly evolving industry.

The federal budget proposal to grab \$5 billion from the Northwest by selling Bonneville's electricity transmission system to private investors would create a loss of regional control and value, would increase costs to consumers and could harm service to remote areas in the region that might be a lower priority to an outside interest. It's estimated that transmission rates would need to increase by more than 40 percent when a new owner seeks to recover the costs of purchasing a system that already has been largely paid for by citizens of the region.

Click [here](#) to read the full editorial.

Welcome to New Members!

3AC Engineering

City of Bandon

Western Systems and Services

We remember: Ralph Edward Williams



The former general manager of United Electric Co-op, Ralph Edward Williams, died on February 19 in Mesquite, Nev. He was 72 years old.

Williams was born in Burley, Idaho, September 19, 1945, the only child of Cecil Edward Williams and Constance Ruth Eames Williams. He was raised on the Williams Ranch, two miles north of Malta.

He attended Malta Elementary and graduated from Raft River High School in 1963, and subsequently attended Ricks College for one year. Some of his earlier employment that he enjoyed was working on a string-line crew in the area of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He was a member of the Idaho Army National Guard for 10 years. On July 6, 1968, Williams married Virginia Rae Galliher, and they would have celebrated their 50th anniversary this July.

He started his career with Belgrade Enterprises, building a 138-KV transmission power line ending in Strevell, Idaho, in September 1968. In December, he went to work for Raft River Rural Electric in Malta. He worked 17 years on the line crew and 10 years in the office. In December 1996, he was hired as general manager of Unity Light & Power in Burley. Williams later helped merge Unity Light & Power and Rupert Rural Electric Company into what is now known as United Electric Co-op, Inc. in Heyburn, Idaho. He continued another 16 years at United Electric before his retirement in 2010.

He was also one of four founding members of the Idaho Energy Authority, president of Northwest Irrigation Utilities, and a founding member of Northwest Requirements Utilities.

He was a member of the Malta Loins Club and the Burley Kiwanis Club. He enjoyed team roping with many good friends; high school rodeo with his children; and many outings and BBQs with grandchildren and family. He and his wife spent the last six winters in Mesquite, Nev., which they enjoyed a great deal.

He is survived by his children, Mamie Lou (and Ron) Thurston-Steg, Wade Edward (and Camille) Williams, and Drew Cecil Williams; and grandchildren, Style Thurston, Brett Williams, Lexie Williams, Brody Williams, and Breckin Williams.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 3, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 280 North 1st Street West, in Malta. The burial will be in Valley Vu Cemetery. For more information, [click here](#).

We Remember: Marty Charles Smith – Update

Martin Charles Smith passed away on Feb. 18, 2018, six months after his cancer diagnosis, at the age of 51.

A service will be held on March 3, 2018, at 3 p.m., at Community Covenant Church in Eagle River, Alaska. Memorial donations may be made to Anchorage West Little League, www.awlitttleleague.com; Covenant House Alaska, www.ak.covenanthouse.org; or the Hope Bakery, www.downtownhopecenter.org.

RagingWire's Sacramento Data Centers Now Offering Customers 100% Renewable Energy via SMUD

RagingWire Data Centers, Inc. and SMUD announced on February 20 that they are offering 100-percent renewable energy to customers at RagingWire's three data centers in Sacramento, Calif.

RagingWire Data Centers is a leader in the industry and an outstanding partner,” said SMUD Chief Customer Officer Nicole Howard. “They’ve worked with us for many years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our region, and we’re proud to help them deliver a 100-percent renewable energy product to their customers while they maintain their leadership in value and reliability.”

RagingWire will provide this renewable energy to its customers by participating in SMUD’s Greenergy® and Large Commercial SolarSharesSM programs. Greenergy allows business customers to purchase up to 100 percent of their electricity from renewable resources such as wind, water, sun, and biomass. Large Commercial SolarShares allows large businesses in the Sacramento region to purchase solar energy directly from SMUD.

“It is rare that data center customers can receive critical power that is renewable, reliable, and affordable,” said Douglas Adams, CEO and President of RagingWire Data Centers. “We’re thrilled that our customers can now use power that is 100-percent renewable and 100-percent available and still pay power rates that are approximately 40 percent less than in the Bay Area and Silicon Valley.”

