NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT
REGULAR SESSION
MARCH 3, 2020

PRESENT:  Roger Howe, President
           Howard Gonser, Vice President
           Dan Williams, Secretary
           Wayne Jacobson, Treasurer
           Connie Karp, Director

President Howe called the Regular Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present during the Regular Session:

Counsel:  James Foster

NWCPUD Staff: General Manager Roger Kline; Assistant General Manager/Director of
Power Resources Kurt Conger; Principal Engineer/Chief Innovation Officer Paul Titus;
Operations & Engineering Manager Pat Morehart; Corporate Services Director Cyndi
Gentry; Executive Assistant Kathy McBride; Asset/Program Manager Steve Horzynek;
Senior Financial Analyst Lana Egbert; Senior Financial Analyst/Contracts, Risk and
Supply Chain Sue Powers; Network Administrator Robert Casaubon; and Engineering
Technician Josh Smith.

Visitors: John Amery and Greg Johnson

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Operations and Engineering Manager Pat Morehart introduced Josh Smith, Engineering
Technician, who has been with the District for over a month. Morehart informed the
Board of Smith’s education and work experience background.

General Manager Roger Kline informed the Board that the District had the opportunity to
backfill at a different level after Engineer Ed Ortega was promoted to Operations
Supervisor. Smith has also been busy filling in for an employee who is on leave of
absence.

The Board welcomed Smith.
REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no requests to add or delete items from this evening’s Regular Session Agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items contained in the consent portion of the Agenda includes the following:

- Regular Session Minutes of February 4, 2020
- January Outage Report
- Energy Management/Marketing Report
- Checks/Vouchers
- January Financial Report
- January Write Offs

The Board considered the approval of the March 3, 2020 Consent Agenda.

{{Director Gonser moved that the March 3, 2020 Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Director Williams second the motion; it was then passed unanimously.}}

CONVENE AS CONTRACT REVIEW BOARD

At 6:03 p.m. the Board recessed out of Regular Session to convene as the District’s Contract Review Board.

Principal Engineer/Chief Innovation Officer Paul Titus informed the Board that he included in the Board Packet a memorandum regarding the award of Construction Services for the Tygh Valley Substation to Tice Electric. On December 3, 2019 the Board approved a motion to award the Construction Services for the Tygh Valley Substation to Tice Electric in the amount of $1,477,930.00 on the approval of contract terms found to be satisfactory to General Counsel and the General Manager, with the
condition of the District obtaining an easement from KW Ranch LLC. Unfortunately, the District was unable to come to an agreement with the property owner to obtain the easement.

Titus informed the Board that staff is recommending that the Tygh Valley Substation be reconstructed at the existing site and that the Board approve the Resolution to award the Construction Services to Tice Electric.

Some discussion occurred after questions were raised by Directors Williams and Jacobson.

Titus responded by stating that the change in location is costing the District more by adding some additional engineering, permitting, and time to the project. The overall design pretty much remains the same. The District was not agreeable to the financial arrangement suggested by the property owner.

General Manager Roger Kline thanked Titus for his work on the project. Kline noted that staff started talking about this project back in 2016. There has been so much work involved to relocate and expand the Tygh Valley Substation. Kline stated it is unfortunate that the District is going to go back and rebuild the substation in the current location since the footprint is more constrained. Kline thanked Titus once again; it took a long time to execute, but it is not for Titus’ lack of effort.

Director Williams asked when the Tygh Valley Substation was built.

Titus responded by stating that the Wasco Milling Company built the White River Powerhouse in approximately 1910. The Tygh Valley Substation was put in around that same time period. The Wasco Milling Company owned it; it was then transferred to PPL, and then PPL transferred the land to the State Highway Division in 1969. At that time an easement was reserved on the parcel for the Substation, transmission line and road access.

General Counsel James Foster informed the Board that the District made a reasonable offer equal to probably 10 to 20 times the market value of the actual parcel in question. The District was unable to come to an agreement with the property owner. It was not because the District was not offering to pay in excess of the market value.

Foster instructed the Board to adjourn as the Contract Review Board and to return to Regular Session to consider the adoption of Resolution #03-2020 in the matter of Award of Construction Services for Tygh Valley Substation to Tice Electric.

At 6:07 p.m. the Board adjourned as the Contract Review Board and returned to Regular Session.
Engineering/Operations:

Operations and Engineering Manager Pat Morehart announced that he will be retiring the middle of May. Morehart has had the pleasure of serving the District the last few years; he has 42 years in the power industry.

