



Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

"We Care"

4230 Hatwai Road • PO Box 997
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(888) 798-5280 (Propane)
www.clearwaterpower.com

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Director of Accounting

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Director of Engineering

Business Hours:

Monday - Thursday

7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Closed Fridays

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ID-1

Smart budgets start with smart energy.

See your daily electric usage with
Clearwater Power's free SmartHub® app



171 Linden Way
P.O. Box 398
Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-9146

www.cbec.cc
info@cbec.cc

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Secretary

Roy Carlson, Fossil

Treasurer

Deacon Heideman, Fairview

Lori Anderson, Condon

Todd Lindsay, Sand Hollow

Stacie Ekstrom, Lone

Manager

Thomas Wolff, Heppner

Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative's main objective is to provide reliable electric service to its members at the lowest cost consistent with good business practice.

OR-2

Some Summer Thoughts

Members:

The Oregon Legislature has adjourned. HB-2020 (cap and trade) was stalled. THANK YOU to all our consumers who registered for the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association Call-to-Action program, and then supported our needs with messages to our elected officials. We had great impact! The anti-HB-2020 demonstration in Salem during the final days of the Session was tremendous! Several businesses from our Service Territory made the time and expense to travel to Salem and participate. I believe it truly made a difference in converting three key Senators into declaring a position against HB-2020. Our local legislators continue to be good friends of the cooperative spirit, and vote to control Electric Co-Op-mandated costs and higher expenses. They provide guidance and support when called upon. We need to support them in return.

Grain and Hay harvests within the Service Territory are well underway. Yields look very promising. Please do continue to be careful and alert in preventing wildland fires. Be exceptionally alert when pulling over or parking cars in tall, dry grass.

August brings County Fairs and local Rodeos. If you haven't been to one in a few years, take the family out for a good time and spend a few hours wandering the exhibit halls or watching local cowboys and cowgirls show off their talent. Many of our consumer families will have animals entered by their children, or items in the Open Class divisions. Come see what your neighbors have been working on. Your electric Co-Op will have booths at each of our local fairs. Stop by and see what information is on display.

Best Regards,

Tommy Wolff
CEO/General Manager





2345 River Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 296-2226 FAX 298-3320
www.nwascopud.org

Board of Directors

Connie Karp, President
Roger Howe, Vice President
Howard Gonser, Treasurer
Dan Williams, Director
Vacant, Director

Manager

Roger Kline

Board Meetings

Usually the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Rd. The public is always welcome.

Our Mission

To provide reliable, competitively-priced energy and related services that benefit our customers, in the tradition of public power.

Our Core Values and Beliefs

Local citizens championed and fought to create our People's Utility District. They believed—and we believe—in the public's right to own and control its electric utility.

Today, our values are a legacy from our public power heritage, as well as guideposts for a changing future.

We believe in:

- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Integrity
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Respect
- ▶ Operational Excellence
- ▶ Sustainability

OR-3

Manager's Report



Fires, infrastructure and mutual aid

As many will recall, last year was a terrible year for wildfires and the multiple hazards that come with them. The tragedy experienced by some of our friends and neighbors will never be forgotten.

The maintenance and improvement work conducted on your electric system infrastructure is purposeful and accomplished with these types of hazards in mind. Please remember that whether it is a meter replacement, vegetation management tree cutting, line access, joint-use-audit, or right-of-way easement, it is all done to ensure safety, reliability and resiliency of your electric service, and the people that support it each and every day.

Similarly, you may have heard of recent electrical transmission line de-energization to mitigate wildfires in other areas of Oregon and perhaps even California. Just know that this is not NWCPUD's typical operational practice and that we work with many agencies, communities and public officials if and when disaster strikes to ensure public safety first and foremost. We don't answer to shareholders, we work for you. Keeping you and your property safe and energized with reliable, resilient, affordable and environmentally responsible energy is our mission and our focus. It's what we do.

Best to all, have a happy August!

Roger Kline

General Manager



P.O. Box 31 • 1009 F St.
Nespelem, WA 99155
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (M-F)
Phone: 509-634-4571
Fax: 509-634-8138
email: nvec@nvec.org
website: www.nvec.org

For after-hours emergencies,
call 634-4571 to page
an on-duty employee.

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Patrick Morin Jr.
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Ron Heath
District 7, Disautel

Albert Preugschat
District 8, Bridgeport

Board meetings are the fourth
Tuesday of every month.

WA-5

Preventing Electrical Fires

Take steps to help prevent electrical fires by identifying possible safety problems before they occur. Safe Electricity offers the following checklist to help find possible issues with your electrical system or appliances before they become a fire hazard in your home:

- **Electrical outlets.** Check for loose-fitting plugs and loose wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates. If you have young children, install tamper-resistant outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

- **Electrical wiring.** If an outlet is not working, it may be an indicator of unsafe wiring. Have an electrician check it out. Also check for loose wires and loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.

- **Ground-fault circuit interrupters.** Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement, garage and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they work properly.

- **Arc-fault circuit interrupters.** Consider having AFCIs installed in your home. An AFCI installed in a circuit breaker monitors the flow of electricity throughout your home. If the AFCI detects any abnormality, it will shut the system off, preventing a fire.

- **Plugs.** Do not remove the grounding pin—third prong—to make a

plug fit a two-conductor outlet.

- **Cords.** Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, tightly wrapped around any object or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

- **Extension cords.** These are not intended as permanent household wiring, so only use them on a temporary basis. If you need more electrical outlets, talk to an electrician about installing more so you will not need to use extension cords.

- **Lightbulbs.** Verify your lightbulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture they are in, and make sure they are screwed in securely so they do not overheat.

- **Appliances/electronics.** If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it, and have it repaired or replaced. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Make sure your appliances and electronics are placed in dry locations. If an appliance has been damaged by water, replace it.

- **Circuit breakers/fuses.** Check that circuit breakers are working properly. Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they protect.

- **Service capacity.** If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Contact a qualified electrician.

For more information on electrical safety in your home, visit SafeElectricity.org.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

MAILING ADDRESS

**P.O. Box 1180
Philomath, OR 97370
541-929-3124
800-872-9036**

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Philomath, OR 97370**

**1900 W Oak St.
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Roman Gillen
PRESIDENT/CEO

Scott Muller
TREASURER/CFO

www.cpi.coop

**September 7
is CPI's Annual
Meeting**

OR-6

President's Report

In May, the CPI board of directors appointed Jim Gardner to fill the vacant zone 8 position. Jim's family has lived on farmland in the Bridgeport area for seven generations, and raises grass seed, timber and row crops.

He graduated from Dallas High School and attended Linn Benton Community College and Oregon State University. He has served with numerous organizations in the area, including the Ag West Supply Cooperative Board of Directors, the Polk County Water Advisory committee, and Polk County FSA committee. He is a 20-year member of the Luckiamute Valley Charter School Board of Directors.

Jim has three children and two grandchildren. All of us at CPI welcome him to the board and thank him for volunteering his service.

Wildfire Mitigation

For years, CPI operational procedures have included plans to mitigate wildfires in our service territory. This has certainly gained attention recently with longer dry periods, temperature extremes, and reporting by the media of significant fires in California and Oregon.

CPI builds, operates and maintains its infrastructure in a manner that minimizes the risk of a catastrophic wildfire posed by its electrical system. Our wildfire mitigation plan focuses on three main components: vegetation management; system coordination; and system hardening. The plan uses a systematic approach to implement immediate, short- and long-term actions and documents these activities for future reference.

The plan does not include measures to discontinue the distribution of electricity to members unless directed to do so by the appropriate authorities. To find out more about our wildfire mitigation plan, visit www.cpi.coop.

Annual Meeting Time!

This year marks 80 years of providing members with safe, reliable and affordable power. The annual meeting is Saturday, September 7.

This meeting is an opportunity for you to elect board members, visit with employees and other CPI members, hear what took place in 2018 and learn what is in store for the future.

The keynote speaker is Roger Gray. Roger has extensive experience in the electric, water and telecommunications industry. He is CEO for PNGC Power, which serves 15 member electric distribution cooperatives throughout the Pacific Northwest, including CPI. Come hear the latest on the energy industry from the wholesale power perspective.

Each year, CPI selects one of our local high school juniors to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. The event gives students the opportunity to enjoy the history of the area as well as talk to and learn from our congressional leaders. Come hear this year's participant review her experience in our nation's capital.

As always, we will have local businesses and energy partners on hand to inform you of the products and services they provide. There will be activities for the kids, including bucket truck rides and a live high-voltage electric safety demonstration. An auction will be held shortly after lunch. This year's auction features one vehicle and a variety of general office items.

Come enjoy the business meeting, free lunch, door prizes and an attendance gift. See pages 4, 5, 28 and 29 for more details.

We look forward to seeing you Saturday, September 7.

Roman Gillen, President and CEO



Prosser Office
402 7th St.
Prosser, WA 99350
509-786-2913

West Richland Office
6095 W. Van Giesen
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-2921

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1150
Prosser, WA 99350

Report an Outage: 509-786-2913
Toll Free: 800-221-6987
www.BentonREA.org

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Buddy Treadway, District 1
Bob Evans, District 3
Ron Johnson, District 4
Tim Grow, District 5
Scott Fisher, District 6

Board Meetings, Agendas & Minutes

The board of trustees will meet August 28 at 6 p.m. in the Prosser Office unless otherwise indicated on our website.

The board agenda for the upcoming meeting is available to members upon request no earlier than six days prior to the board meeting. Minutes of prior board meetings are available to members upon request. To request board agendas or minutes, visit a Benton REA office, email priorityrequests@bentonrea.org or call 509-786-2913.

General Manager

Michael J. Bradshaw

Management Staff

Derek Miller, Engineering Manager
Jeff Ekrut, Operations Manager
Steve Catlow, Manager of Finance and Administration
Jeff Bastow, Information Technology Manager
Troy Berglund, Member Services Manager
Terry Mundorf, General Counsel Attorney
Blodgett, Mickelsen & Adamson, Auditor

 @BentonREA

 @BentonREA

WA-7

We Work for You

Dear Members,

This summer, the boards of Benton REA and its public power neighbors—Benton PUD, Franklin PUD and the City of Richland Energy Services—unanimously passed resolutions supporting the Columbia River Power System and the four Lower Snake River dams. Read the full resolution at BentonREA.org/energy-in-legislation.

Eighty-seven percent of the electricity delivered to Benton REA members comes from hydropower on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The four dams on the Snake keep the power system reliable due to their location, size and ability to meet peak power loads.

Ice Harbor Dam is especially critical to powering the cities of West Richland, Kennewick, Pasco and Richland because it supports transmission operations when temperatures rise and our air conditioners need electricity to keep us comfortable.

Hydropower is inexpensive to operate and produces zero emissions, helping reach our state's 100% clean-energy goal.

Hydropower also benefits our region through flood control, navigation, irrigation and recreation. The Snake River dams alone enable irrigation for more than 7 million acres of farmland, producing \$8 billion annually in agricultural income. Nine million tons of cargo are transported on the Snake River annually.

According to the 2019 NOAA Fisheries report on Southern Resident killer whales and West Coast chinook salmon, "Safer passage at hydroelectric dams, hatchery production and other recovery and protection strategies have helped Snake River fall chinook rebound recently to some of their highest numbers in decades."

Removing the dams will have economic, sociological and cultural impacts on the people who live in the Northwest, as well as the possibility of positive or negative biological impacts on various species of fish and other animals.

Benton REA's role is to ensure the delivery of reliable and reasonably priced electricity to its members, while being good environmental stewards. We believe that hydropower certainly achieves these goals. To keep your electricity affordable and reliable, we need hydropower.

Whether you agree with the concept of dam removal or not, it is important to learn as much as you can about the issue and to relay your opinions to your state and federal legislators. Their decisions will affect the reliability and affordability of electricity for generations to come. Cooperatively,

Michael J. Bradshaw, General Manager
mikeb@bentonrea.org



Offices

Hermiston Office

750 W. Elm Ave.
541 567-6414

Boardman Office

400 N.E. Eldridge Drive
541 481-2220

Hours

7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

Toll-Free

1-800-452-2273

Report An Outage

888-465-5701 day or night

Directors

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Bryan Wolfe

Vice President

Jeff Wenholtz

Secretary-Treasurer

Steve Platt

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Phil Hamm

John Otis

Glenn Rohde

General Manager

Robert Echenrode

Mission

Umatilla Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that sells energy and invests in and supports other services to improve the quality of life in our communities.

umatillaelectric.com

OR-8

Gratitude for Efforts Above and Beyond

With the end of the Oregon Legislature's 2019 session, my gratitude goes to those who committed time and energy to express their opinions to our elected representatives and government staff as the session unfolded over several months.

Those included members of the Board of Directors at UEC and the boards and staffs of other Oregon electric cooperatives.

On a daily basis, our cooperative interests at the Legislature were represented by Alec Shebiel, UEC's government affairs manager; Ashley Slater, vice president of government affairs and policy at our power supplier, PNGC; and Ted Case, executive director of the Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Cap and trade" was a main topic, a proposed measure to address climate change that eventually died after becoming a national news story. Our efforts helped mitigate some of the impact of the proposed measure, and hopefully that will be a starting discussion point in future legislation.