When running at full capacity, RagingWire’s annual use of renewable energy across its three Sacramento data centers will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions approximately equivalent to those produced by passenger vehicles driving 842 million miles, or 375 million pounds of burned coal.

This renewable energy agreement is the largest with a private sector company in SMUD’s 70-year history. SMUD was the first large California utility to have 20 percent of its power supply come from sources classified by California as renewable and is on track to meet the state mandate requiring utilities to increase their renewable portfolio to 33 percent by 2020.

RagingWire and SMUD previously worked together to save millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity at RagingWire data centers. They accomplished these energy-efficiency improvements by installing variable speed pumps, fans, and motion-activated lighting systems, as well as improving the efficiency of water chillers.

Chelan PUD Developing Sustainable Approach to Meet Power Requests from Bitcoin Miners

On February 20, Chelan PUD (Wenatchee, Wash.) staff outlined its approach for responding to the seven requests for large amounts of power that have recently been received. If realized, these requests would double the amount of PUD retail service.

The plan is based on an assessment of risk, including impacts to existing customers, and how to manage those risks.

“Large amounts of service translate into potentially large amounts of dollars of risk,” General Manager Steve Wright said. “We are carefully thinking through pricing strategies that are fair to existing and new customers.”

These strategies build on the high density load rate adopted last year for below-5-megawatt loads.

Chelan PUD has requests from seven operators who are seeking from 5 to 100 megawatts each, staff reported. The total amount of power sought is more than double Chelan PUD’s average local load of 180 to 200 average megawatts.

PUD staff has fielded more than 75 inquiries about service since the price of bitcoin spiked late last year. Many of the service requests are assumed to be for cryptocurrency mining.

Requests for such large amounts of power raise issues for managing power generation, transmission, and distribution.

The PUD’s approach for responding to requests of more than 5 megawatts will include an expanded application process to gather more information; payments in advance for work to be performed; and defining contract options, including rates.

The timeline for processing service requests for more than 5 megawatts will be set after the expanded application process is in place and there is a decision on the scope of needed studies.

Pend Oreille PUD Deactivates as TOP, Saves Money and Improves Customer Service

The Pend Oreille County PUD (Newport, Wash.) is no longer a registered transmission operator (TOP) with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. The move comes after a multi-year effort by the PUD to more effectively manage risk on behalf of the general service customers.

Under the Federal Energy Power Act of 2005, Congress gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the power to regulate reliability on the bulk power system. All users, owners, and operators of the bulk power systems were required to register with the NERC for compliance monitoring by 2007.

The PUD has contracted with the Bonneville Power Administration to assume the responsibilities of monitoring transmission operations of the PUD's 58 miles of interconnected transmission lines. The change in the registration will greatly reduce administrative costs resulting from storing and maintaining documentation for compliance audits.

"The PUD's limited amount of high-voltage transmission put us in a category of heightened regulation," said PUD General Manager Colin Willenbrock. "We have successfully managed that risk by implementing a comprehensive reliability compliance program. BPA's offer to assume some of that responsibility only helps us manage that risk."

In the past, the PUD was responsible to meet 398 individual NERC requirements, with the change in registration the obligation lowers to 242 requirements. The frequency of NERC-required compliance audits change from one every three years to once every six years. The change in the audit frequency results in significant cost savings and staff preparation time.

"In my time with the industry, I have seen the regulatory landscape change tremendously," said PUD Board President Dan Peterson. "We are always looking for ways to creatively manage risk in a cost-effective way."

GRID Alternatives and SMUD Surpass 100 Solar Installations, Energy Efficiency Upgrades for Low-Income Customers

Since late 2016, SMUD (Sacramento, Calif.), in partnership with GRID Alternatives North Valley, has worked to help customers in underserved neighborhoods save energy and money by making their homes more energy efficient and providing them with free solar electric systems. The partnership recently completed its one-hundredth installation.

GRID Alternatives is a national nonprofit focused on making renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities. SMUD has worked closely with GRID Alternatives North Valley, which serves Sacramento and surrounding areas, to help them find candidates eligible to receive free solar electric systems in SMUD's service territory. SMUD reaches out directly to customers who are currently enrolled in SMUD's Energy Assistance Program Rate. Interested customers contact GRID directly to continue the process and potentially receive a free solar electricity system. The systems are funded by California Climate Investments, a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. Typical systems meet 75-90 percent of customers' electricity needs.