Morehart provided the Board with the following report:

- The District has had an exceptionally mild winter with few outages. Weather related outages have been almost a non-issue.
- The District’s infrastructure is aging and investing in the electric system remains a priority.
- The Engineering Department has been actively planning this coming year’s capital improvement projects.
- The Old Moody Crossing Rebuild Project will be the largest of the capital improvement projects.
- D Hittle Engineering has submitted drawings, which will be sent off to the Columbia River Gorge Commission for their review.
- The Rowena Rebuild Project drawings are still being developed and will need to be reviewed by the Gorge Commission as well.
- The Rowena Rebuild Project will be started after the Translink Project has been completed; the two projects will overlap facilities.
- The Skyline Distribution Project will be engineered by Brown and Kyser.
- Brown and Kyser’s engineering of that project will be used as a training opportunity.
- The District’s Engineering Associates will be trained on the newly acquired design software known as PLS Cad; they will be working along-side the engineers from Brown and Kyser.
- The District invested in the design software in order to engineer some of the smaller rebuild projects inhouse.
- A Customer Request for Disconnect Procedure has been developed by the District to assist customers with their service upgrades.
- The procedure has been well received by District customers as it lays out the steps required of when they want to complete the electrical work on their homes themselves.
• The Engineering Department is working on revising and updating procedures for medium and high voltage switching. This is a process that should be reviewed annually and revised when necessary to ensure safety.
• The Operations Department initiated Visitor Access Procedures for District facilities. Contractors, vendors, and visitors need access, but their safety and the security of the facility must be managed.
• Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) has requested maps of the District’s electric system which have recently been rebuilt. The PUC is inspecting those areas to ensure that the National Electric Safety Code has been adhered to. Staff is waiting on the results of those inspections.
• The 2019 Osmose pole inspections indicated that 1,304 poles were inspected, eight poles were rejected. All eight poles have been replaced.
• The District had a 0.7% rejection rate. The average utility has over a 2% rejection rate.
• The District will be using Osmose again this fall to inspect and test another 10% of the District’s poles.
• Warehouseman Don Dowers recognized an opportunity to increase floor space in the warehouse. An iron frame mezzanine has been built adding 900 square feet of storage space in the truck barn.
• The District has contracted with Cascade Vegetation Management, a local herbicide spraying company, to help manage vegetation inside our substations and vacant areas owned by the District.
• Three strand barbed wire security fencing will be installed by Pacific Fence and Wire on the District’s existing fence located around the operations yard.
• The Engineering and Operations Departments are excited about the progress that was made last year on capital improvement projects. Staff takes special pride in the system’s reliability and functionality.
• Staff is gearing up for another season of activity and look forward to maintaining our tradition of delivering affordable and reliable service to our customer owners.

Finance & Risk:

Senior Financial Analyst Lana Egbert is here representing Chief Financial Officer/Director of Finance and Enterprise Risk Harvey Hall. She asked if there were any questions on the January Financial Report. There were no questions from any member of the Board of Directors.

Egbert informed the Board that the District’s Auditor, Moss Adams, is here this week. The audit is going well. All documents requested by the auditors have been provided to them. Part of Moss Adam’s request for documents relate to the District’s Retirement Plans, (401(k) and 457(b) Plans). These documents have been provided to the auditor to address GASSB (Government Accounting Standards Board) 84. Moss Adams is auditing the District’s Retirement Plans for the years 2018 and 2019. There will be
more detailed disclosure under the District’s Financial Report due to the requirements under GASB 84.

Egbert noted that Hall provided in the Board Packet the Arbitrage Audit, which addresses the bond money that was borrowed by the District and the line of credit. The audit is required and will be required each year until the bonds have been repaid. The District cannot earn interest over a certain percentage from the money borrowed. If the District earns more interest income than what is allowed, we would receive an invoice from the Internal Revenue Service. The District is in compliance.

Egbert noted in closing, that the District Audit/Risk Committee will be meeting on March 31st.

Senior Financial Analyst/Contracts, Risk and Supply Chain Sue Powers noted that the Audit/Risk Committee will be meeting at the end of the month. Staff is busy collecting information on identified risks for further consideration.

Power Resources:

Assistant General Manager/Director of Power Resources Kurt Conger reported as follows:

- The Dalles and McNary Hydroelectric Fishway Plants are both back up and running.
- Both plants are running very well since the conclusion of the outages.
- The McNary Fishway Plant was back online in late January, and The Dalles Fishway Plant was restarted last week on Friday morning.
- The McNary Fishway Plant will get a scoping from McMillen Engineering on the Stairs & Elevator Replacement Project, complete with 3D modeling.
- The Dalles Fishway Plant just finished their planned outage so Conger will be meeting with staff to go over capital planning for the next year.
- Staff is not anticipating any major upgrades at The Dalles Fishway Plant.
- The District is still looking at the Juvenile Fish Sampling Facility improvement; staff is waiting for the engineer to provide construction documents for bidding.
- The District implemented a Meter Data Management SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Project for substation meters. The work was completed this morning. Staff will provide the Board, in the near future, with a demonstration after the system is checked out. Staff wants to make sure everything is working and that we have displays that demonstrates some system capabilities.
- The first phase of the SCADA Project is the data acquisition portion.
- Supervisory control is something staff will begin to look at under the second phase of the project. It will need to be coordinated with the Engineering Department. It is in the interest of the Engineering Department to have the
situational awareness and the ability to observe control functions from the unit. It raises cyber security issues around who can access system controls in substations or on feeders.