Beyond the headlines, the legislative session resulted in a number of positive outcomes, including bills on land use and replacement of older manufactured homes. A summary is included on Page 29 of this Ruralite.

I'd like to express my appreciation this month for two UEC employees who retired in July, John Robinson and Connie Shrum.

Born in Niigata, Japan, John came to the U.S. in the second grade. In 1995, he began work at UEC as a system analyst in our five-member IT Department.

Soon, John became an essential part of UEC's creation of Eastern Oregon Telecom,

NoaNet broadband and Lightspeed Networks. John also served as manager of UEC's Rural Telecom Company, which offered satellite television to our membership.

In his 24 years at UEC, John demonstrated his expertise in a countless series of technology initiatives and upgrades that we rely upon in the office and in the field.

Idaho native Connie Shrum was a sales representative for the Jones Sports Company before joining UEC as a customer service representative in 2003.

By 2011, her abilities earned her a promotion to manager of our customer and member services department. In addition to her daily interaction with members, Connie oversaw UEC staff activities in public relations, community outreach, community donations, marketing, energy efficiency and residential solar.

In our member-owned company, we all place our members' needs at the forefront. But it's fair to say no one at UEC has been a greater champion of our members than Connie.

Looking ahead, John Robinson and wife Cathy will continue living in Hermiston. As they plan their travels, one trip will be to accompany John's mother to her native Japan, which she has not visited since moving to the U.S.

Connie Shrum and husband David will leave Hermiston for their acreage in Wahkiakum County in southwest Washington state. With many friendships here, she promises to be a frequent visitor back in these parts.

Well done, and best wishes, Connie and John.



Robert Echenrode
General Manager & CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**105 E. 4th St.
The Dalles, OR 97058
Office phone: 541-296-2740
Toll-free phone: 800-341-8580
www.wascoelectric.com**

Office Hours:

*Monday - Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Board of Directors

Michael Collins..... President
Ron Holmes Vice President
Mathew Clausen..... Secretary
Jerry Duling Treasurer
Stacy Eakin Director
Robert Durham Director
Robert Hammel..... Director
Jim McNamee Director
DeOra Patton Director

Staff

Jeff Davis General Manager
Shannon Bessette..... Finance Manager
Traci Brock Member Services Manager
Jennifer Lindsey .. Executive Staff Assistant
Kelsey Lepinski Customer Service Rep.
Keenan Webber..... Customer Service Rep.
Mackenzie Wolfe.... Customer Service Rep.
Casey McCleary..... Operations Manager
Jim Green..... Engineering Technician
Brewster Whitmire..... E&O Assistant
Robert Gridley..... The Dalles Foreman
BJ Ayres The Dalles Lineman
Andy Gardipee..... The Dalles Lineman
Gabe Red Cloud The Dalles Lineman
Wesley Woods Serviceman
Dan Funkhouser Grass Valley Foreman
Frank Roeder Maupin Foreman

*Board meetings are generally held
the fourth Thursday of the month at
the co-op office.*

Mission Statement

*"Wasco Electric Cooperative Inc.
will provide its members with
competitively priced, reliable energy
and related services."*

OR-9

Manager's Message

2019 Annual Meeting

Although November is several months away, preparations for Wasco Electric Cooperative's 80th annual meeting are underway. The meeting is Saturday, November 23, at the Fort Dalles Readiness Center, 402 E. Scenic Drive, The Dalles.

During the meeting, members will vote on three director positions that are expiring—one from each of the three districts.

At its August meeting, the board of directors will appoint the member committee that nominates candidates to run for those positions. This committee will meet in early September.

If you are a member willing to serve on the board of directors, please let us know. We will give your name to the nominating committee members for consideration. See page 8 of this issue for more information.

Current directors whose terms are expiring and will seek re-election this year are Bob Durham, District 1, serving on the board since 1994; Jim McNamee, District 2, serving on the board since 2006; and Jerry Duling, District 3, serving on the board since 2016 and current board treasurer.

August Events

August is a busy time of year for many end-of-summer activities. Below is a list of several signature events taking place this month. I hope you are able to take in some, if not all, of these great events.

- Saturday, August 3, and Sunday, August 4: Shaniko Days.
- Friday, August 9, through Sunday, August 11: Cruise the Gorge, The Dalles.
- Saturday, August 10, and Sunday, August 11: Vintage Dufur Days.
- Wednesday, August 21, through Saturday, August 24: Sherman County Fair & Rodeo, Moro.
- Thursday, August 22, through Sunday, August 25: Wasco County Fair & Rodeo, Tygh Valley.

As always, if you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to call or stop by the office.

Jeff Davis
General Manager



Owned By Those We Serve

Douglas Electric Cooperative Inc.,
Roseburg, Oregon
Phone 541-673-6616
800-233-2733

• For Power Outages Call •
888-420-8826

Officers

President..... Evan Barnes
Vice President .. Robert Poage
Secretary..... Shirley Cairns
Treasurer..... Dick McHaffie
Director..... Larry Shipley
Director..... Terry Nelson
Director..... Carey Weatherly

General Manager

James K. Brooks

Assistant General Manager

Phil Bigler

Office Manager/CFO

David Western

Superintendent

Todd Sherwood

Member Services

Todd C. Munsey

System Engineer

Jess Dory, PE

Mission Statement

The mission of Douglas Electric Cooperative, a member-owned and operated cooperative, is to provide affordable, reliable electric and other compatible services that enhance the quality of life for its members, using progressive marketing in conjunction with sound financial and management principles.

DOUGLAS
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

rtwhwrnnety

OR-10

Board Looking At Rate Adjustment

Dear Member,

Your Board of Directors is currently going through the process of setting rates for the next year or so. Typically, this happens when Bonneville Power Administration conducts its scheduled rate period adjustment every odd numbered year.

This year, the task is a little more complex as your cooperative is facing pressures we have never faced before. In addition to BPA's cost of power increase, the board is specifically looking at the challenge of dealing with our failing 70-year-old headquarters building, as well as the expenses of our historic storm that won't be covered by FEMA funds.



In previous issues, we told you about hiring a mechanical engineer and architect to look at the structural integrity of the building. The results were alarming. Not only would the building not stand up to a Cascadia event, it would likely would fail even during a small quake. The normal life cycle of a building like ours is around 40 years and at 70, we have ridden this horse about as far as it can go. We were in the process of responding to that news when we were hit with the largest, most damaging and by far, most expensive storm in our co-op's history.

As for the storm, we are wading through the FEMA process and optimistic that we will recover 75% of the restoration costs. Even so, there will be approximately 2 to 3 million dollars of damage not covered. There is good news, however. This Co-op has been managed very well financially through its history. Any rate increase, while never a welcome sight, should not be dramatic. While all of these pressures are happening at once, our rates will still be among some of the lowest compared to our neighboring utilities and the country. We will let you know as soon as your board makes its determination.

As always, if you have questions about anything, contact me at 541-673-6616.

Best Regards,


James K. Brooks
General Manager

Columbia Power Co-op



**P.O. Box 97
Monument, OR 97864
541-934-2311
Toll free 888-203-7638**

DIRECTORS

President Paul Walton
Vice President Adam Temple
Sec./Treasurer Brian Campbell
Dan Cannon
Dave Humphreys
Dallas Newton
Judy Wilson

MANAGER

Troy Cox

The board of directors meets
the second Monday of each month.

POWER OUTAGE NUMBERS

Co-op office 934-2311
Ed Andersen 934-2255
Guy Andersen 934-2098
Troy Cox 934-2155
Josh Hamilton 934-2133
Mike Osborne 934-2067
Joe Ringerling 805-9098
Gary Warner 934-2961
Brian Woodell 934-2260

OR-11

Preventing Electrical Fires

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For more information on electrical safety in your home, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Central Issues

Central Electric Cooperative

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Beverly Clarno, Redmond
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Dan Steelhammer, Bend
Tom Strand, Terrebonne

Attorney, Thomas M. Grim
Cable Huston LLP, Portland

STAFF:

President and CEO
Dave Markham

Chief Financial Officer
Rawleigh White

Director of Operations & Engineering
Brad Wilson

Corporate Information Officer
Lisa Cutter

Director of Member and Public Relations
Brent ten Pas

Director of Customer and Energy Services
Karen Lewis

24-HOUR PHONE NUMBERS:

In Redmond, call 541-548-2144
or toll free at 800-924-8736

Mission Statement

The aim of Central Electric Co-op is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

Board meets the third Thursday of each month at the CEC office, 2098 NW 6th Street, Redmond, OR.

www.cec.coop

OR-12

Cap-and-Trade Fails, But It Is Not Over

Throughout this year, I have shared with you my concerns about the Oregon Legislature's push for an economywide cap-and-trade-bill and our efforts to address the new cost exposure to Central Electric Cooperative of more than \$7 million between 2021 and 2030. The prevailing consensus assured us the legislation would easily pass as Democrats enjoy supermajorities in both chambers. HB 2020 cruised through the House but then ran into a roadblock. Senate Republicans—as a political protest—walked out to prevent a vote, and Democratic leadership acknowledged it lacked enough party votes to pass the bill. Though the bill is dead, it is not over. Gov. Kate Brown recently stated she would bypass the Legislature and use regulatory authority to impose cap and trade. No matter the twists and turns left in this saga, CEC will continue to engage in whatever process lies ahead.



Vegetation Management and Safety

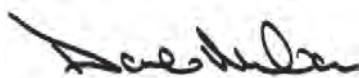
With fire season upon us, I encourage you to read “Preparing for Wildfires” on pages 28-29. The article provides vital tips to prepare and protect your families, homes and businesses.

Central Electric is doing its part. Our crews oversee the removal of hazardous trees and vegetation overgrowth along approximately 2,500 miles of transmission and overhead distribution lines.

The most trying efforts can occur before removal of vegetation along federal rights-of-way. CEC's service territory comprises 5,300 square miles, 56% of which is federally managed land, requiring us to work closely with the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Council on Environmental Quality and other agencies. All parties are committed to protecting the electrical infrastructure and preventing wildfires, but the pathway forward is fraught with time-consuming regulatory processes. Months—in some cases years—can pass before permits are issued to perform work otherwise routinely done within days.

For example, CEC identified 30 dead and dying trees along a federal right-of-way and requested approval to remove them. As months passed waiting for multiple USFS specialists to review, the delay raised doubts as to whether we would get the job done this year. Concerned, I raised the issue in May with CEQ and BLM representatives during a trip to Washington, D.C. Upon my return to Oregon, I learned, thankfully, we were permitted to move forward. Removal of these hazard trees took three days.

Congress did approve legislation—four years in the making—to address bureaucratic delays and to streamline the permitting process. The USFS, however, is still in the rule-making process to codify uniform standards and set stricter timelines. While the process is moving forward, it is not fast enough. When it comes to the safety of our members and the reliability of the electricity we provide you, time is of the essence.



Dave Markham, President and CEO



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Georgia A. Cockerham, Brookings/Harbor

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Operations Manager

Randy McDonald

Local numbers

Coquille..... 541-396-3118

Port Orford..... 541-332-3931

Gold Beach..... 541-247-6638

Brookings 541-469-2103

Area office hours 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

Closed Friday.

After-Hours Outage Number

866-352-9044

Call Before You Dig

811

www.ccec.coop

OR-13

Member Appreciation Days—Come Join Us

Please join us for lunch and fun activities at one of our member appreciation events. They will be held on the following days, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at our four office locations.

- August 13 – 29439 Ellensburg, Gold Beach

- August 14 – 220 S. Mill Ave., Coquille

- August 20 – 815 Railroad St., Brookings

- August 21 – 43050 Hwy. 101, Port Orford

We will serve a free picnic lunch with grilled hamburgers

and hot dogs. There will be fun games and activities for your kids. The co-op's Chevy Bolt electric vehicle will be charged and ready for you to take on a short test drive. We will have drawings for \$25 bill credits, a cake walk and an opportunity to see our line-men in action. You can meet and visit with cooperative directors, management and employees.

The co-op continues to explore the possibility of taking broadband service to our members. You can earn a \$5 bill credit by filling out a short broadband survey.

There will be something for everyone. Come and go as you please—even just stop for a quick bite to eat on your lunch break from work.

Coos-Curry Electric is your cooperative. We don't just want to keep the lights on for you. We want to meet you and hear how we can better serve you, your family and our communities.

Please help us plan for the right amount of food. RSVP by August 6 to rsvp@cooscurryelectric.com or 541-332-6185.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Brent Bischoff

General Manager and CEO





**652 Rose Ave.
P.O. Box 69
Vernonia, OR 97064
503-429-3021
Toll free 800-777-1276
www.westoregon.org**

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President Brett Costley
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Vice President Jim Buxton
(Dist. 3 – Vernonia, Keasey)

Sec./Treasurer Rosemary Lohrke
(Dist. 6 – Chapman, Scappoose)

Brian Baker
(Dist. 1 – Jewell, Elsie, Hamlet)

Robert VanNatta
(Dist. 2 – Mist, Apiary, Birkenfeld)

Nick Galaday
(Dist. 5 – Timber, Buxton)

Larry Heesacker
(Dist. 7 – Manning, Hagg Lake, Yamhill County)

GENERAL MANAGER

Bob Perry

Contact the board:
directors@westoregon.org

Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Members are welcome.