SMUD energy experts also work with the selected customers to perform complete energy audits of their homes and determine the most effective ways to improve each home's energy efficiency. Contractors then install multiple efficiency measures, which can include upgrades to insulation, lighting, weather-stripping, and more. All of these upgrades are done at no cost to the customer.

"Completing our one-hundredth project is an exciting milestone for this partnership," said SMUD Chief Customer Officer Nicole Howard. "It underscores the efforts we're making to improve the lives of families in underserved communities, and we're proud to continue working with GRID Alternatives to help many more families this year."

SMUD Advances New Substation Project

SMUD is constructing a new substation to replace an aging one to serve midtown and downtown Sacramento, Calif. Construction of the new Station E Substation is expected to begin in 2018 and expected to be completed in 2020. The approximately \$76 million project will enhance reliability for customers in the midtown neighborhoods and provide vital backup support to downtown Sacramento, as well as the entire SMUD grid. Reliability is a core value of the elected SMUD Board of Directors.

Station E is replacing the existing North City Substation, which is more than 60 years old and has reached its end of life. The Station E construction project follows the city of Sacramento's plan for growth. The substation is designed to accommodate increasing demand in the areas it serves for decades to come.

In addition to the construction of the new substation, SMUD is also cleaning up land at the site that SMUD purchased in 2013 to build the substation. SMUD is following its standard of "leaving it better than we found it" and paying about \$13 million dollars for the cleanup and preparation of the site for substation construction.

When initial excavation began in 2015, unanticipated burn waste buried at the site decades ago was uncovered. SMUD disposed of the excavated burn waste at an approved landfill and halted construction. To address the remaining waste, SMUD then worked with relevant county and state regulatory agencies and developed a soils management plan with those agencies and monitored the site under county and state direction.

SMUD will soon move forward with the safe removal and disposal of much of the burn waste and replacement with fill material. SMUD will cap the remainder of the waste and then begin construction of the new substation.

[Click here](#) to read the full release.

Alaska regulators rule in GVEA's favor in dispute with Delta Wind Farm

Update provided by Sam Friedman, Daily News-Miner (02/21/2018)

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska has again ruled against Delta Junction wind turbine operator Mike Kraft, this time concluding that the Golden Valley Electric Association doesn't have to buy power from his proposed 13.5-megawatt Delta Wind Farm because it would cost Golden Valley ratepayers.

Kraft is a homebuilder who's been in the wind energy business for about 10 years, much of it mired in conflicts with Golden Valley. He seeks to sell power under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, a 1978 federal law designed to encourage small and renewable producers by requiring public utilities to buy their energy if it can be sold at a price that doesn't hurt ratepayers.

But Golden Valley says electricity from Kraft's turbines wouldn't be affordable. The Fairbanks-based utility concluded it would cost money to add Delta Wind Farm's power to the grid because wind power is sporadic and requires backup from fossil fuel power plants. Buying power from Kraft would mean having diesel plants in North Pole ready more often, and the diesel plants are among the most expensive plants in the Golden Valley network.

A ruling from a group of five regulatory commissioners on Feb. 6 agreed with Golden Valley's analysis that the cooperative would lose 16 cents for every kilowatt hour of power that it would be required to buy from the wind farm. The loss would go up to 64 cents per kilowatt hour if the calculations are run with Golden Valley's Healy 2 coal power plant online. After a few closures because of explosions in recent years, Golden Valley plans to have Healy 2 operational again in September.

"Under those conditions, unless DWF (Delta Wind Farm) agrees to pay GVEA 16 cents per kilowatt hour to take DWF power (which we do not expect it to do), GVEA's ratepayers will be subjected to higher costs if GVEA takes power from DWF," the regulatory commission ruling stated.

The ruling closes the issue before the commission, although the parties have the option to petition for reconsideration or to appeal in court.

"Further process will only add to the costs already borne by DWF and GVEA's ratepayers in furtherance of a project that appears not to be workable under current or expected conditions," the commission stated.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

Thank You to *Clearing Up* from #MorePowerfulTogether!