- Data acquisition is relatively safe because data is just coming in. There is very little you can send through the data acquisition portion of the system that would cause safety or operational concerns.
- Power Resources continues to schedule delivery of wholesale power contracts. The District has physically delivered about 35 MWs every hour during the month of February. We are going into March at the same level. That level will either increase or the District will financially settle in lieu of physical delivery with our counterparties in future months depending upon load levels.

Corporate Services:

Director of Corporate Services Cyndi Gentry reported on the following items:

- Energy Management Program Manager Travis Hardy has been sharing with Gentry the phone calls and email inquiries that the District is receiving on the Hybrid/Heat Pump Water Heater Purchase and Installation Program.
- Gentry is hoping to share some data on the Hybrid/Heat Pump Water Heater Program at the Board’s May meeting.
- A letter in both English and Spanish will be sent out with customer bills beginning on March 23rd through April 15th noting the upcoming rate increase, which is scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2020.
- In addition to this letter, rate information along with rate charts will be uploaded on the District’s Facebook page.
- Customers receiving their billings electronically will receive the letter by email.
- A copy of this communication letter to District Customers is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 1.
- A second bill stuffer will be sent out beginning on March 23rd through April 15th for the “4 Options to Pay Your Bill” Flyer.
- The District wants to encourage customers to use either the Customer Portal, Smart Phone App, E-Z Pay, or the IVR (Interactive Voice Response) to pay their bill.
- Customer Service Representatives will stop taking credit card numbers at their desks over the phone.
- Taking credit card numbers over the phone is not considered a good practice.
- Customers can still pay over the phone by using the IVR system, or they can use a credit card at the front counter.
- A copy of the 4 Options to Pay Your Bill Flyer is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 2.

Some discussion occurred after a question was raised by a Board member.
General Manager Kline noted that taking a credit card over the phone is a liability for the individual and the organization.

**Key Accounts:**

General Manager Kline informed the Board that no report will be given this evening since Key Accounts Manager Justin Brock is not in attendance this evening. Brock had nothing new to report.

**Innovation & Planning:**

Principal Engineer/Chief Innovation Officer Paul Titus presented a PowerPoint Presentation entitled "AMI Progress Update & Event Reporting". A copy of the PowerPoint Presentation is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 3.

Some of the highlights from Titus' presentation is as follows:

- The following are a portion of the reporting tools available within the Itron Collection Manager and Itron Analytics:
  - Event log with specified dates
  - RMS voltage low anomaly
  - RMS high voltage anomaly
  - Power outage detection
- There has been a total of 9,210 AMI Meters installed, which represents 90% of meters.
- Each AMI meter can log predetermined events and are recoverable through Itron's Collection Manager.
- The event log retrieval process can be specified by date and time, and may include the following events:
  - RMS low voltage anomaly
  - RMS high voltage anomaly
  - Power outage detection
  - Power outage restoration
- There are around 230 AMI meters in Dufur.
- Most residential services are 120/240 volts.
- An RMS low voltage anomaly event will be recorded in the meter when the voltage drops below 5% of nominal voltage.
- A single-phase meter installed on a house measures a phase to phase voltage of 240 V. When the voltage drops below 228 V, an event is recorded.
- A drop in the voltage could be from the following factors:
  - Overloaded transformer
  - Length of service conductor
  - Electrical load for each individual location
• The AMI meters record electrical usage in 15-minute intervals and is retrievable through the Collection Manager.
• An RMS high voltage anomaly event will be recorded in the meter when the voltage exceeds 5% of nominal voltage.
• A single-phase meter installed on a house measures a phase to phase voltage of 240 V. When the voltage exceeds 252 V, an event is recorded.
• An increase in voltage could be from the following factors:
  ➢ Transformer tap setting
  ➢ Distribution voltage regulation setting (123.5 plus minus 1.5 volts)
  ➢ Reaction time of 45 seconds to step down voltage
  ➢ Local transmission voltage
• All meters on the same transformer records the same issue.
• Examples of low and high voltage anomalies, and two outage event logs were shown and discussed.
• One of the outages, shown and discussed, was from the meter being removed without authorization, which supports metering tampering. The on-call lineman discovered that there was no seal or ring on the meter base, and that the meter was propped in place with a 2x4. The internal seal was missing, and a leaf was located under the meter glass.
• The damaged AMI meter was shown to the Board at this time.
• The Itron Analytics Outage Detection is part of the AMI Project, which provides a visual representation of outages in the service territory.
• To monitor current outages, the web base portal needs to be actively running.
• The District and Itron are working on implementing an email notification system to the District as outages occur. The notification would prompt the receiver(s) of the email to actively monitor the outage and help identify the location with a goal of a quicker response time.