OR-14

Annual Meeting Reminder

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Members of West Oregon Electric Cooperative is Saturday, August 17, at 11 a.m. The meeting is in the Vernonia High School cafeteria.

Doors open at 10 a.m. for registration. The business meeting starts at 11 a.m., with a barbecue luncheon and member raffle to follow.

The purpose of the annual meeting is:

- To elect directors to serve three-year terms for Districts 2 and 5.
- To hear and consider the reports of officers and directors.
- To transact other business that shall properly come before the membership.

Members now have multiple voting options: electronic, mail-in or in-person. Ballots were mailed to each member on July 27. The ballot contains voting information such as candidate profiles, electronic voting instructions and voting deadlines. Please read the information carefully.

Call the office at 503-429-3021 if you have any questions or concerns.



West Oregon Electric Cooperative employees gather in front of the co-op's headquarters. Sitting in the truck, from left, are Kellie Murray, Judi Gwin and Greg Schaumburg. Standing, from left, are Daniel Huggett, Billi Kohler, Kelly Busch, Margy Prout, James Mullins, Karmen Pavlovsky, Michael Benedict, Justin Reichard, Shelby Grittmann, Kyle Cota, Randy Heath, Colton DeWitt, Justin Lehr, Andy Larson, Bob Perry, Terry Pike, Eric Budge and Don Rose. Sitting on the front of the truck is Eric Haney.



Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.

516 U.S. Hwy. 395 E.
Alturas, CA 96101

Phone: 530-233-3511
Toll-Free: 866-843-2667

If no answer after hours, call the
Modoc County Sheriff's Office at
530-233-4416

www.surprisevalleyelectric.org

*Office open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday*

After hours and outages:
Call office numbers above

STAFF

Bradley Kresge, General Manager
John Minto, Engineer
Dennis Reed, Line Superintendent
DJ Northrup, Member Service Manager

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Scott Warner, Vice President
Lakeview
Raymond Cloud, Secretary/Treasurer
New Pine Creek
Wesley Cook
Cedarville
Craig Joiner
Lookout
John Erquiaga
Lake City
Kyle Weber
Alturas

*Board meets the fourth Thursday of the
month at the SVE office.*

"Owned by those we serve"

This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer

CA-15

SVE's New Member Service Manager

My name is DJ Northrup. I was born and raised in Alturas. I started with Surprise Valley Electric when I was just 15 years old and worked for two summers. I spent seven years with the California Department of Food and Agriculture before returning to SVE.

During that time, I grew to respect all the work local ranchers and farmers do for this country. Working for the cooperative and being able to work directly with those members to try to provide some of the lowest rates for all of our consumers makes my time here that much more rewarding.

I returned to the cooperative in 2015 as a compliance tech and worked my way up to a compliance officer. I worked directly with our engineer and quickly learned the system and how everything operates. During that time, I implemented a geospatial information system, which allows our crews to view electronic maps of the entire service territory and leads to quickly finding consumers' accounts. I have used this mapping system to work directly with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management during major fires to let them know where SVE has equipment and power lines. I also handle all applications, contracts, easements and safety requirements.

I was offered the position of member service manager in March and jumped at it. This new position allows me to reach out and meet more members, and try to keep all of you notified about what projects SVE is working on or what big projects might be coming up. I enjoy working with members and trying to resolve issues or concerns as soon as I can.

I want to thank the board and General Manager Bradley Kresge for this opportunity. I look forward to many more years with the cooperative. I will continue to work hard, and always have the best interest of the members in mind.

Thank you,

DJ Northrup



787 Bailey Hill Road
Eugene, OR 97402
Office Phone: 541-484-1151
Business Hours:
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
CLOSED FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Website: laneelectric.com

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Oakridge District
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Hugh Buermann, Treasurer, Row River District
Jerry Shorey, Secretary, Oakridge District
Jack Billings, Central District
J. Ingrid Kessler, Central District
Chris Seubert, Central District

GENERAL MANAGER
Debi Wilson

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Tony Toncray
Engineering & Operations Manager

BOARD MEETINGS

Fourth Monday of each month
Lane Electric's office, 787 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene
Meetings begin at 9 a.m.
(Unless otherwise noted on LEC website)

In This Issue

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OR-16

Protect Your Cooperative's Tax Status— We Need Your Help

Dear Co-op Community Members:

Recent tax changes by the Internal Revenue Service are having unintended consequences to Oregon electric cooperatives, including Lane Electric. The changes could threaten our tax-exempt status and Lane Electric's use of government aid in the future, such as disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or broadband grants.

The IRS change states that no more than 15% of an electric cooperative's revenue can come from nonmember sources. This means any government aid would be considered nonmember income and could impact the tax-exempt status of Lane Electric and other cooperatives.

Why would Lane Electric use government aid? This past February is a wonderful example. As many of you remember, Lane Electric's system suffered tremendous damage due to a historic snowstorm. The hit to our electrical system continues to require system cleanup. During the storm, we had to increase staffing to restore power as quickly as possible to our members.

This storm was expensive and recently was declared a federal disaster. Five counties in Oregon received this declaration. Damage in Lane County topped \$17 million. The cost to Lane Electric alone was approximately \$5.6 million.

The FEMA grant money to Lane Electric would be a significant help to keep our rates down and offset storm damage costs, but the challenge is what will be the cost to our tax-exempt status if we accept the money as revenue?

Aside from government aid for disasters, another impact to our members

would be our ongoing broadband feasibility study. In the June General Manager's report, I noted Lane Electric had contracted with Pulse Broadband to perform a feasibility study. We know many of you need high-speed internet.

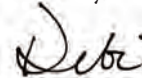
While we continue to determine needed equipment, coverage, services and cost, we now have to consider the costs of requesting a broadband grant. Lane Electric has a desire, if feasible, to help members needing these broadband services. In fact, that is how we got our start when a group of citizens in 1939 wanted electric power to their rural homes. But requesting this grant could now come with consequences to our members.

How can you help? First, I encourage you to educate yourself on the topic. You can read more about the RURAL (Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands) Act on pages 28 and 29 in the article titled The RURAL Act to the Rescue.

Secondly, take action! Visit our grassroots page, www.ORECA-Action.org, and urge your members of Congress to support the RURAL Act.

Please help us preserve our tax-exempt status and keep your rates low.

Sincerely,



Debi Wilson
General Manager





Blachly-Lane Electric Cooperative

Mail to: PO Box 70,
Junction City, OR 97448
Visit us at: 90680 Hwy 99 N,
Eugene, OR
541-688-8711
800-446-8418
blec@blec.coop
www.blachlylane.coop

Mission Statement: *Blachly-Lane provides safe, reliable electric service consistent with the values of our members.*

Board of Directors

District 1

Ernie Jacksch

541-927-3466
jacksche@blec.coop

District 2

Curtis Short, Chairman

541-359-9434
shortc@blec.coop

District 3

Beverly Mattheisen

541-998-3704
mattheisenb@blec.coop

District 4

Marlene Northrup, Vice Chairwoman

541-998-1216
northrupm@blec.coop

District 5

Eric Imbler, Secretary/Treasurer

541-954-1949
imblere@blec.coop

General Manager

Greg Gardner
gardnerg@blec.coop

OR-17

Summer Projects Improve System Resiliency

Dear Members,

Summertime is construction time in the electric utility business, and our crews are hard at it. We are five years into our first 10-year capital plan, aimed at improving reliability and resiliency of the distribution system you rely on for your electric service.

Some of you served from our Alderwood and High Pass substations have recently experienced lengthy planned outages while our crews completed some of this work. Until now, much of our system hasn't had the ability to rapidly recover from an outage. We call that resiliency. Our staff is working with the Bonneville Power Administration to rebuild the transmission line to Alderwood and its distribution circuits, giving us redundant sources of electricity to those substations. Later this year or early next year, we will make improvements in safety and reliability at our Erb Substation as well.

Included in our plan is the growth we are experiencing along our industrial corridor. The load along the corridor has outgrown the capacity of the existing transformers. The transformers have surpassed recommended service life. Parker Substation will get its first new power transformer later this year. The feeder cables that run underground across the highway also will be replaced this year. Both projects have taken several years to design, permit and finally build.

Important to our residential consumers, we continue to replace aged and failing underground cables that serve homes and farms. Installed in the 1960s and 1970s, these cables have become unreliable and expensive to continuously repair. Modern cable design and manufacturing doubles and possibly even triples the life of those cables and offers much more reliable service.

Having a long-term plan to maintain and replace your electric system helps manage reliability and predictable rate-setting. It helps secure the economic viability of our industrial and commercial consumers, and it positions your electric cooperative to serve you well into the future. While crews continue to perform the work, managers and engineers already have started the process of creating our next 10-year plan.

Greg Gardner

General Manager





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Douglas B. Miller

Vice President

Randy L. Knowles

Secretary

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Kevin Ricks

Renewable Energy Asset Manager

Gwyn Miller

H.R. & Business Services Director

Mike DeMott

Power Manager

Mark Pritchard

Operations Manager

Ron Schultz

Engineering Manager

Brandy Myers

Customer Service Supervisor

.....
www.klickitatpud.com

Goldendale Office

1313 S. Columbus Ave.

Goldendale, WA 98620

509-773-5891

800-548-8357

White Salmon Office

110 NE Estes Ave.

P.O. Box 187

White Salmon, WA 98672

509-493-2255

800-548-8358



WA-18

2018 Financial Audit

In May, our financial auditor, Moss Adams, completed Klickitat PUD's 2018 financial audit. I want to give you access to that report and provide some high-level financial information you might find interesting.

I am pleased that Moss Adams reports there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in our financial reporting. This reflects continued excellent work on the part of your Klickitat PUD staff.

At the end of 2018, Klickitat PUD had ownership of plant in service totaling \$369 million. There was \$3 million of plant under construction. These numbers reflect the equipment and facilities KPUD uses to provide electric, water and wastewater services to our customers, as well as KPUD's transmission and generation facilities. The values listed are before accumulated depreciation is taken into account. The value of our infrastructure after accumulated depreciation was \$250 million.

KPUD had \$27 million in cash, cash equivalents and other current assets, such as receivables, at the end of 2018.

On the other side of the ledger, KPUD had \$150 million in long-term debt and \$19 million in current liabilities, which includes accounts payable and other accrued liabilities.

The total net position of the utility was \$102 million as of December 31, 2018. The total net position represents the net value of total utility assets after liabilities are considered.

Operating revenues for 2018 were \$46 million and operating expenses were \$41 million, leaving a net operating income of \$5 million.

These numbers show a solid financial footing that continues to improve. A demonstration of this improvement is that after including nonoperating revenues and expenses, KPUD's net position increased \$3 million during 2018. These funds remain in your utility and continue to support our increasing financial stability. This, in turn, lowers the rate pressures we have to contend with in future years.

I am proud of the work we have done to improve the financial position of the utility. Your entire Klickitat PUD team looks forward to continuing those efforts.

See the audit at www.klickitatpud.com/topicalMenu/about/financialReports.aspx.

Jim Smith

General Manager



NORTHERN LIGHTS, INC.

The power of local service

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

www.nli.coop
P.O. Box 269
Sagle, ID 83860

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866-665-4837

**For regular business
within the Sandpoint area:**
208-263-5141

Outside Sandpoint:
800-326-9594

Board President
Steve Elgar

Board Vice President
Kennon McClintock

Board Secretary/Treasurer
Judith Simonson

General Manager
Annie Terracciano

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Dist. No. 1—Mike Dolan, Nordman, ID
208-610-3853

Dist. No. 2—Judith Simonson, Noxon, MT
406-847-2643

Dist. No. 3—Steve Elgar, Sandpoint, ID
208-610-2999

Dist. No. 4—David Pemberton, Careywood, ID
208-661-5911

Dist. No. 5—Kennon McClintock, Moyie Springs, ID
208-267-7064

Dist. No. 6—Dave Anderson, Bonners Ferry, ID
208-610-8021

Dist. No. 7—Jim Woodward, Sagle, ID
208-946-7963

ID-19

Here's to a Beautiful Summer!

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer as much as I have, and has taken advantage of the recreational fun the Northwest has to offer. Whether you enjoy camping, hiking, boating, swimming, or all of the above, we are blessed to live in an environment that allows us to get outside and appreciate our surroundings. I truly believe this is one of the best places to live.

To celebrate the summer season with our members, NLI is having an ice cream social Monday, August 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. at our Sagle headquarters. Everyone is invited to enjoy hot dogs, ice cream, tour the solar array, and meet your board of directors and NLI employees.



Cost-of-Service Analysis

All electric utilities, including Northern Lights, periodically conduct a cost-of-service analysis to ensure rate fairness among members. The purpose of a COSA is to fairly and equitably allocate all costs required to serve our members among each consumer class. Our goal is to avoid having one member class subsidize another member class through rates. During the course of the study, all costs of the cooperative are reviewed, including the costs to build, operate and maintain our system. These costs are then broken down and allocated according to member classes, such as commercial and residential, and tracked back to the revenues produced for each class to determine if everyone is paying their fair share. The board will analyze the COSA results later this summer to determine if any changes need to be made.