The February 23 edition of *Clearing Up* included the following Brief Mentions about NWPPA and Ruralite's More Powerful Together program:

Northwest Public Power Association and Ruralite Services are partnering on the More Powerful Together initiative, which provides tools and materials built around messages designed to increase consumer understanding of the value and importance of public power, according to Ruralite. The project offers customer-engagement tools focused on key messages, one every three months. The current message, running through April, is "innovative." The previous message, unveiled in October 2017, was "local." Upcoming are "expert" and "driven." More Powerful Together arose from an NWPPA board of trustees request for ways to help utilities communicate public-power's worth to modern consumers, according to Ruralite

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Ethan Rocke Joins Ruralite Team



Ruralite is pleased to introduce the newest addition to its team of talented editors, Ethan Rocke. Rocke joins Ruralite Services, Inc. as an assistant editor with a diverse background in multimedia journalism. He brings skills we'll gladly tap to meet the evolving needs of those we're privileged to serve.

Rocke is a *New York Times* bestselling author, and an award-winning photographer and filmmaker.

After serving as an U.S. Army infantryman for three years, he later joined the Marine Corps as a combat correspondent. For 10 years he served as a "storyteller of Marines," working as a writer, photojournalist, editor, and film consultant. He is also co-author of *The Last Punisher: A SEAL Team THREE Sniper's True Account of the Battle of Ramadi*.

Honorably discharged from the Marines in 2011, Rocke earned a B.S. in photojournalism from Syracuse University and a M.S. in multimedia journalism from the University of Oregon.

Why Ruralite? For Rocke it was simple: the chance to tell stories and serve others.

"For as long as I can remember, I've been passionate about storytelling and its power to connect people and inspire us to imagine and achieve great things," said Rocke. "Author Jonathan Gottschall says story 'is perhaps the main cohering force in human life.' I think he's right, and so I take very seriously my commitment to the people and communities I serve as a storyteller."

As part of his new mission at Ruralite, Rocke, in the days ahead, will offer utilities we serve his editing expertise, multimedia storytelling, and social-media support. He'll help guide our Social Media Support Program and be part of Ruralite's team effort to enrich the ways we communicate, story tell, and share information on behalf of utilities.

Ruralite Services Inc. is a communications cooperative for all consumer-owned utilities. Since 1954, its members have pooled resources to create powerful and affordable communications tools, including magazines, newsletters, reports, calendars, directories, websites, and social media support. For more information, visit www.ruraliteservices.org.

Novinium Cablecure Injection Fluids Approved by OSHA & DOT

Novinium®, leader in the rehabilitation of underground electrical cables, now offers a superior cable-rejuvenation fluid approved by both OSHA and the Department of Transportation. Novinium's Cablecure® 732 fluid delivers three different life-extension materials designed to repair water-tree damage in electrical cables. The fluid also provides five other materials to upgrade the cable with elements found in today's new cable. Cablecure 732 is used on cables up to 250 MCM and the Cablecure 733 is used on larger-diameter cables where conductor temperatures may exceed 60°C. Both fluids are approved for use by OSHA and the DOT, as the fluids contain no known carcinogens or reproductive toxins. Created as a viable alternative to expensive replacement of damaged underground electrical cables, Novinium is working closely with utilities in the U.S. and Canada to future-proof and repair failures within their electrical infrastructure. Rejuvenation of cable with the improved Cablecure product comes with a 40-year warranty.

Novinium is today's only full-service cable rehabilitation technology company. We serve utilities across North America to keep their networks operating at peak performance, using the most advanced, capital-efficient, environmentally friendly methods available. We rejuvenate aging underground cable to better-than-new performance and to exceed reliability standards. Headquartered in the Seattle area, Novinium was founded in 2003 by Glen Bertini, the inventor and expert cable rejuvenation technology. Further information is available at novinium.com.

Calendar of Events

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2018 Upcoming Industry Meetings

Send your 2018 meeting dates and locations to Debbie at Debbie@nwppa.org.

February 2018

26-28 - APPA Legislative Rally, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C.

March 2018

7-9 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Hilton Hotel, Anchorage, AK

8 - PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

25-28 - NRECA 2018 Directors Conference, MGM Grand, Las Vegas, NV

April 2018

4-5 - NWESS Seventh Northwest Energy Systems Symposium, Univ. of Wash, Seattle Campus

5 - PPC Meeting, Embassy Suites Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 - NRECA Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C.