Some discussion occurred during Titus’ presentation after questions were raised by Board members regarding how the District responds to meter tampering, how meter tampering is found, and how an outage is detected in the AMI system.

At the conclusion of the PowerPoint Presentation, Titus showed the Board the capabilities of the Itron Analytics in real time. Titus was able to show several active outages.

Titus then showed the Board the Collection Manager capabilities. The power usage at the meters of President Howe, Paul Titus and a net metering installation in Dufur were shown and briefly discussed. The chart reflected the power usage for every 15 minutes over the last seven days. Titus then showed the Board the event and alarms data that can be obtained under the Collection Manager system.

Discussion occurred during Titus’ presentation of the capabilities of the Itron Analytics and the Collection Manager after questions were raised by members of the Board.
In closing, General Manager Kline noted that access to this data is controlled; not everyone has access. Titus stated that you must be on the District’s server to access this data. The outage detection can be viewed on other surfaces.

General Manager:

General Manager Roger Kline stated that not only were OS Engineering onsite helping with the installation of SCADA, the auditors were here, and folks that represent and work with Itron. Every large screen television in the building is in full use for training development, or refinement of systems that are in progress or in place. The District continues to be very busy doing good stuff.

Kline stated that he wants to re-emphasize something from last month’s meeting. Staff talked about the excellent work that was done in 2018 and 2019. Kline did not want to disparage work that had gone on in prior years like 2012, the year staff used to compare against. Kline stated there are good folks doing a lot of hard work and have been with this organization for a long time. It is not a compare or contrast; it is about re-emphasizing work. Kline noted that he wanted to clarify that a lot of great work has gone on here for a very long time. We are doing refinement work now that we are proud of. The Board saw some good examples tonight.

General Counsel:

General Counsel Foster stated that he and President Howe discussed today and agreed to move forward on the evaluation of the General Manager for 2019. Foster has the appropriate forms that the Board used last year. Foster intends to get the forms to the Board by next Monday, giving the Board a couple of weeks to get their comments back to him. He will then put together a single response that the Board will review in Executive Session. If the evaluation is satisfactory to the Board, Foster will meet with the General Manager. The Board and the General Manager will meet during the following Board Meeting to discuss the evaluation in Executive Session. Foster stated that we are about 30 days later than what we should be; the Board will get the evaluation process completed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to discuss.

BOARD REPORTS / ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Oregon People's Utility District Association:
Director Jacobson provided the following report on the recent Oregon People’s Utility District Association (OPUDA) Board Meeting in Salem:

- Outgoing OPUDA President Roger Howe turned over the gavel to the new OPUDA President Jake Carter.
- A representative from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provided a report on the snowpack level, which is at 100%.
- BPA received their bond ratings from three rating agencies; they got a high-grade rating, the lowest rating received was an AA- rating.
- The City of Tillamook had a ransomware attack. The City lost all their data. The City paid to get the data back for an undisclosed amount. There is a group from Russia who are professional hackers; they have been hitting a lot of dental practices, asking for about $50,000 to get their records back.
- Tillamook People’s Utility District sent out a dummy ransomware email to staff. A few people opened it.

**OPUDA Lobby Day:**

Director Gonser provided the following report on the OPUDA Lobby Day, which was held at the Oregon State Capitol on Thursday, February 20, 2020:

- This year’s Lobby Day was different from the past Lobby Days. In the past, Board Members would go to individual offices of Oregon State Representatives and Senators.
- This year OPUDA Board Members, from all six Oregon People’s Utility Districts, were all in one room at the State Capitol where State Representatives and Senators at various times came in for a short meeting.
- A lively discussion occurred when Governor Kate Brown’s representative on carbon met with OPUDA Board members. This representative was the one that released the letter from the Oregon and Washington State Governors on the removal of the lower Snake River Dams.
- The State’s Cap and Trade Bill will raise $170 million a year on carbon issues. OPUDA Board members have heard that gasoline costs could increase by $0.22 per gallon, possibly up to $0.72 per gallon. They do not know where that money will go.
- The Corporate Tax will raise $750 in taxes for every million in gross revenue. A Director from Tillamook PUD researched the legislation and found that there is a kicker on the back side of $0.035. For every million a business earns there is a $0.055 tax on that revenue. The state cannot tell you where that money is going to go.
Gonser referred to an editorial from Oregon State Representative Daniel Bonham, which lists "problems" with the Cap and Trade Bill. The Bill is a tax on energy carbon. A copy of this editorial is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 4.

President Howe made a brief comment regarding Senator Betsy Johnson and Senator Lynn Findley; both have the electric industry at heart.

Director Karp stated that she liked this year’s Lobby Day format. It was nice for everyone to hear the questions and answers from those in attendance. Karp liked General Manager Roger Kline’s article in the recent Ruralite Magazine regarding the Columbia River System Operations – Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Karp noted that this was her third time attending Lobby Day in Salem. She felt it was both a good and tough day. There was a lot of anxiety and anger in the building.