Enjoy the wonderful weather, and I hope to see you at the ice cream social!

Annie Terracciano
General Manager



Idaho County Light & Power Cooperative

P.O. Box 300
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone: 208-983-1610
Toll free: 877-212-0424
Fax: 208 983-1432
Email: iclp@iclp.coop
Website: www.iclp.coop

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Greencreek

Vice President Kim Dahler
Kooskia

Secretary-Treasurer Jim Poxleitner
Cottonwood

Frank McIntire
Kamiah

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Grangeville

Greg M. Smith
Syringa

Ernie Robinson
White Bird

Attorney

J.A. Wright

General Manager

Max Beach

c-21

Back to School

Electric co-ops learn to improve service for members

It's almost the new school year. Kids of all ages are getting ready for a fresh year of learning. From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a variety of subjects and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future.

In a similar vein, Idaho County Light & Power staff continually learn to implement technology that improves electric service, reliability and safety, which enhances quality of life for the members we serve in our communities.

ICL&P keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types fuel demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technology. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods—whether through automatic bill pay, SmartHub, online or in person.

We're working to help sift through the options for our members in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. We continue to test poles on a 10- to 12-year rotation, trim rights-of-way and upgrade the system, in addition to building line extensions to the 40 to 50 new members who come to our area each year.

While all of the maintenance and improvements help maintain system integrity, it doesn't mean your power will stay on 100% of the time. Sometimes Mother Nature has its own plans. Other instances include vehicle accidents and power supplier issues that are out of our control.

Technology Improves Operational Efficiency

Automated meter reading is the technology of automatically collecting energy consumption data and transferring it from the electric meter to the co-op. Because this information can be collected remotely, it enhances our system's efficiency, helps control costs and improves work processes. Further, we can run voltage checks to see if voltage is present and within acceptable limits. This benefits us during outages as we are able to "ping" meters at the location in question. If it doesn't register, we can ping meters around them to give our linemen as much information as possible about who has power and who does not. This helps considerably to restore power more quickly. All of these inquiries are run from the office through the power line to communicate with the meters.

Energy Types—Hydropower Flows Here.

We are fortunate to receive nearly 85% of our power from a clean, renewable and carbon-free power source: hydropower. In addition, thanks to hydropower, the Northwest has nearly 8 million more acres of farmland, and the region's hydropower offsets emissions equivalent to 10 million cars!



2929 Melrose Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
Phone: (509) 526-4041
Fax: (509) 526-3666
Toll Free: (800) 642-1231

ColumbiaREA.coop

Board of Directors

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Neil Carpenter, Vice President
Doug Logan, Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick Dennis, Director
Jay DeWitt, Director
Dennis Munden, Director
Vic Parks, Director
Glen Shipley, Director
Katie Woolridge, Director

Board meetings are normally the fourth Tuesday of each month. The meeting starts at 9:00 a.m. and is usually held in Walla Walla.

Staff

Chief Executive Officer, Scott Peters
Executive Assistant/HR,
Jennifer Aichele
Manager of Marketing & Member
Services, Doug Case
Manager of Operations, Dave Reller
Manager of Engineering, Grant Glaus
Chief Financial Officer, Jim Cooper
Manager of Communications & IT,
Bob Greene
Manager of Safety Services, Jeff Myers

WA-22

If there's anything you like, it's at the Fair

Like the song says, "...Everything is better with some cows around."

And in just a couple weeks, there will be plenty of cows... and horses...and pigs and goats and chickens...and several large buildings and barns full of animals, plants, minerals and vegetables...and of course, elephant ears...at the 153rd Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days!

We always look forward to the Fair, but this year is special, as Columbia REA has been designated as the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days **2019 Distinguished Sponsor of the Year!**

It's quite an honor, not to mention a natural fit, for us to support such a wonderful celebration of this lifestyle we all love, because so many of you, our members, are deeply involved in so many of our local celebrations, such as the Columbia County Fair, the Milton-Freewater Junior Show and the Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo, and have been for generations. Columbia REA loves being a part of all of them.

Not only do we love to support all of you who participate, we also want to recognize and show our appreciation for all the staff who work so hard to put these events together, and the hundreds of volunteers who actually make it all happen. It's a monumental, year-round organizing effort by friends and neighbors that most of us never see. The Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days alone has more than 85,000 attendees, over 200 exhibitors, and thousands of ribbons awarded in more than 60 different categories, which are broken down into hundreds of different divisions and classes, recognizing everything from cookies and quilting and canning to web design and Lego model building. Thank you to everyone who has a hand in actually making it all possible!

Upcoming Fair Dates

Benton-Franklin Fair & Rodeo
Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days
Columbia County Fair

August 20 – 24
August 28 – Sept. 1
Sept. 6 – 8

This year's Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days kicks off with the Chris Janson Concert on Tuesday, August 28, and wraps up on Sunday, Sept. 1, with the Rodeo Finals, and a whole bunch of food, fun and farm animals in between.

We'll see you at the Fair!
And may you always have some cows around...

Best,

Scott Peters
CEO





A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

16755 Finley Butte Road
P.O. Box 127
La Pine, OR 97739

www.midstateelectric.coop
info@midstateelectric.coop
541-536-2126 • 800-722-7219

Departments

Member Service..... Option 3
Engineering..... Option 4
Marketing..... Option 5
Operations..... Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and
Emergencies: 541-536-2165
or 800-752-5935**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

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Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

Every June, hundreds of electric cooperatives across the country send high school students to our nation's capital for a week to sightsee and learn about the cooperative business model. This year, more than 1,800 students attended the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour, which got its inspiration from Lyndon B. Johnson when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Chicago in 1957.

The future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending teens living in rural cooperative service areas to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

The week is interspersed with visits to D.C. monuments and historical sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with other Youth Tour delegates from across the country enable students to meet a broad spectrum of cooperative kids.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Student delegates engage in leadership training, returning home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be a leader. They have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important in their state and hometown communities. The goal is to challenge and inspire teens to make an impact when they get back home.

The selection process for Youth Tour participants is up to each electric cooperative. MEC holds a contest for service-area sophomores and juniors each year to see who will represent us. Interested students submit an essay or video and complete an application. Judges evaluate

each essay/video, and students are chosen for personal interviews. The judges look not only for the applicant's knowledge of rural electrification and the cooperative, but they want to learn about each student: their interests and ambitions, and why they should represent MEC.

This year, MEC awarded the trip to Melia Cuevas. Upon her return, Melia said, "The Washington, D.C., Youth Tour is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Not only did I learn about this great nation's history, I also got to meet new people from all over the country, making lasting friendships and giving me new perspectives. I encourage other students to step out of their comfort zones with this incredible trip. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible."

In November, we will begin the recruiting process to select a student to attend Youth Tour 2020. For more information, call 541-536-2126 option 5.

Protect our Tax Status

There is legislation in the U.S. Congress—the RURAL Act (H.R. 2147 and S. 1032)—that will correct an unintended consequence that could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of your electric co-op. Because of his role on the Senate's tax committee, Sen. Ron Wyden is well positioned to help pass this legislation. Look for more information on page 8.

Please visit our grassroots web page, www.ORECA-Action.org, and take action today to ask Sen. Wyden to support the RURAL Act and Oregon cooperatives.

See pages 8 and 25 for additional information on MEC's programs and services.

General Manager Dave Schneider



www.rrelectric.com

DIRECTORS

President Gary Jones
 Vice President Dennis Poulsen
 Secretary-Treasurer Larry Henson
 John Campbell
 Lindsey Manning
 Krinn McCoy
 Blaine Tanner

GENERAL MANAGER

Chad Black

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Chad Black

Board meets the fourth Wednesday
 of each month

P.O. Box 617
 Malta, ID 83342

To call Raft River

- Office hours 208-645-2211
- Toll free 800-342-7732
 (After hours and outages)
- Pay-by-phone 844-244-1497

Western Division

(All calls for Jackpot, Jarbidge,
 Mountain City and Owyhee)

- Office hours 208-645-2211
- Toll free 800-342-7732
 (After hours and outages)



ID-24



Northwest rivers generate power as they flow through dams, and provide water for irrigation and recreation.

Hydropower: More Than Energy

Hydropower fuels the economy by creating affordable electricity and jobs

The economic benefits of hydropower in the Northwest are seen in several ways—from the reasonable rates on electric bills of residents and businesses to the secondary benefits of job creation, new business development, recreation opportunities and increased agricultural production.

Hydroelectric dams in the Northwest produce more electricity than any other North American river system. Hydroelectric power is a domestic source of energy, allowing each state to produce its own energy without being reliant on international fuel sources.

Because hydropower costs less than most energy sources, states such as Idaho that get most of their electricity from hydropower have lower energy bills than the rest of the country.

Did You Know?

The Northwest hydro system provides more than 100,000 jobs to the region.

**HYDRO
 POWER
 FLOWS HERE**

Courtesy of www.bpa.gov



BIG BEND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

P.O. Box 348

Ritzville, WA 99169

Ritzville office 659-1700

Toll free 866-844-2363

Pay by phone 844-255-3682

For after-hours emergencies

866-844-2363

www.bbec.org

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Vice President Ken Story

Secretary John Harder

Treasurer Lyle Holt

Robert Clinesmith

Curtis Dahl

Stacy Kniveton

Lanny Hayes

Dennis Swinger Sr.

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Yvette Armstrong

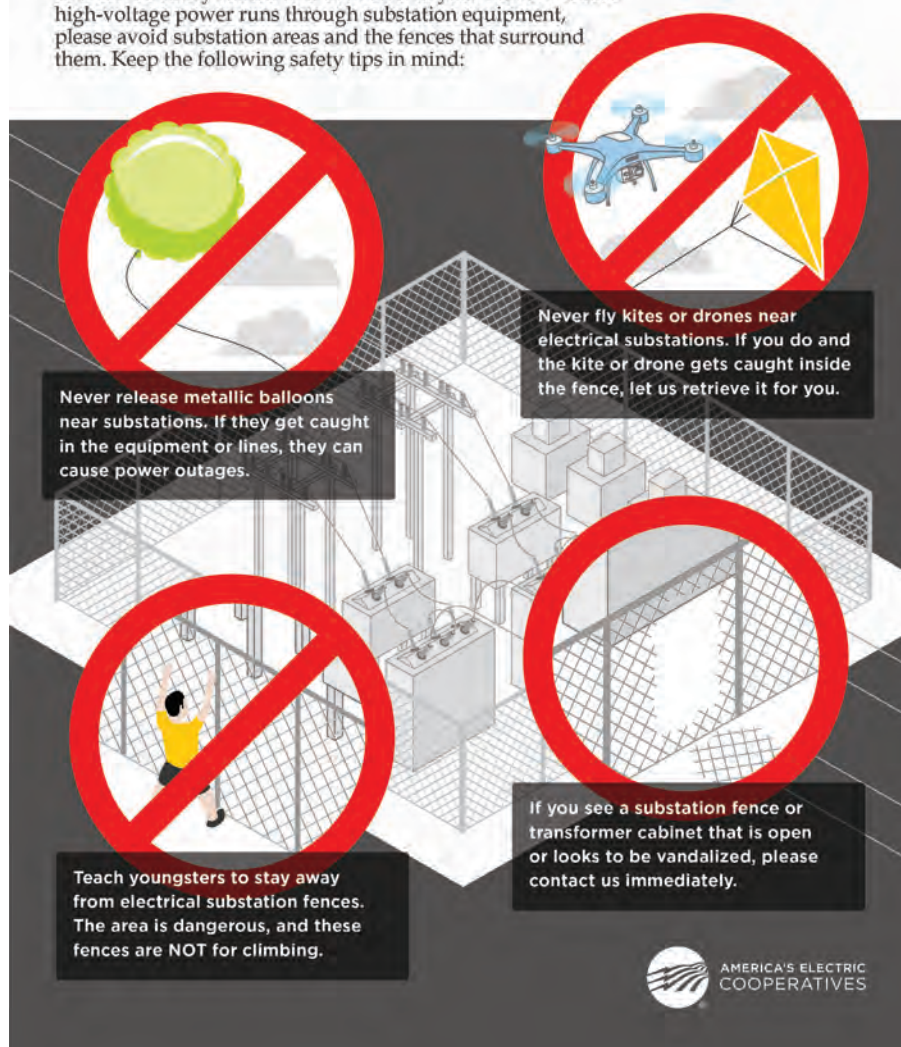
LEGAL COUNSEL

Mark DeWulf

WA-25

Stay Away from Electrical Substations

An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:



Hood River Electric Cooperative



P.O. Box 125
3521 Davis Drive
Odell, OR 97044

541-354-1233
www.hrec.coop

[www.facebook.com/
HRECCoop/](https://www.facebook.com/HRECCoop/)

DIRECTORS

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Doug Mahurin
John McGhee
Opal DeBoard
Dick Sohler
Jeff Osborn

GENERAL MANAGER

Libby Calnon

Serving rural
Hood River County
since 1945

OR-26

Manager's Message

Dear Members,

I have two topics to share with you this month.