16-17- Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) Summit, Embassy Suites Portland Washington Square, Portland, OR, [click here to view information](#)

May 2018

3 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

8-10 - NRECA Connect Conference, Salt Lake City, UT

21 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meeting, Boise, ID

June 2018

5-6 - WRECA Annual Meeting, Wenatchee, WA

7 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

14 - OMEU Meeting, Canby Utility, Canby, OR

15-20 - APPA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA

July 2018

12 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

August 2018

2 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

September 2018

6 - PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

12-14 - NWPPA Board of Trustees Meetings, Marcus Whitman Hotel & Conf. Center, Walla Walla, WA

26-27 - NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meeting, Anchorage, AK

October 2018

4 – PPC Meeting, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR, 8 a.m. to noon

18-19 – OMEU Meeting, Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach, OR

December 2018

13 – PPC Annual Meeting & Lunch, Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR – 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

13 – OMEU Meeting (following PPC annual meeting), Sheraton Portland Airport, Portland, OR

Recent job openings within the industry in the last week:

Energy Efficiency Engineer – Snohomish County PUD

Energy Services Specialist – Lewis PUD

Engineer I, Electrical (R16-732) – Portland General Electric

Hydro Maintenance (U18-040) – Portland General Electric

Hydro Maintenance Director – Chelan PUD

Hydro Utility Worker – City of Tacoma

Journeyman Meterman – Municipal Light & Power

Manager II, Balancing Authority Operations (R18-159) – Portland General Electric

Manager of Engineering Services – Homer Electric Association

Operations Supervisor – Kittitas County Public Utility District No. 1

Project Manager – Generation, Transmission & Distribution R18-102 – Portland General Electric

Resource Planner – City of Palo Alto Utilities

Spec V, Service Design Project Manager (R18-121) – Portland General Electric

Specialist VI – Transmission & Distribution Dispatch (R18-098) – Portland General Electric

Supv V, Engineering (Large Projects Group) R18-028 – Portland General Electric

Tacoma Public Utilities Director – City of Tacoma

Assistant IV, Substation Operations Support Services (R18-100) – Portland General Electric

Assistant V, Procurement and Administration (R18-118) – Portland General Electric

Two National Parks Preserved, 10 Years Apart

February 26, 1919



On this day in history, two national parks were established in the United States 10 years apart—the Grand Canyon in 1919 and the Grand Tetons in 1929.

Located in northwestern Arizona, the Grand Canyon is the product of millions of years of excavation by the mighty Colorado River. The chasm is exceptionally deep, dropping more than a mile into the earth, and is 15 miles across at its widest point. The canyon is home to more than 1,500 plant species and over 500 animal species, many of them endangered or unique to the area, and its steep, multi-colored walls tell the story of 2 billion years of Earth's history.

In 1540, members of an expedition sent by the Spanish explorer Coronado became the first Europeans to discover the canyon, though because of its remoteness the area was not further explored until 300 years later. American geologist John Wesley Powell, who popularized the term “Grand Canyon” in the 1870s, became the first person to journey the entire length of the gorge in 1869. The harrowing voyage was made in four rowboats.

In January 1908, U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt designated more than 800,000 acres of the Grand Canyon a national monument; it was designated a national park under President Woodrow Wilson on February 26, 1919.

Ten years later to the day, President Calvin Coolidge signed into law a bill passed by both houses of the U.S. Congress establishing the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Home to some of the most stunning alpine scenery in the United States, the territory in and around Grand Teton National Park also has a colorful human history. The first Anglo-American to see the saw-edged Teton peaks is believed to be John Colter. After traveling with Lewis and Clark to the Pacific, Colter left the expedition during its return trip down the Missouri in 1807 to join two fur trappers headed back into the wilderness. He spent the next three years wandering through the northern Rocky Mountains, eventually finding his way into the valley at the base of the Tetons, which would later be called Jackson Hole.

Other adventurers followed in Colter's footsteps, including the French-Canadian trappers who gave the mountain range the bawdy name of “Grand Tetons,” meaning “big breasts” in French. For decades trappers, outlaws, traders and Indians passed through Jackson Hole, but it was not until 1887 that settlers established the first permanent habitation. The high northern valley with its short growing season was ill suited to farming, but the early settlers found it ideal for grazing cattle.