Director Williams stated that he liked the format too, which works well during the short legislative session. In the past, the format allowed a bunch of individuals to meet with more Oregon State Representatives and Senators in one day.

General Manager Kline stated the statement from two individuals from Governor Kate Brown’s Office, Energy and Climate Change Policy Advisor Dr. Kristen Sheeran, and Natural Resources Policy Director Jason Miner, that Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) knew this was coming. But when we talked to our OPUDA Lobbyist, who has contact with BPA Representatives, BPA did not know it was coming. The left and right hands of BPA do not know what the other is up to. That includes the leadership of the organization. Kline stated we will continue to take that back and to communicate that to the executives of BPA.

Kline stated he sent to the Board, on this topic, the letter to Governors Brown, Bullock, Inslee and Little, that went out to many regional general managers, executives, trade heads and many environmental and special interest groups, where they come to the table to talk about a new potential future for the Columbia Basin. A copy of the letter to Governors Brown, Bullock, Inslee and Little is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 5.

Kline noted that the letter from Governor Kate Brown to Washington State Governor Jay Inslee has a huge focus on Snake River dams. It is not based on realty. We will continue to do the community’s work and stand up for what is right and rational.

A copy of the letter from Governor Kate Brown is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 6.

Director Gonser stated that Kline’s article in the Ruralite was excellent. This shows you how political the process is. The statement Director Gonser made during Lobby Day is this politics or is this factual science information.
NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate:

President Howe informed the Board that Director Jacobson has the desire to attend the NRECA Summer School for Directors to obtain the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate which he and Director Karp obtained last year. He asked if the Board supports Director Jacobson attending said training?

**It was the consensus of the Board of Directors to authorize Director Jacobson to attend the NRECA Summer School for Directors to obtain the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate**.

Discussion on Coronavirus:

President Howe stated that he wanted the Board and staff to have a discussion on the Coronavirus and what steps are being taken by the District to address this virus outbreak.

Director of Corporate Services Cyndi Gentry responded with the following information:

- The District will send out an email to staff with some high-level information on the Coronavirus.
- The District's health insurance through the NRECA is for health and wellness; it does not cover a pandemic, nor does Workman's Compensation. The health insurance only covers medical coverage.
- The District could close the office, lock the front doors, and still conduct business. The line crew would be fine since the virus would not affect the electrical system.
- Some employees can work from home remotely, while others could work onsite.
- The Executive Management Team (EMT) can work remotely.

General Manager Kline stated that the day to day work of the District does not require 100% of staff to be onsite. If the District needed to close the office, we could facilitate that closure. There, however, is still a need to sign checks for payroll and accounts payables. The District could delay disconnects if needed. Kline noted that this is not the first pandemic that the District has faced. Staff is actively monitoring the outbreak.

Kline stated that the District has been receiving information from our trade associations and other organizations. They are analyzing the need of cancelling travel on a case by case basis. There are some organizations that have locked down travel. The District has not made any decision yet.

Gentry noted the following comparison of the Coronavirus versus the flu from information obtained from John Hopkins Medical Center:
Cases:

Coronavirus world-wide – 92,000
Flu world-wide – 1 billion

Deaths:

Coronavirus world-wide – 3,100 (7 in the United States)
Flu world-wide – 300,000 to 600,000 (12,000 to 61,000 in United States per year)

Director Gonser noted that of those 3,100 deaths world-wide, 93% of those deaths are in China.

Gentry replied that China is attributing those deaths to weather and living conditions.

Gentry stated that she wants to make sure that we do not panic or create a panic. We are not at a pandemic. The precautions are the same as with the flu. The District allows employees to say that they are not comfortable with traveling. If an employee is ill, they are encouraged to stay home and use their PTO; it is the same thing as taking care of their family. Gentry does not see us taking any different steps as with any bad flu season.

Director Gonser noted that there are a lot of scare tactics going on. He commented on an article in the USA Today newspaper dated Monday, March 2, 2020. The article talks about the kinds of cases we will have. The person being quoted first in the article is Assistant Professor and Public Health Specialist Ogbonnaya Omenka from Butler University’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. He wondered why the article did not include a quote from an official of the Centered for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Director Gonser agrees we need to be very cautious. A portion of the news article was read at this time. A copy of the USA Today article entitled US boom ‘should be expected’ is hereto attached and marked as Exhibit 7.

Further discussion occurred regarding the Coronavirus outbreak.

President Howe asked if there were any staff that would like to comment regarding this matter.

Kline noted that this is no different than the organization being prepared for any other issue such as earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, etc. Staff takes this seriously. Being prepared is a part of the District’s core function.
President Howe asked Gentry if the letter shared with the Board on the Coronavirus is on the District’s website?

Gentry responded no; the information was from Barron Liebman, the District’s labor counsel; said information was sent by email.

President Howe suggested that staff might consider sharing the information with staff.