Pacific Power Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Many of you likely have heard Pacific Power is implementing a public safety power shut-off program in Hood River this summer. We have been assured the Pacific transmission line that serves our Odell Substation is not included in the plan, so Hood River Electric Cooperative members should not be affected by any power shut-offs. We are participating in the planning discussions to ensure this remains the case.

HREC's Performance Ranks High

Last month, we received a report showing how our 2018 performance in serving members compared with other co-ops across the United States. Our rankings were excellent once again.

Our prices are affordable and stable. Out of the 814 co-ops that participated in the survey, only 14 had residential rates lower than ours. Only 22 had lower non-residential rates. By keeping our electricity prices affordable and stable, we help keep your monthly energy costs more manageable.

Our service is reliable. Another measure in which we scored well is providing reliable service. In 2018, the largest contributor to outages for our customers was the Pacific Power transmission line that serves our substation in Odell. When there's an outage on that line, we're at the mercy of Pacific for repairs.

We are in the planning stages for a new transmission line and substation that we will own and maintain. This will help ensure we can continue to serve members reliably.

On behalf of all of us at HREC, thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Libby Calnon
General Manager



Harney Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

277 Lottery Lane
Hines, OR 97738
541-573-2061
hec.burns@harneyelectric.org

Orovida, Nevada
775-272-3336
orovida.office@harneyelectric.org

www.harneyelectric.org

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Hank Dufurrena
Zach Sword

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Fred Flippence

Operations Manager

Jason Hill

Line Superintendent

Jason Radinovich

Electrical Engineer

Shane Sweet

Office Manager

Stephanie Bowen

Attorney

Raymond S. Kindley

OR-27

Final Call for 2019 Sharing Success Grant Applications

For the past five years, Harney Electric Cooperative has partnered with CoBank to fulfill an ongoing mission to serve rural America and build vibrant communities across the country.

The HEC board has determined that up to \$7,500 a year be set aside for possible donation to qualifying organizations. CoBank matches that donation for a possible maximum gift of \$15,000. This limit was increased in 2019 from \$10,000.

The application window closes Saturday, August 31, 2019.

Eligibility requirements:

- The project must be within Harney Electric's service territory. Look for this information on our website.
- The project should benefit the HEC membership or the cooperative indirectly.
- The project must be sponsored by a certified nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Select organizations that are not

designated a 501(c)(3) are also eligible. These organizations include schools and government organizations such as counties or municipalities and their agencies or departments, as long as the donation serves a public purpose and is consistent with the purpose and guidelines of the Sharing Success program.

Organizations that are political in nature, limit their activities based on religious affiliation or discriminate do not qualify. CoBank reserves the right to review and determine if requests are eligible for contributions. See www.cobank.com/sharingsuccess for details.

Applications are available at www.HarneyElectric.org/content/sharing-success-program. A project proposal—in the form of a letter to our board of directors—is also required. Email the application and other materials to Stephanie.Bowen@HarneyElectric.org.

THANK YOU HARNEY ELECTRIC



Thank You Harney Electric for awarding the Crane Mustang Volleyball Program with the Sharing Success Grant. We LOVE our new net system!

Handwritten signatures and names:
 Jessica Taylor #9, Candis Willard #11, Anna Clodette #1, Sherie Dorman #16, Kathryn Buns #17, Grace Hill #16, Dani Clark #5, Coach Stoddart, Kenna Cunniff #12, Debra O'H #4, Laura Wible #7, Taylor Hammock #8, Elizabeth Jenkins #1, Kyla Spring #10, Riley Davis #11, coach Adams, Isabelle Bosart #16, Kaitlyn Connor #15.



P.O. Box 384
Challis, ID 83226
Phone: 208-879-2283
Fax: 208-879-2596
After-hours emergency numbers:
Propane: 208-879-2201
Electric: 208-879-4900

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Vice President Jeff Bitton
Sec./Treasurer Doug Parkinson
Bob Boren
Michael Miller
Steve Rembelski
Earl Skeen

Manager Ken Dizes

Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month

Email: energy@srec.org

Website: www.srec.org

ID-28

Nuclear Power Option

At the SREC annual meeting in April, I reported that your electric cooperative was participating in the development of a small nuclear reactor slated to be sited at the Idaho National Laboratory. There were questions relating to SREC's involvement in nuclear. I will spend several Ruralite back pages providing more information on SREC's involvement in this project. This report addresses some of the questions asked at the meeting.

Why are we looking at nuclear? It's not just nuclear, but we are looking at carbon-free baseload generation. This is important for a couple of reasons. SREC gets all of its electric power from the Bonneville Power Administration. The available power supply from BPA continues to shrink, and there are continual threats to systematically dismantle BPA, calling into question its future ability to deliver low-cost, carbon-free baseload electric power.

BPA is competitive in its available power products and is SREC's power provider of choice. However, we simply can't bank on it being around forever. We understand the value of diversifying our power supply portfolio. Baseload power generation is extremely valuable and necessary to facilitate incorporating renewable resources such as wind and solar into our power supply portfolio.

It is important to note that we are not looking at traditional nuclear power generation. Yes, it is traditional in that it produces electricity from uranium, and there is nuclear waste. What is quite different is that the nuclear facility consists of separate 60-megawatt nuclear modules that incorporate a passive safety system. A traditional nuclear reactor is cooled by circulating pumped water. The small modular reactor is cooled using buoyancy-driven natural circulation. This is an important distinction, especially from a health and safety perspective. It takes no human or mechanical intervention to cool the reactor unit if something malfunctions causing a meltdown.

The question was raised whether SREC would hold a referendum to allow the membership to decide if they want their electric cooperative involved in nuclear power. Of course, we want the membership to participate in the cooperative. Your input is important. We also understand members need good information to provide quality feedback to the cooperative leadership team. The difficulty is project participation involves timely decision-making—and often confidential information sharing that is not conducive to all electric members participating. So no, there will not be a referendum opportunity, but we want to hear your questions or concerns.

At the end of the day, you will have to rely on the board of directors you elected to make the final decision as to whether the cooperative should enter into a long-term agreement on this project.



Ken Dizes

Ken Dizes
General Manager



United Electric
CO-OP INC.

Directors

President David Phillips
Vice President Brent Bowen
Sec./Treas. Cordell Searle
Bruce Beck
Dean Nielsen
Ronald Osterhout
George Toner
David Hruza

General Manager

Jo Elg

Engineering and Operations

Trevor Parke

Line Superintendent

Kay Hill

Executive Assistant/Billing Specialist

Trisha Moultrie

Member Services Manager

Chris Seibold

Mailing address:

1330 21st St.
Heyburn, ID 83336

Phone: 208-679-2222

Fax: 208-679-3333

Email: uec@uec.coop

Website: www.uec.coop

Office hours: Monday-Thursday,
7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday, 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

After Hours: 208-679-4444

ID-29

On the Wire at United Electric

I am surprised how frequently United Electric linemen respond to a car accident where a car has hit a utility pole. I suppose there are any number of reasons why these accidents with utility poles occur: icy or wet roads, excessive speed, texting, or simply not paying attention to surroundings and potential hazards while driving. Have you considered what you would do if you were involved in an accident with a utility pole?

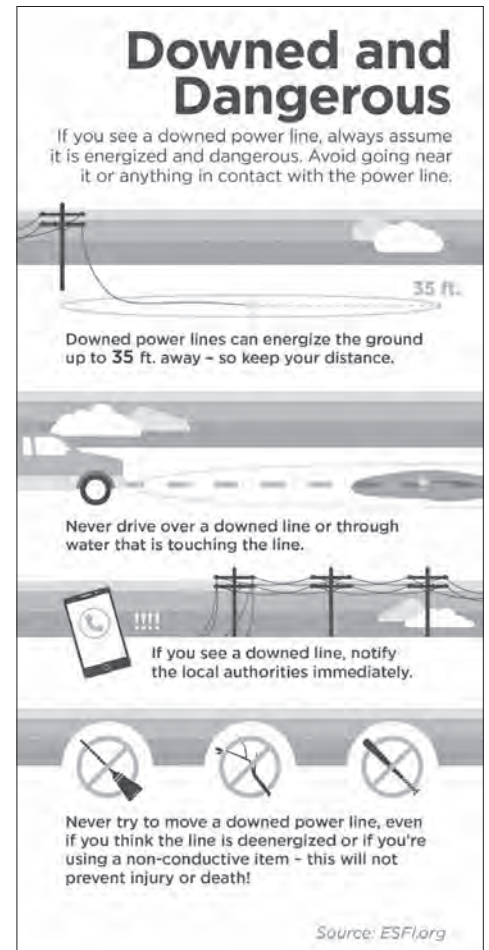
Electricity is probably the last thing on your mind immediately following a car accident. You probably are more concerned about whether anyone is injured or how badly the vehicle is damaged. But you should be aware that your car may be charged with electricity if you hit a power pole. Loose wires and other equipment may be in contact with your car or near it. If you step out of your car, you will become the electricity's path to ground.

Almost always, the safest place is inside the car. Stay in the car, tell others to do the same and warn onlookers to stay away. Call 911 to notify emergency personnel and the utility. Wait for trained utility personnel to make the scene safe.

The infographic on this page is a great visual reminder of what you should and should not do if you see a downed power line. Downed power lines sometimes will arc and spark with electricity. However, that is not always the case. Although downed power lines may look harmless, they may still be energized and deadly.

United Electric linemen are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you are involved in a car accident or see downed power lines, call us at 208-679-2222.

Jo Elg
General Manager





Lost River Electric Cooperative Inc.

305 Pine St.
P.O. Box 420
Mackay, ID 83251-0420

Phone: 208-588-3311
Fax: 208-588-3038
Email: office@lrecoop.com
www.lostriverelectriccoopinc.com

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Vice President

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Secretary/Treasurer

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Maddie Mocettini-Hansen
Dean L. Myler
Lynn O. Rothwell
Merlin A. Waddoups

Manager/CEO

Brad J. Gamett

The board of directors
meets the fourth Friday
of each month at 8:30 a.m.

ID-30

Lost River Electric Joins UAMPS

In an effort to address the future needs of Lost River Electric Cooperative, the board of directors voted May 24 to join the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems. UAMPS is a political subdivision of the state of Utah that provides electric energy wholesale supply services to its members in seven Western states.

The primary driver for this decision was UAMPS' development of the Carbon Free Power Project at the Idaho National Laboratory. The project consists of the emerging small modular reactors—a nuclear technology developed by NuScale Power in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and Oregon State University.

With nearly half of the electric energy used in Idaho imported from resources outside the state, many Idaho electric utilities—including Lost River Electric—face uncertainties with long-term transmission availability and associated costs. Currently, LREC's wholesale electrical power needs are supplied solely through out-of-state energy resources courtesy of the Bonneville Power Administration. A generation resource in our region to the scale of the CFPP could help balance these transmission supply problems and provide economic opportunity locally.

Due to long-term environmental concerns with carbon-based generation, the CFPP would provide a carbon-free alternative to most current power generation in the Intermountain West. Other carbon-free generation resources such as wind and solar fail to provide a consistent around-the-clock, baseload power supply. SMR technology provides a constant, dispatchable and carbon-free generation alternative.

The CFPP project is designed to produce 720 megawatts of energy. That is enough to supply more than 500,000 average U.S. households. LREC has subscribed to the project at the 1-MW level. This is the amount of power our cooperative will potentially use or sell on the market, and is equivalent to only a small portion of our current and long-term power system load needs. The LREC Board of Directors considers CFPP participation an investment for the cooperative, the local community and the environment.

Brad Gamett
Manager



Board of Directors

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Will Stark, Vice President
Dan Stowe, Secretary
Yvette Delaquito, Treasurer
Lon Rake, Director
Jeff Saxe, Director
Mark Shorten, Director
Fred Williams, Director

P.O. Box 45
Glennallen, AK 99588
www.cvea.org

Copper Basin District

(907) 822-3211
(907) 822-5586 (fax)
Mile 187 Glenn Hwy.

Valdez District

(907) 835-4301
(907) 835-4328 (fax)
367 Fairbanks Dr.