Tourists started coming to Jackson Hole not long after the first cattle ranches. Some of the ranchers supplemented their income by catering to “dudes,” eastern tenderfoots yearning to experience a little slice of the Old West in the shadow of the stunning Tetons. The tourists began to raise the first concerns about preserving the natural beauty of the region.

In 1916, Horace M. Albright, the director of the National Park Service, was the first to seriously suggest that the region be incorporated into Yellowstone National Park. The ranchers and businesses catering to tourists, however, strongly resisted the suggestion that they be pushed off their lands to make a “museum” of the Old West for eastern tourists.

Finally, after more than a decade of political maneuvering, Grand Teton National Park was created on February 26, 1929. As a concession to the ranchers and tourist operators, the park only encompassed the mountains and a narrow strip at their base. Jackson Hole itself was excluded from the park and designated merely as a scenic preserve. Albright, though, had persuaded the wealthy John D. Rockefeller to begin buying up land in the Jackson Hole area for possible future incorporation into the park. In 1949, Rockefeller donated his land holdings in Jackson Hole to the federal government that then incorporated them into the national park. Today, Grand Teton National Park encompasses 309,993 acres. Working ranches still exist in Jackson Hole, but the local economy is increasingly dependent on services provided to tourists and the wealthy owners of vacation homes.

World Trade Center Bombed

February 26, 1993



At 12:18 p.m., a terrorist bomb explodes in a parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York City, leaving a crater 60-feet wide and causing the collapse of several steel-reinforced concrete floors in the vicinity of the blast. Although the terrorist bomb failed to critically damage the main structure of the skyscrapers, six people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The World Trade Center itself suffered more than \$500 million in damage. After the attack, authorities evacuated

50,000 people from the buildings, hundreds of whom were suffering from smoke inhalation. The evacuation lasted the whole afternoon.

City authorities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) undertook a massive manhunt for suspects, and within days several radical Islamic fundamentalists were arrested. In March 1994, Mohammed Salameh, Ahmad Ajaj, Nidal Ayyad, and Mahmoud Abouhalima were convicted by a federal jury for their role in the bombing, and each was sentenced to life in prison. Salameh, a Palestinian, was arrested when he went to retrieve the \$400 deposit he had left for the Ryder rental van used in the attack. Ajaj and Ayyad, who both played a role in the construction of the bomb, were arrested soon after. Abouhalima, who helped buy and mix the explosives, fled to Saudi Arabia but was caught in Egypt two weeks later.

The mastermind of the attack—Ramzi Ahmed Yousef—remained at large until February 1995, when he was arrested in Pakistan. He had previously been in the Philippines, and in a computer he left there were found terrorist plans that included a plot to kill Pope John Paul II and a plan to bomb 15 American airliners in 48 hours. On the flight back to the United States, Yousef reportedly admitted to a Secret Service agent that he had directed the Trade Center attack from the beginning and even claimed to have set the fuse that exploded the 1,200-pound bomb. His only regret, the agent quoted Yousef saying, was that the 110-story tower did not collapse into its twin as planned—a catastrophe that would have caused thousands of deaths.

Eyad Ismoil, who drove the Ryder van into the parking garage below the World Trade Center, was captured in Jordan that year and taken back to New York. All the men implicated had ties to Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, a radical Egyptian religious leader who operated out of Jersey City, New Jersey, located just across the Hudson River from Manhattan. In 1995, Rahman and 10 followers were convicted of conspiring to blow up the United Nations headquarters and other New York landmarks. Prosecutors argued that the World Trade Center attack was part of that conspiracy, though little clear evidence of this charge was presented.

In November 1997, Yousef and Ismoil were convicted in a courtroom only a few blocks away from the twin towers and subsequently sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Only one other man believed to be directly involved in the attack, Iraqi Abdul Rahman Yasin, remains at large.