**APPROVAL OF FUTURE MEETINGS/TRAVEL/OR RELATED MATTERS**

- March 4, PPC Forum – Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams and Wayne Jacobson
- March 5, PPC Executive Committee – Connie Karp, Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, and Dan Williams
- March 20, OPUDA Board Meeting – Connie Karp, Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams and Wayne Jacobson
- April 1, NEMS, NESC, NIES Board Meeting – Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams, Connie Karp and Wayne Jacobson
- April 1, PPC Forum – Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams, Connie Karp and Wayne Jacobson
- April 2, PPC Executive Committee Meeting – Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams, Connie Karp and Wayne Jacobson
- April 17, OPUDA Board Meeting – Howard Gonser, Roger Howe, Dan Williams, Connie Karp and Wayne Jacobson

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary
No one likes to think about paying more for a service they cannot live without, but a modest increase is needed to maintain the strong reliability and service our customers deserve. The Dalles is growing and its infrastructure needs updating. Poles, cable, and substations all need upgrades, and we've been making efforts towards modernizing our system to allow for new technologies that will help us, and our customers, be more efficient.

We take great pride in providing quality electric service at some of the lowest rates in Oregon, the Northwest and the nation. Our five-member Board is committed to maintaining the most economical rates for all of its customers and believes that the PUD can meet this objective for all existing customers and new customers. In a presentation to the Board of Directors on November 5th, the PUD heard from its rate consultant that a rate increase will be needed to ensure sufficient revenue to recover increased PUD costs. The cost study indicated that future revenues should be increased over 2020. As proposed and passed by the PUD's Board of Directors, all rate schedules will have a flat 3.8% rate increase becoming effective May 1, 2020.

We understand that this is an increase to your monthly account and would appreciate the opportunity to answer questions you may have, and to explore some ideas or programs we have available that you may wish to investigate to avoid some of the increased costs of energy.

Thank you for your patronage to Northern Wasco County PUD. We look forward to your business in the coming new year. If you have any questions and are a commercial account, please feel free to call our Key Accounts at 541-506-3817. Our Customer Service Representatives would be happy to assist with our Residential customer questions at 541-296-2226.

With our warmest regards,

Roger M. Kline
General Manager
A nadie le gusta pensar en pagar más por un servicio sin el cual no puede vivir, pero ocasionalmente, se necesita un aumento modesto para mantener la sólida confiabilidad y servicio que nuestros clientes merecen. The Dalles está creciendo y su infraestructura de suministro de energía necesita una actualización; los postes, cables y subestaciones necesitan actualizaciones, y hemos estado haciendo esfuerzos para modernizar nuestro sistema para permitir nuevas tecnologías a que nos ayuden a todos a ser más eficiente.

Nos enorgullece brindar un servicio eléctrico de calidad con algunas de las tarifas más bajas en Oregón, el noroeste y la nación. Nuestra junta directiva de cinco miembros se compromete a mantener las tarifas más económicas para todos sus clientes y cree que el PUD puede cumplir este objetivo para todos los clientes nuevos y existentes. En una presentación a la Junta directiva el 5 de noviembre del 2019, el PUD escuchó de su consultor de tarifas que se necesitaría un aumento de la tarifa para garantizar ingresos suficientes para recuperar los mayores gastos del PUD. Este estudio de costos indicó que los ingresos futuros deberían incrementarse durante 2020. Según lo propuesto y aprobado por la junta de directores del Pud, todos los cronogramas de tarifas tendrán un aumento fijo de 3.8% a partir del 1 de mayo del 2020.

Entendemos que esto es un aumento en su cuenta mensual y agradeceríamos la oportunidad de responder preguntas que pueda tener y explorar algunas ideas o programas que tenemos disponibles que desee investigar para evitar algunos de los mayores costos de energía. Gracias por su patrocinio al Northern Wasco County PUD.

Nuestros representantes del servicio al cliente estarán encantados de ayudar a contestar de clientes residenciales al 541-296-2226. Si tiene una cuenta comercial y tiene preguntas, no dude en llamar a nuestro gerente de cuentas clave al 541-506-3817.

Con nuestros más cordiales saludos

Roger M Kline
Gerente General
4 Easy Options to Pay Your Bill

1. Customer Portal

Visit our website (www.nwascopud.org) and set up recurring payments (autopay) or make a one time payment. You select the date that the funds get withdrawn. Please call our office at 541.296.2226 if you need assistance to set up an account. Your password can be up to 10 characters.

2. Smart Phone App

Download our Mobile App (optimized for both iOS & Android) and sign into your account to easily pay your bill. Go to the App Store and find us under NWCPUD. Our Mobile App is designed to give you fast, secure account access. Your password must be the same as your customer portal password.

3. E-Z PAY

Have your electric bill paid automatically each month. For your records, you will receive a copy of your electric bill showing your usage and the amount to be deducted. Visit our website to download the E-Z Pay enrollment form and return it to our office with a voided check.