After hours outage line

(866) 835-2832

Important Dates

August

CVEA Board Meeting: The August meeting of the Board of Directors is 1 p.m., Thursday, August 15, 2019, in Glennallen

CVEA Member Tours: The Fall Valdez member tours will be Monday and Tuesday, August 12-13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Registration required; contact Sharon Scheidt at 822-5506, 835-7005, or email scheidt@cvea.org for information

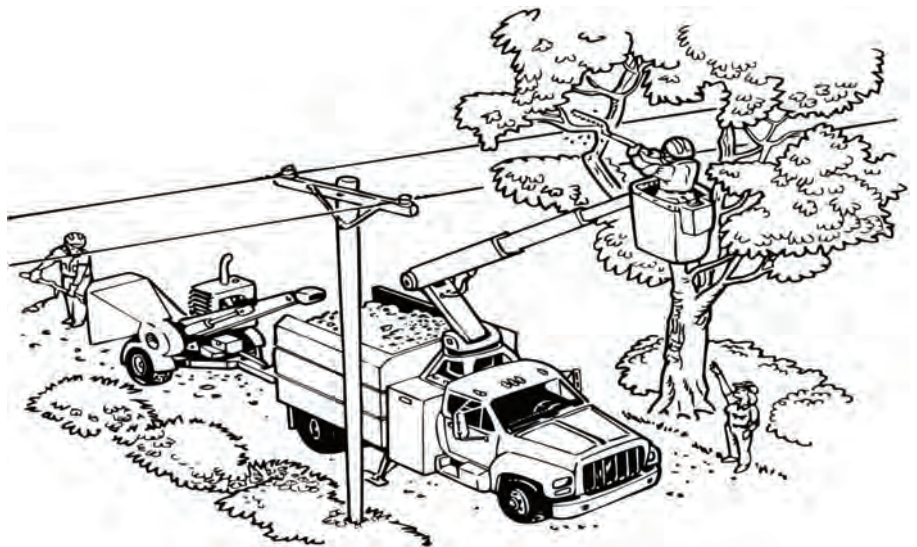
September

CVEA Offices Closed: The CVEA offices will be closed, Monday, September 2, 2019, for Labor Day

CVEA Board Meeting: The September meeting of the Board of Directors is cancelled

AK-34

Right-Of-Way Clearing



Right-of-way clearing is an important part of Copper Valley Electric's goal of delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective electric service. Tree and brush clearing can help reduce the number and length of outages especially during severe weather conditions. The nice summer weather has caused a lot of growth. If you have a tree that is within 10 feet of a power line, please call CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 for removal. For additional information on right-of-way clearing or electrical safety, visit www.cvea.org.

Construction Season Will Soon Come to an End

As summer comes to an end, so does construction season. If you are planning new construction or a service upgrade before the end of the season, don't wait. Please contact CVEA at 822-3211 or 835-4301 as soon as possible.

Pay Your Bill and Manage Your Account Online Using Smarthub

Are you looking for convenient ways to make your life easier?

If so, log on to www.cvea.org. You can pay your CVEA monthly bill directly from your bank account or by using your debit card and Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card. You can also see your billing and payment history and track your monthly usage and cost as well as daily averages. This is a great way to manage your CVEA account. Just go to cvea.org and click the *Smarthub* button on the home page.



1115 Pacific Ave. • P.O. Box 433
Tillamook, OR 97141
Phone: 503-842-2535
Toll free: 800-422-2535
www.tpud.org

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday.

For EMERGENCY service after
business hours, call 800-842-2122.

Board of Directors

Harry Hewitt, President
Barbara Trout, Vice President
Doug Olson, Treasurer
David Burt, Secretary
Mike Gardner, Director

General Manager

Todd Simmons

Board meetings are in the PUD office
at 6 p.m. the first Tuesday after the
11th of the month.

Our Mission

Tillamook PUD provides safe, reliable and
competitively priced power to our
customers.

Our Vision

Tillamook PUD provides high value to
our customers, staff and community,
performing now and preparing for the
future.



OR-35

Green Power Program: A Unique Opportunity

Dear Customers:

Using renewable resources to produce electricity is beneficial in many ways. Clean, renewable energy not only helps preserve our environment for future generations, it provides a variety of economic growth opportunities.

Our community is fortunate to have a unique, renewable energy generation facility right here in our area—methane digesters. Through the processing of organic waste, our local digesters provide a variety of benefits to businesses, the agricultural community and the environment. From an emergency preparedness perspective, digesters provide the benefit of having a local source of electricity generation should a natural disaster occur.

Nearly a decade ago, Tillamook PUD recognized the significance and potential of this local generation source, and considered the costs associated in buying the electricity. To help sustain local digester facilities, allow room for growth, and support the purchase of the electricity generated, the district developed a program to which customers could contribute towards to help support the purchase of local Green Power. As a result, the Tillamook PUD Green Power program launched in 2009.

The program has been steady through the years, but it became necessary to update. Last year, the Green Power program was reviewed to ensure the needs of our customers were being met and the program requirements were consistent with industry standards. Upon evaluation, we implemented changes to revitalize the program, renew customer support and attain additional interest in the program. To find out more details on the changes and to sign up, visit www.tpud.org/ways-to-save/green-programs/green-power-program or stop by the office.

Program alterations have been well received. Since making the adjustments, several new business and residential customers have joined. Customer support has nearly doubled since the program relaunch in September 2018.

Supporting renewable energy is important at Tillamook PUD. Judging by the response from our customers, it seems as if it is just as important in our community. The support from all parties is vital to the program, without it our opportunity to use the unique renewable resources in our area would be limited. We appreciate the dedication and engagement in the Green Power program and look forward to partnering with you on projects like this in the future.

Sincerely,

Todd Simmons
General Manager





PO Box 449
Barrow, AK 99723
Phone: 852-6166
Fax: 852-6372
www.bueci.org

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Tina A. Wolgemuth

General Manager

Ben L. Frantz

AK-36

Don't Be Surprised!

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Before picking up a shovel, pick up the telephone. Electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television lines often are buried underground. One wrong move can cause you and your neighbors to be cut off from vital services—or cause death or injury to you from an electric shock or an explosion. At least two business days before you plan to dig, call **Barrow Utilities and Electric Cooperative**. We will come out and use color-coded paint to mark the locations of underground utilities. Calling ahead not only is common sense, it's the law.



Owned By Those We Serve

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 John Sloan, Secretary (District 6)
 Bill Nordmark, Treasurer (District 7)
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 David Messier (District 1)
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Corporate Headquarters

758 Illinois Street
 PO Box 71249
 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1249
 Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 458-6365

Delta Junction Office

1681 Richardson Hwy.
 Hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm, M, W-F
 (closed Tuesday)
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 895-5472

Nenana Office

7259 Parks Hwy.
 Hours: 8 am to 5 pm, M-F
 (907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Fax (907) 832-5438

Report Outages:

(907) 452-1151
 1-800-770-GVEA (4832)
 Select: Option 1, Option 1

View Outage Map:

gvea.com/resources/outages

www.gvea.com

Safety: You Have The Power!



AK-37

Were you a GVEA member in 1993?

Preparations are already underway for the capital credit check run that will take place this fall (after Board approval, of course). It's inevitable that some checks won't reach past members, due to invalid mailing addresses or missing W9 tax information (required for capital credit checks issued for \$600 or more).

GVEA would like to request your assistance to ensure your refund check makes it to you.

- If you are currently a member and receive mail from GVEA, you're all set; no further action is needed.
- If you were a member in 1993, but no longer receive service and are unsure of the mailing address we have on file, please contact GVEA at your earliest convenience.

There are a variety of ways to contact GVEA's Capital Credits Section:

- Visit: <http://gvea.com/forms> where you can locate a variety of forms to fit your needs.
- Call: 907-451-5625 or 1-800-770-4832
- Email: capitalcredits@gvea.com



Don't miss out on your capital credit check!





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 

73233 State Route 70
Portola, CA 96122

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fnelson@psrec.coop

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dshort@psrec.coop

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Dave Roberti, *Sierra Valley*
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Nancy Miller, *Litchfield*
nmiller@psrec.coop

Manager

Robert (Bob) Marshall
bmarshall@psrec.coop



Our subsidiary,
**Plumas-Sierra
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800-221-3474.

For information about any
of our products, please
call 800-555-2207 or
visit our website at
www.psrec.coop.

CA-39

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Members

To: Members of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

Notice is hereby given that the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Membership of Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative is Thursday, September 5, 2019, at 6 p.m. at the Sierra Valley Grange, 92202 Highway 70, Vinton, California, for the purpose of taking appropriate action on the following matters:

- Reports of officers and managers.
- Report of the Nominating Committee.
- Election of two directors.
- All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

PSREC 2019 Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

4:30 to 6 p.m.—Registration. Registered members receive gifts while supplies last!

5 to 6:30 p.m.—Dinner is served! You must register for the meeting to receive meal tickets.

5:30 p.m.—Presentation honoring photo contest and scholarship winners.

6 p.m.—Annual meeting starts. All voting members are encouraged to attend.

2019 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Quorum check
- Minutes from 2018
- Introduction of Credentials and Election Committee
- 2019 Nominating Committee report
- Nominations from the floor
- Introduction and speeches of nominees
- Vote for directors for Districts 2 and 5
- Review of PSREC Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- New business
- Election results
- Adjournment
- Door prizes given away



MT. WHEELER POWER

1600 Great Basin Blvd.
Ely, NV 89301

775-289.8981
800-97-POWER
info@mwpower.net

Emergency Contacts

Ely Office
775-289-8981

Eureka Office
775-237-5693

Outside Ely / Eureka Area
800-97-POWER

Board of Directors

District 1 – Ron Miller
District 2 – Mary Kerner
District 3 – Robert Pratt
District 4 – Catherine Bakaric
District 5 – Rick Hendrix
District 6 – Jerald Anderson
District 7 – Sandra Green
District 8 – Wade Robison
District 9 – Ron Niman

Proudly serving more than 10,000
residents and businesses throughout
Nevada and Utah.

*The Ely office is open Monday through
Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Eureka
office is open Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

“Powering Your Future”

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

NV-40

Important Dates



Bills Due



Eureka County Fair



Board Meeting



**White Pine
County Fair**

For more important dates, visit
mwpower.net/content/community-calendar

Wells Rural Electric Company

Board of Directors

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Vice President

M Jonathan Dahl
Secretary/Treasurer

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Ouida Madison
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D. Vernon Dalton

website:

www.wrec.coop

Outage Hotline:

(800) 566-6696
24 hours a day

Carlin office:

1322 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 727
Carlin, Nevada 89822
(775) 754-6362

Wendover office:

1706 West Butte Street
P.O. Box 3699
West Wendover,
Nevada 89883
(775) 664-2204

Wells office:

1451 Humboldt Avenue
P.O. Box 365
Wells, Nevada 89835
(775) 752-3328

NV-41

Defending Reliable Electricity

Billboards along Interstate 80 urge homeowners to create “defensible space” to reduce the risk of losing their home to fire. Simply put, defensible space means managing flammable materials to prevent the spread of fire. Defensible space is an important concept not only in fire safety but in other situations.

Your electric cooperative, Wells Rural Electric Company (WREC), creates a defensible space around the power lines that serve your homes and businesses for several reasons. First and foremost, all of our power lines comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) to prevent accidental contacts and to ensure that WREC delivers reliable, affordable and clean electricity in the safest way possible.

Our “Commitment To Zero Contacts” safety initiative focuses on the human factor of electrical safety. Despite our best efforts to build an electrical system that meets or exceeds the requirements of the NESC, some people make dangerous decisions that risk severe injury and even death. Commitment To Zero Contacts is designed not only to keep our line workers safe, it’s intended to keep other employees and our members safe as well.

For decades we have trimmed trees to maintain a defensible space around our power lines to prevent accidental contacts and to prevent outages. Tree trimming crews strive to maintain the beauty of the trees, but appearance is second to safety. Scorching August temperatures may make Fall seem far away, but contract crews will begin trimming trees soon.

The growing threat of catastrophic fires has motivated your Board of Directors and employees to take defensible space to a new level. For the past few years, your Board of Directors has authorized a budget that includes



removing low-growing vegetation from our rights-of-way. Initially, mowing brush and weeds growing under our power lines was only intended to prevent wildfires from burning our power lines down. It has since become a way to reduce the risk of starting a fire. Studies are currently underway by federal land management agencies to evaluate the effectiveness of using right-of-way clearing to create a line of defense for fire crews. It’s a concept that WREC supports because it fits with our goal to provide the most safe and reliable service possible and it could protect the homes and property of our members.

The graphic below illustrates how you can create defensible space for your own home.

Clay R. Fitch
Chief Executive Officer



Defensible space is the required space between a structure and a wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildland fire conditions. For more information about defensible space zones and preparedness techniques, visit the Firewise Communities website at www.firewise.org.



NV-42

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Fast Start for Committees



An effective, efficient cooperative must have a system in place to encourage seamless communication throughout the organization – from the membership to the Board to the staff. That's why our Board created a new committee structure.

I am pleased to report that two of our new committees met in July – Finance and Member Liaison – and both are making progress toward a better membership cooperative. (See story on Page 4.)

The Policy and Charitable Foundation committees meet this month.

The Finance Committee's first task was to make sure it had a clear understanding of the mission statement and context for making recommendations. Our staff will be responsible for bringing the committee up to speed on our costs and explaining the complexities of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's accounting system, which utilities worldwide use. The committee will be instrumental recommending to the Board how to best meet our financial obligations.

I was really impressed that we had so many qualified applicants, far more than we could put on the Finance Committee. A priority is to make certain that every district is well represented.

In our very first Member Liaison meeting, we received really productive input on our bylaws, which need a lot of work.

First crafted in 1965, some of the language remains confusing and dated. One obvious problem is the requirement that we collect a \$10 membership fee from each new member. That practice

is antiquated and unnecessary, so it should be changed. Like your appendix, it might have been important long ago, but it isn't now.

Another is the ambiguity involving annual district meetings in March and the annual membership meeting in April. The members need more clarity.

Committee revisions must be done in the next few months, because changes require membership approval at the annual membership meeting in April.

Not surprisingly, some committee members are skeptical that their voices will be heard. While it's true that the Board is not required to approve recommendations from the committees, it would be foolish to ignore them. In time, I believe members will get more confident that the Board is looking to provide good governance.