After the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, U.S. investigators began to suspect that Yousef had ties to Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, the head of the anti-U.S. al Qaeda terrorist network. Whether bin Laden was in fact involved in the 1993 twin tower attacks has not been determined, but on September 11, 2001, two groups of al Qaeda terrorists finished the job begun by Yousef, crashing two hijacked airliners into the north and south tower of the World Trade Center. The structural steel of the skyscrapers could not withstand the tremendous heat generated by the burning jet fuel, and both collapsed within two hours of being struck. Close to 3,000 people died in the World Trade Center and its vicinity, including a staggering 343 firefighters and 23 policemen who were struggling to complete the evacuation and save the office workers trapped on higher floors. Only six people in the World Trade Center towers at the time of their collapse survived. Almost 10,000 other people were treated for injuries, many severe.

Stockton Gets 11,000th NBA Assist

February 26, 1996



On this day in 1996, the Utah Jazz's point guard John Stockton gets his 11,000th assist in the NBA. When Stockton retires from basketball in 2003, he leaves with 15,806 career assists, a record that still stands.

Stockton attended Gonzaga University and in 1984 was drafted by the Utah Jazz, where he would spend his entire career. The 6'1" point guard was the 16th overall pick in that year's draft, which also included Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley. Stockton got his first NBA assist on November 26, 1984, and his 1,000th assist on April 5, 1986. During the 1987-1988 season, he made 1,128 assists, setting a record for most assists in one season. Isiah Thomas had previously held the record with 1,123 assists.

On February 1, 1995, Stockton shattered the NBA record for career assists—9,921—which had belonged to Magic Johnson. Stockton earned a reputation as hard-working, consistent and the ultimate team player. During his

19 seasons with the Jazz, he and forward Karl Malone led the team to the playoffs every year, although they never won the championship. Stockton was also known for wearing short basketball shorts throughout his career, even when most players began sporting a longer, baggier style in the 1990s.

In addition to Stockton's 10 All-Star game appearances, he played on the U.S. men's Olympic basketball teams that won gold in 1992 in Barcelona and 1996 in Atlanta.

When Stockton retired from the NBA in May 2003, he was known as one of the greatest point guards in the history of basketball and was the all-time leader in assists, with 15,806, a record he still holds. He had 19,711 career points and led the league in career steals, with a total of 3,265. In November 2004, the Utah Jazz retired Stockton's jersey-number 12.

Oscar Winner Halle Berry Accepts Razzie for *Catwoman*

February 26, 2005



If the Academy Awards celebrate the best of what Hollywood has to offer each year, the Golden Raspberry (Razzie) Awards take a distinct pleasure in celebrating the worst. On February 26, 2005, the Razzies held their 25th annual ceremony at Hollywood's historic Ivar Theatre. Making a surprise appearance was Halle Berry, an Oscar winner for Best Actress in *Monster's Ball* (2001), who showed up to accept that year's Razzie for Worst Actress for the title role in the poorly received action extravaganza *Catwoman*.

Created in 1981 by John Wilson as a cynical counterpoint to the Oscars, the Razzies—named for the disapproving gesture known as “blowing a raspberry”—traditionally release their nominations one day before Academy nominations are announced and hand out their awards on the night before the Oscar ceremony. The actual Razzie statuette, which the organization itself values at under \$5, is a “RAZZberry” about the size of a golf ball, perched atop a smashed, gold-painted Super-8 film reel.

At the 2005 ceremony, *Catwoman* led the pack of nominated films, earning seven nominations (including one for Worst Film)—one more than Oliver Stone's epic *Alexander*. In a show of humor and humility, Berry shocked everyone by coming onstage at the Ivar Theatre to accept her statuette for Worst Actress. Grasping her cheap Razzie in one hand and her Academy Award in the other, she made a lengthy speech (which she later admitted to have spent two days working on) that parodied her 2002 Oscar acceptance speech. “It was just what my career needed,” she claimed. “I was at the top and now I'm at the bottom.”

Perhaps understandably, Razzie winners rarely show up to claim their awards. Ben Affleck, a winner for 2003's *Gigli*, went so far as to smash his Razzie when Wilson presented it to him during Affleck's appearance on *Larry King Live* in March 2004. Affleck had previously said he felt “stiffed” by the Razzie awards committee, claiming that it failed to send him his statuette for Worst Actor. (*Gigli* had become the first movie ever to sweep all six major Razzie categories.)

Berry was joined at the Razzies by *Catwoman* screenwriter Michael Ferris, who accepted the award for Worst Screenplay (for a script he co-wrote with Theresa Rebeck, John Brancato and John Rogers).