4. IVR (Interactive Voice Response)

Call our office at 541.296.2226 and use IVR to make a payment. You will need the account number you wish to pay on. If you need your account number, you can press 3 to speak with a customer service representative who will help you obtain it. BE AWARE: IVR will repeat back addresses in an abnormal order. Example: “2020 E 19th St. #19” will be repeated as, “E 19th #19 2020.”
4 Opciones Fáciles para Pagar su Factura

1 **Portal del Cliente**

Visite nuestro sitio web www.nwascopud.org y configure (pagos automáticos) o pago único. Selecciona la fecha en que se retiraran los fondos. Favor de llamar a nuestra oficina si necesita asistencia para configurar una cuenta.

*La contraseña debe tener 10 caracteres.*

2 **Aplicación de Teléfono Inteligente**

Descarga nuestra aplicación móvil (tanto para IOS y Android) e inicie sesión en su cuenta para pagar fácilmente su factura. Ve a la tienda de aplicaciones en tu teléfono móvil y encuéntranos bajo NWCPUD. Nuestra aplicación móvil está diseñada para darle acceso rápido y seguro a su cuenta. Su contraseña debe ser la misma que la contraseña de su portal del cliente.

3 **E-Z PAY**

Haga que su factura de electricidad se pague automáticamente cada mes. Para sus registros, recibirá una copia de su factura de electricidad que muestra el uso y la cantidad que se deducirá. Visite nuestro sitio web para descargar el formulario de E-Z Pay y devolverlo a nuestra oficina con un cheque anulado.

4 **Sistema interactivo de voz**

Llame a nuestra oficina al 541-296-2226 y use nuestro sistema interactivo de voz para hacer un pago. Necesitará el número de cuenta que desea pagar. Si necesita su número de cuenta, puede presionar el #3 para hablar con un representante del servicio al cliente que lo ayudara a obtenerlo. Tenga en cuenta que el sistema interactivo de voz repetirá la dirección de domicilio en una orden anormal. Ejemplo: 2020 East 19th #19 se repetirá como East 19th #19 2020.
The following is a progress update on the AMI meter installations and a portion of the reporting tools available within Itron Collection Manager and Itron Analytics for the following:

- Event Log with specified dates
- RMS Voltage Low Anomaly
- RMS High Voltage Anomaly
- Power Outage Detection
Each Meter has the ability to log predetermined events and are recoverable through Itron’s Collection Manager. The event log retrieval process can be specified by date and time and may include the following events:

- RMS Low Voltage Anomaly
- RMS High Voltage Anomaly
- Power Outage Detection
- Power Outage Restoration
RMS Low Voltage Anomaly

Most residential services are 120/240 Volts and a RMS Low Voltage Anomaly event will be recorded in the meter when the voltage drops below 5% of nominal voltage. A single phase meter installed on a house measures a phase to phase voltage of 240 V. When the voltage drops below 228 V, an event is recorded. This equates to 114 Volts phase to ground.

A drop in the voltage could be from different factors:

- Overloaded transformer
- Length of service conductor
- Electrical load for each individual location

The meters record electrical usage in 15 minute intervals and is retrievable through Collection Manager.
RMS Low Voltage Anomaly – Example

Meter #39339 reported RMS Low Voltages while other meters on the transformer did not report the same alarm.
RMS Low Voltage Anomaly – Example

Interval Data for all meters in the same time period as the alarms
RMS Low Voltage Anomaly – Example

Percentage of Transformer Loading
RMS Low Voltage Anomaly – Example

In analyzing the graph, the transformer is overloaded only for the part of the time and corresponds with the load associated with meter #39339. A possible fix may consist of upgrading the transformer or inspecting the service conductor to the house to determine the proper size.

The map indicates a service length of 143 ft of #2 aluminum service wire and the data indicates a 17 kW (71 Amps) demand for the affected meter.

Customer(s) may experience flickering lights for a brief moment but are maintaining proper voltage.

More investigation will be needed at this site.
RMS High Voltage Anomaly

Most residential services are 120/240 Volts and a RMS High Voltage Anomaly event will be recorded in the meter when the voltage exceeds 5% of nominal voltage. A single phase meter installed on a house measures a phase to phase voltage of 240 V. When the voltage exceeds 252 V, an event is recorded. This equates to 126 Volts phase to ground.

A high voltage could be from different factors:

• Transformer Tap Setting
• Distribution Voltage Regulation Setting (123.5 plus minus 1.5 volts)
• Reaction time of 45 seconds to step down voltage
• Local Transmission Voltage

All meters on the same transformer record the same issue.

The meters record electrical usage in 15 minute intervals and is retrievable through Collection Manager.
RMS High Voltage Anomaly – Example

Attached are charts that correspond to each location High RMS Voltage Alarms and the original Transformer Card.

01/01/2020 – 01/15/2020 with an overall high voltage of 253.4 Volts
RMS High Voltage Anomaly – Example

Attached are charts that correspond to each location High RMS Voltage Alarms and the original Transformer Card.