As staff, all we can do is advise. Our ideas and strategies must be vetted by members and the Board. I liken all this to a legislative process, where strong feedback and compromises are the norm. Staff made suggestions, our attorney made a suggestion, and committee members questioned some of that advice. Sometimes that stings, but it is good.

Until next month,

Dick Peck
Chief Executive

Chief Executive Dick Peck has spent 47 years in the public power industry, including 24 years as a CEO of rural utilities in the West and four years of consulting in South America and Southeast Asia.



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Paul Rogers

Shan Rowbotham

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Matt Boast

The Kittitas PUD Board of Commissioners meets the last Tuesday of each month in Building B. Please visit the PUD website to view all approved board minutes.

Need Help With Your Utility Bills?

The following organizations may be able to help.

- ▶ Fish, 509-925-5990, www.kvfish.org
- ▶ HopeSource, 509-925-1448, www.hopesource.us
- ▶ Kittitas County Veteran's Coalition
Kittitas: 509-933-2932
Cle Elum: 509-647-3872
- ▶ St. Andrews Catholic Church, Ellensburg, 509-962-9819, www.st-andrewsparish.org
- ▶ Small Tribes Organization of Western Washington, 800-567-6690, www.stoww.webs.com

OFFICE HOURS

- ▶ Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



WA-43

Preventing Electrical Fires

Take steps to help prevent electrical fires by identifying possible safety problems before they occur. Safe Electricity offers the following checklist to help find possible issues with your electrical system or appliances before they become a fire hazard in your home:

- **Electrical outlets.** Check for loose-fitting plugs and loose wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates. If you have young children, install tamper-resistant outlets. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.

- **Electrical wiring.** If an outlet is not working, it may be an indicator of unsafe wiring. Have an electrician check it out. Also check for loose wires and loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.

- **Ground-fault circuit interrupters.** Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, workshop, basement, garage and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they work properly.

- **Arc-fault circuit interrupters.** Consider having AFCIs installed in your home. An AFCI installed in a circuit breaker monitors the flow of electricity throughout your home. If the AFCI detects any abnormality, it will shut the system off, preventing a fire.

- **Plugs.** Do not remove the grounding pin—third prong—to make a

plug fit a two-conductor outlet.

- **Cords.** Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, tightly wrapped around any object or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.

- **Extension cords.** These are not intended as permanent household wiring, so only use them on a temporary basis. If you need more electrical outlets, talk to an electrician about installing more so you will not need to use extension cords.

- **Lightbulbs.** Verify your lightbulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture they are in, and make sure they are screwed in securely so they do not overheat.

- **Appliances/electronics.** If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it, and have it repaired or replaced. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Make sure your appliances and electronics are placed in dry locations. If an appliance has been damaged by water, replace it.

- **Circuit breakers/fuses.** Check that circuit breakers are working properly. Fuses should be properly rated for the circuit they protect.

- **Service capacity.** If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Contact a qualified electrician.

For more information on electrical safety in your home, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

District Offices

4005 23rd Street
P.O. Box 226
Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-3616

567 West Pierce
Burns, OR 97720
541-573-2666

400 Patterson Bridge Road
P.O. Box 575
John Day, OR 97845
541-575-0161

2408 Cove Ave.
La Grande, OR 97850
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www.otec.coop
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County
Greg Howard, Union County
Gary Miller, Grant County

Les Penning, CEO

Ron Williams, Attorney

OR-48

Manager's Message

For the most part, we were fortunate across our entire service territory this spring to have had a lot of good moisture, tempering the risk of fire as we move through the dry season. However, like any wet spring, it produced lots of growth on the ground that will create dangerous conditions if circumstances shift and dry up.

As we have discussed in previous articles, a great deal of effort is directed toward fire mitigation at your cooperative, including vegetation management, focused maintenance, and shifting operational conditions and practices to reduce potential fire risk. I want to thank you, our member-owners, for your continued support of reaching out to us and reporting hazards near our power lines.

With 3,000 miles of power line, your cooperative has a substantial amount of risk to manage. We must continue to work together to mitigate the potential of fire, keeping in mind that a high percentage of fires are started beyond the meter or on the homeowner's property. We must be ever-vigilant about removing potential hazards or conditions around our homes, property and infrastructure to ensure the safety of our families and communities.

When focusing on your home and property, some recommendations from our emergency management, insurance and public safety groups include keeping a good perimeter around the home by managing vegetation, including danger trees that pose a risk of falling into the home or impacting your electrical service. Always be careful not to overload circuits and electrical cords, or improperly use portable heaters. Heating equipment is the leading cause of fires in homes.

The potential physical and financial risks from fire for our cooperative and beyond the meter to you and your family are ongoing concerns. However, we can all work to improve them.

For more information to help guide and reduce these areas of exposure, refer to the article inside on page 25, or visit our website at OTEC.coop/fire-prevention.

Les Penning CEO

Correction: The caption on the July 2019 cover is incorrect. The name of the July cover contest winner is Shelley Conro.





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Kenneth Klotz

WA-49

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employer*

WA-50

ENERGY TERMS QUIZ

Can you match the definitions below with the correct energy terms?
Use the word bank for clues!



1. These energy sources, like coal, oil and natural gas, were formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals buried underground and are used to generate electricity.



2. This is the network of poles and power lines that sends electricity from where it's generated to homes and businesses all over the county.

3. These energy sources include natural energy from the sun, wind and water and are used to generate electricity.



4. This is the flow of electrically charged particles like electrons within a conductor or circuit.

5. This is the act of using less energy.



Word Bank

CURRENT	RENEWABLE RESOURCES
ELECTRIC GRID	ENERGY CONSERVATION
FOSSIL FUELS	

Answer Key: 1. fossil fuels 2. electric grid 3. renewable resources 4. current 5. energy conservation



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emergency, call the main office 24/7.**

**To track an outage, follow us on
Twitter @PLWCo.**

WA-52



August 24th 2019

5 kilometer course
is flat and fast

Raffle prizes are given away
at awards ceremony

Ribbons are given to top 3
in each gender and age group

Medals are given to 1st place
overall male and female

All proceeds benefit
Washington High School
Cross Country



Location:

Washington H.S.
12420 Ainsworth AVE S
Tacoma, WA 98444

Schedule:

8:30 AM – Registration Opens
9:20 AM – Registration Closes
9:30 AM – Start of Event
10:30 AM – Start of Awards

Registration:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com
*Registrations are also accepted on the
day of the event for an additional charge of \$5*

Course Map and Results:

www.patriotcrosscountry.com

For More Information:

Allen Culp
253-219-5252
aculp@fpschools.org



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Marc Farmer

CPUD \$10 Bill Credit Drawing

Account #5008500

If this is your account number,
please call the office to claim your
prize. Congratulations!

Community Calendar

August 1: Clatskanie Chamber Meeting

7:30 am at Colvins

August 2 - 4: Clatskanie Festival

5K Night Light Run/Walk, Night Light
Parade, and Memorial Candle Lighting
For more information check out the
Clatskanie Festival Facebook Page

August 8: Rainier Chamber Meeting

Noon at the Rainier Methodist Church

August 21: Clatskanie PUD Board

Meeting - Workshop at 5:30 pm, followed
by regular board meeting at 7 pm.

**Save the Date! Clatskanie Health &
Safety Fair - September 28th 10 am to
2 pm at the Middle/High School**

OR-60

Clatskanie People's Utility District is a member of the state-wide organization called Oregon People's Utility District Association (OPUDA) that represents the Oregon PUDs. One of the main purposes of this organization is to lobby on behalf of the six Oregon PUDs. OPUDA represented us at the capitol in Salem during the recent legislative session, and the following are a couple of the key issues that I would like to share with you.

OPUDA has worked for 10-years to reduce the Energy Supplier Assessment (ESA). The ESA is the general purpose tax used by ODOE to backfill every department in the agency, pay their rent, and ironically even pay litigation costs to defend themselves on the issue of whether the ESA is a tax or a fee. It is a unique fund within Oregon's agency budget structure. In recent years, ESA payers have faced upwards of 25-to-70% increases in their ESA tax rates determined by ODOE. This tax ultimately is passed down to utility customers within their electric bills. Clatskanie has experienced an increase of 70% in its tax assessment over the past 10 years, which is why we joined in the lawsuit against ODOE.

In SB 5545 (the ODOE budget bill), the ESA will provide nearly \$14 million toward the operations of ODOE. However, recognizing the need to wean their reliance on this tax, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Ways & Means Committee reduced the ESA by 8% from the amounts charged in the 2017-19 biennium.

HB 2020, the controversial Cap and Trade bill, would have established an economy-wide greenhouse gas reduction program that put Oregon on an aggressive path toward decarbonization. Generally, the bill outlined a cap-and-trade regulatory program designed to place a market price on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by placing an overall cap on GHG emissions (or an emission budget) and then selling allowances/permits that collectively would not exceed that GHG budget. Over time, the economy-wide budget and number of allowances would shrink to meet emissions reduction targets. Transportation fuels, electric utilities, and manufacturers were regulated differently under the bill.

Due to concerns with the economic impacts this bill would have on the PUD customers in Oregon, OPUDA engaged with the Governor (via her Carbon Policy Office) and the legislative co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction to positively influence cap-and-trade legislation. That engagement resulted in a bill that recognized the nearly carbon-free portfolio of consumer-owned utilities. However, because the bill did not mitigate the negative economic impact for all regulated parties, it ultimately died (perhaps temporarily) in the legislative process.



Marc Farmer
General Manager



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ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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Kotzebue Electric Association Inc., a locally owned utility dedicated to cooperative principles, will make electric energy and other value-added utility services and products available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic and management practices, which improves utility services and the quality of life in our service area.

AK-64

Power Cost Equalization Update

By the time this edition of Ruralite appears in your mail box, this update may be stale and PCE may be fully funded for FY2020. But as it stands in mid-July when this article is due, PCE is very much in jeopardy.

As many of our members already know, failure of the legislature to pass “Reverse Sweep” language last month has resulted in funding for this year’s PCE becoming unavailable.

The good news is that both the Governor’s proposed budget and the Legislature’s passed budget included full funding for PCE. The Legislature’s budget identified the PCE Endowment Fund as the funding source. The bad news is that the administration has determined that the PCE Endowment is a “sweepable” fund and, since the legislature did not pass Reverse Sweep language, the fund has effectively been swept into the Constitutional Budget Reserve.

Although the Legislature is actively engaged in efforts to restore funding for PCE, there is no guarantee that they will be successful. As a result, electricity you have been using since July 1 is not eligible for PCE unless a funding source is established. On July 17, the Governor amended the special session call and summoned all legislators to Juneau immediately. We are very hopeful this means that funds for PCE will be restored shortly.

The Regulatory Commission of Alaska is the agency that determines what your PCE rate is. This week they formally notified utilities participating in PCE that there are no funds available to reimburse utilities for credits applied during the current fiscal year. Unless something changes during the month of July, bills to be issued in early August will not reflect PCE and the full cost of electricity will be borne by our members.

Loss of this funding will be catastrophic—particularly to vital local entities like water and sewer facilities and other public services. Let the Governor and the Legislature know that you support their efforts to ensure that this critical program is funded for FY20 and beyond.

Until next time,



Meera Kohler
Alaska Village Electric Cooperative President and CEO



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Elim	Pitkas Point
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Gambell	Russian Mission
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Grayling	St. Michael
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Huslia	Selawik
Kaltag	Shageluk
Kasigluk	Shaktoolik
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Kotlik	Teller
Koyuk	Togiak
Lower Kalskag	Toksook Bay
Marshall	Tununak
Mekoryuk	Upper Kalskag
Minto	Yakutat
Mt. Village	Wales

Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc.

4831 Eagle Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
907-561-1818
800-478-1818



AK-105

Power Cost Equalization Update

By the time this edition of Ruralite appears in your mail box, this update may be stale and PCE may be fully funded for FY2020. But as it stands in mid-July when this article is due, PCE is very much in jeopardy. As many of our members already know, failure of the legislature to pass "Reverse Sweep" language last month has resulted in funding for this year's PCE becoming unavailable.

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AVEC members received \$11 million in PCE in 2018. Loss of this funding will be catastrophic—particularly to vital local entities like water and sewer facilities and other public services. Let the Governor and the Legislature know that you support their efforts to ensure that this critical program is funded for FY20 and beyond.

Until next time,

Meera Kohler
President and CEO





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In case of an outage: If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 257-4174. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. After-hours and weekend calls are answered by a local service and immediately forwarded to standby personnel.

*The board meets at 5:30 p.m.
the fourth Tuesday of each month.*

CA-106



Attention, LMUD Customers!

Outage text alert system enrollment method changes

Lassen Municipal Utility District has a new way for consumers to enroll in our outage text alert system. Effective immediately, customers who want to enroll in the program need to text the letters "LMUD" to the toll-free number, 877-754-7697.

Customers already enrolled do not need to re-enroll.

Outage text alerts are sent when a major outage occurs within LMUD's service territory. Not all outage information is sent via text. In the case of an isolated or planned outage, LMUD provides information through two online sources: the website Outage Center at www.lmud.org/outage or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/lassenmud.

Regular text messaging rates may apply. To opt out of text alerts, please reply "STOP."



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Hood River Electric Co-op
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Midstate Electric Co-op
Oregon Trail Electric Co-op
Salem Electric
Surprise Valley Electrification Corp.
Umatilla Electric Co-op
Umpqua Indian Utility
Wasco Electric Co-op
West Oregon Electric Co-op

OR-400

Case in Point

The story is familiar: Forests are burning and oceans are rising because of climate change. Something needed to be done.

The solution? Cap-and-trade legislation that could be passed with large Democratic majorities.

The bill was the subject of countless hearings, dragging on for months and stuffed full of complex provisions for various special interests—including ours. Claims of a new wave of clean-energy jobs that would revolutionize the rural economy were countered by charges that the bill would do nothing for climate change and would devastate rural jobs and industry.

A motivated Republican opposition employed dilatory tactics to slow the bill, aided by nervous moderate Democrats leery of voting for a bill so controversial. The legislation went nowhere.

Sounds a lot like HB 2020 in the 2019 Oregon Legislative session, doesn't it? Except this narrative happened a decade earlier in the U.S. Congress with a federal cap-and-trade bill that was a precursor to Oregon's effort to impose a carbon-reduction regime.

The parallels between the two cap-and-trade bills are eerily similar. The 2009 bill pushed by congressional Democrats passed by a narrow margin, aided by Speaker Nancy Pelosi's deal-making that had the bill being rewritten in pencil on the House floor to secure the necessary votes.

The 2009 version was both a low and high point for American's electric cooperatives. Initially ignored by the majority when the bill was drafted, electric cooperatives flexed their political muscle and secured provisions that would have protected rural consumers from serious rate increases.

Oregon electric cooperatives were certainly not ignored in the 2019 version of cap and trade, yet rural Oregon never felt invested in the effort.

History will say the reason HB 2020 failed in Oregon was the result of Senate Republicans fleeing the state—or because three Senate Democrats had serious reservations for voting for the bill on the floor. But I think the larger truth lies in a lesson from a decade before, when the federal cap-and-trade bill met a similar fate.

That bill, like HB 2020, was dense, complicated and not easily explained. Like the forest fires they were supposed to prevent, these bills generated more heat than light and, like a heavy object in the rising oceans, ultimately sank under their own weight.



Ted Case

Executive Director

FLORIDA Currents

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EREC
A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

Message From the CEO

It's Great to be a Part of EREC

I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to serve the members of Escambia River Electric Cooperative. EREC has a long history of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to its members. I will do everything in my power to make sure that mission thrives.

As we enter the heart of hurricane season, I remember my days at Baldwin Electric Membership Cooperative on the Alabama Gulf Coast. The preparation that goes into making sure your co-op is ready for a storm and equipped to handle any damage is an ongoing process.

I have witnessed the destruction tornadoes and hurricanes can wreak on a power system. While at Baldwin EMC, I was sent to work power restoration in Cullman, Alabama, following devastating tornadoes in April 2011.

I experienced firsthand the hard work that goes into repairing an electric system and the outpouring of appreciation from the community as lights came back on. I rode by houses with signs made from whatever material was lying around, just waiting for line crews to drive by so their appreciation could be conveyed. Kids would run outside to wave as workers passed by.

While in college, I worked in this community following Hurricane Ivan, helping out with anything that needed to be done. Although the work was long and difficult, I



Ryan C. Campbell, P.E.

saw the outpouring of appreciation and kindness demonstrated for our electric co-op workers. The impression that made on me reinforces my love of electric co-ops and the communities they serve.

Although every cooperative is unique, co-ops throughout the country—large and small—have similarities. In working ice storms for co-ops in Kentucky and Illinois,

I realized no matter the disaster, the detailed preparation, hard work and appreciation for co-op employees are the same. Cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, are part of a network of co-ops that assist in times of need and play an integral role in their community.

From economic development projects that create new jobs to school safety demonstrations, EREC helps the community in any way it can.

I am thankful for my experience working for electric cooperatives. After college, I had the opportunity to pursue working for an investor-owned utility. After working restoration for Hurricane Ivan, I realized the community mindset of an electric co-op was the path I wanted to take. In an age where so many organizations simply exist to make a profit, I am grateful to work for a nonprofit that seeks to help the people of the community it serves.

I look forward to meeting you, our members, and finding new ways EREC can serve you. ■



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Distance-challenged consumers go online for forward-thinking yet functional styles.

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FKEC NEWS

JULY 2019

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MEMBERS SHOULD KNOW:

FKEC's Solar Loan Program offers the convenience of having your loan payment payable with your monthly electric bill. More at www.FKEC.com

Unless otherwise noted, "FKEC NEWS" writing, design & photography by:
Nikki Dunn Cullen, news@fkec.com

SCOTT NEWBERRY

Chief Executive Officer

By Land, Sea or Air—FKEC Gets the Job Done!

It takes a wide variety of equipment to keep the electricity flowing in the Upper and Middle Keys. To maintain our power system, Florida Keys Electric Co-op uses aircraft, marine vessels, trucks, and sometimes even trucks on barges to get the job done (see facing page).

Having access to the right equipment and vehicles is what allows us to maintain our power system. With approximately 11 miles of transmission line located over water crossings, and other structures located in hard to reach areas, co-op crews often have to get creative to reach power equipment.

To improve the safety and efficiency of work we must do from the water, the co-op recently added a new 32-foot aluminum boat to our fleet. This vessel provides a large deck and twin-engine control for better stability and maneuverability.

In addition to boats, FKEC uses aircraft to access poles. For example, using a helicopter manned by highly trained linemen remains the most efficient and cost-effective way to conduct the annual inspection of our entire transmission system.



The co-op also uses drone technology to take to the air. Piloted by licensed FKEC employees, our specially equipped drones are used to give a birds-eye view of potential faults or conduct inspections of individual pieces of equipment and our high voltage substations. This technology further expands FKEC's ability to access our infrastructure quickly and safely.

Just as it takes an array of employees with a range of skills to keep the power on, it also takes the right equipment to do the job. To maintain our 99% reliability, FKEC continues to research and incorporate resources that allow us to work to the best of our ability.



FKEC crews welcome a new 32-foot aluminum utility boat to the fleet. The vessel will improve the safety and efficiency of our water-based work.

Photo by Tom Anthony

CONTACT US

863-946-6200 (member services)
844-201-7203 (24-hour phone payments)
www.gladeselectric.com

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26733 U.S. Hwy. 27 East
P.O. Box 519
Moore Haven, FL 33471

214 SR 70 West
Lake Placid, FL 33852

808 N. Parrott Ave.
Okeechobee, FL 34972

POWER INTERRUPTION NUMBER

Moore Haven 863-946-6200

Phones are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including weekends and holidays. Please have your location or account number handy when you call.

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The Board's next meeting will be at 9 a.m. August 29 at the Moore Haven headquarters office. Any changes to this schedule will be posted in the lobby of all three district offices.

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Chief Operating Officer Travis Turner
Chief Communications Officer
Jennifer Koukos
Dir. of Employee Services Yvonne Bradley
Dir. of Safety Pedro Navarro

FL-153

CEO's Message

GEC Trustees Reduce Rates Effective July 1

Glades Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit organization formed by you, the members, to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric energy to your homes and businesses.

Under our cooperative business model, we strive to accomplish this at the lowest-possible cost. Our chief financial officer's recent financial analysis shows power costs coming in lower than our budget model predicted. So what do we do? Well, when we find savings, we don't put them in the bank. We pass them on to our members as soon as possible.

I am happy to report that at the June board meeting, the Trustees who look out for your interests approved a \$2 per 1,000 kilowatt-hour rate reduction effective July 1.

Nice timing, with summer well on its way!

Another unique element of the cooperative business model is the allocation of capital credits. As a member-owner of GEC, capital credits are basically your investment in the cooperative. As finances warrant, capital credits are retired and returned to you—if we can find you. Currently we have \$706,462 of retired capital credits that has not found its way home.

Check our website, www.GladesElectric.com, for details on these unclaimed retirements. Should they remain unclaimed on October 1, 2019, for the most part they will roll into our scholarship fund administered by Glades Electric Educational Foundation Inc. where they will be awarded to our members' children as much-appreciated college scholarships. Should you find yourself on the list and want to pass your retirement onto the scholarship fund, you don't have to do a thing.

Thanks for being a member.



Jeff Brewington



Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Trustees normally meet the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Central. The board meets at the Wewahitchka office in even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and December) and the Southport office in odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November).

The mission of GCEC: Fulfilling the changing needs of our membership and communities by providing cost effective, reliable and safe utility services through a dedicated and responsive workforce.

FL-154

GCEC President's Message

You're More Than a Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader territory we serve.

As a cooperative, we have a different bottom line. While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community we serve are of paramount concern. To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op. Without you, we would not exist.

In 1941, Gulf Coast Electric was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none. At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped create GCEC.

For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold an annual meeting each year. We want to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use, such as free energy audits and FlexPay. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community—just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations and formed our Project Helping Hand program. When you support these efforts, you support the community and make it a better place for everyone.

While times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



Doug Birmingham



Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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- Use the SmartHub app
- Text OUT to 800-282-3824
- Call 800-282-3824

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BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE

Any PRECO member may attend a Board Meeting. Due to building security requirements and for us to facilitate attendance, members wishing to attend a Board Meeting should contact the Cooperative in a timely manner for logistical information regarding the meeting.

BOARD MEETING DATES

August 27, 2019
September 24, 2019
October 22, 2019

ONLINE E-ZINE

Prefer to receive Florida Currents as an online e-zine? Sign up through your online account or call us at **800-282-3824**.

FL 155

Underground Power and the Big Green Box

Electricity might flow into your neighborhood over your head, or under your feet. It's easy to spot wires on top of those wooden poles and figure out how electricity gets delivered by overhead lines. But there's also a way to deduce that you've got underground lines—look for green metal boxes about the size of a mini-fridge sitting in people's front yards.



They're called pad-mounted transformers and they do the same thing as those gray cans up on top of the poles—step higher-voltage electricity down so it's more useful and safer for your home. The major difference is a pad-mounted transformer connects to underground power lines.

No one's exactly sure what share of power lines in the U.S. are underground, but one industry study estimates 18 percent. To a lot of people, underground lines look better. But they're more expensive to install. A lot more. As much as five or 10 times the cost, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. And while falling trees and cars crashing into poles can knock out above-ground power lines, underground problems can be more difficult to pinpoint and correct.

The big green boxes that connect power lines look surprisingly simple inside—wires come in and go out through the transformer.

Now that you know what they are, you don't have to go looking inside, and you shouldn't. Those locked boxes are routing a lot of electricity, so only expert lineworkers should be near the equipment.

Never use pad-mounted transformers as benches while waiting for the school bus, and kids should never play on or near them. Don't plant landscaping around pad-mounted transformers because our crews may need to get to them, and roots can interfere with the underground wires. Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer — remember to dial 8-1-1 for any outdoor projects that require digging.

Remember, whether you're around underground or overhead utility equipment, the same safety rules apply — stay away from power lines.

Randy Shaw
PRECO CEO



Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.MarlboroElectric.coop

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MISSION STATEMENT

The focus of Marlboro Electric Cooperative Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economic principles and management.

Backup Generators Save the Day

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter and summer is slowly coming to an end. It won't be long before you see holiday decorations filling the shelves of your local Walmart. And somewhere out there, Jim Cantore is dusting off his blue Weather Channel raincoat preparing to spend the next few months on our TV sets explaining when and where the next big hurricane will strike.

It's hard to believe our service area has been directly impacted by two major hurricanes in the last three years:

Hurricane Matthew in 2016 and Hurricane Florence in 2018. The storms caused widespread damage to our system and left many of our members without power for days. While Marlboro Electric's main mission is to provide our members with safe and reliable power, we realize that due to unforeseen acts of God, this isn't always possible.

In 2016, MEC became a licensed Generac dealer. Since then, we have assisted many families with their whole-home backup generator needs. MEC understands that a whole-home generator is quite an investment, so we offer members the option of low monthly payments added to their bill when they choose the on-bill financing option. We realize the need for backup power is not limited to our membership, which is why we are proud to offer our generators to nonmembers as well.

While there are many benefits to owning a whole-home backup generator, the piece of mind of knowing your family will never have to be without power during inclement weather outweighs them all. Our generators automatically turn on when your home loses power, eliminating the need for someone to go outside or even be home.

All of our whole-home backup generators come with Mobile Link Remote Monitoring for free. This feature allows you to monitor the status of your generator from anywhere in the world using a smartphone, tablet, or PC. You can easily access information such as the current operating status or maintenance alerts, ensuring you and your generator are well prepared for the next power outage.

While we hope and pray for the best this hurricane season, we know there is always a chance that our area could be affected by adverse weather. Don't wait until it's too late. Call 843-454-2896 today to set up your free in-home appointment with our licensed generator specialist, Bryan Singletary.

Hopefully we won't see Jim Cantore at any beaches in the Carolinas this hurricane season.



JANELLE SAULS

Trustee

Willie Wiredhand is the longtime mascot and spokesplug of electric cooperatives around the country. He was adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Here's your task: Willie is hidden somewhere in every issue of *Currents*. See if you can find this friendly face among the news and stories as you read!