[Image: Transformer Record Table]
RMS High Voltage Anomaly – Example

Attached are charts that correspond to each location High RMS Voltage Alarms and the original Transformer Card.

The Transformer Card indicates that it was purchased in 1953 and installed at this location in 1955. A note accompanies the location record of 2 ½%. This would indicate that the transformer has voltage taps and that was set to boost the voltage by 2 ½%. Since the date of manufacture indicates 1953, there is an assumption that the tap changing element is internal. With all transformers, changing of the taps requires that the transformer be de-energized. With an internal tap changer, it also requires the lid be removed from the transformer and inserting a hand in the oil to perform the operation.

It is the recommendation that Engineering and Operations inspect this location for additional work that may be required with a minimum of replacing the transformer.
Outage Event Log - Example

The On Call Lineman responded to an outage that was experiencing power in only half of the house. After inspecting the service conductor and finding no issues, the lineman pulled the meter to detect voltage on the line side of the meter base. The picture shows that the meter jaw expanded for an unknown reason. The event log indicates no prior problems to the date of the outage.
Outage Event Log - Example
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>SELFREADTYPE</th>
<th>SCHEDULED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/01/2020</td>
<td>12:00 AM</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/02/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/03/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/04/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/05/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/06/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/07/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/09/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/10/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
<td>08:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Outage Event Log - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>SELFREADTYPE</th>
<th>SCHEDULED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/12/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/13/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/14/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/15/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2020, 1:33 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>End of Billing Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2020, 1:33 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2020, 1:33 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Demand Reset Occurred</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USERID = 1</td>
<td>SETID = 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/16/2020, 1:33 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/17/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00)</td>
<td>Self Read Occurred</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>true</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Outage Event Log - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 02/18/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = true |
| 02/19/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = true |
| 02/19/2020, 1:15 AM (-08:00) | RMS Voltage Low Anomaly | PHASE = Phase A  
PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 119.1 |
| 02/19/2020, 1:17 AM (-08:00) | RMS Voltage Restored | PHASE = Phase A |
| 02/19/2020, 1:20 AM (-08:00) | Average Voltage Low Anomaly | PHASE = Phase A  
PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 185.793335 |
| 02/19/2020, 1:25 AM (-08:00) | Average Voltage Restored | PHASE = Phase A |
| 02/19/2020, 1:50 AM (-08:00) | RMS Voltage Low Anomaly | PHASE = Phase A  
PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 119.2 |
| 02/19/2020, 1:51 AM (-08:00) | RMS Voltage Restored | PHASE = Phase A |
| 02/19/2020, 1:55 AM (-08:00) | Average Voltage Low Anomaly | PHASE = Phase A  
PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 220.371674 |
| 02/19/2020, 2:00 AM (-08:00) | Average Voltage Restored | PHASE = Phase A |
## Outage Event Log - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 2:38 AM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 3:43 AM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 2, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 3:44 AM</td>
<td>RMS Voltage Low Anomaly</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A, PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 99.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 3:45 AM</td>
<td>Average Voltage Low Anomaly</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A, PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 103.650436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 3:55 AM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 3:57 AM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 3, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 4:00 AM</td>
<td>Time Change Backward</td>
<td>TIMECHANGEDELTAINSECS = 29, RESULT = SUCCESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 4:55 AM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 4, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 4:56 AM</td>
<td>RMS Voltage Restored</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/19/2020, 5:00 AM</td>
<td>Average Voltage Restored</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outage Event Log - Example

The On Call Lineman responded to an outage that was experienced a power outage. Customer mentioned that the meter fell out. Upon arrival, the lineman noticed that there was no seal or ring on the meterbase and that the meter was propped in place with a 2 x 4. Looking at the meter, there is an internal seal, which was missing, to indicate a meter tamper and noticed a leaf under the glass. The picture shows that the damage the meter jaws experienced with the meter not being fully inserted into the meterbase. Lineman were called at approximately 10:30 PM for the outage. The event log indicates no prior problems to the date of the outage and that the meter was removed without authorization which also supports metering tampering.
Outage Event Log - Example
# Outage Event Log - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 02/06/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = true |
| 02/07/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = true |
| 02/08/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = true |
| 02/08/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | End of Billing Period | |
| 02/08/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 1  
SCHEDULED = false |
| 02/08/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Demand Reset Occurred | USERID = 1  
SETID = 0 |
| 02/08/2020, 12:00 AM (-08:00) | Self Read Occurred | SELFREADTYPE = 0  
SCHEDULED = false |
# Outage Event Log - Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 4:53 PM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 4:54 PM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 6, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 4:55 PM</td>
<td>Average Voltage Low Anomaly</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A, PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 115.579308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 4:55 PM</td>
<td>RMS Voltage Low Anomaly</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A, PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 114.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:36 PM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:40 PM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 7, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:49 PM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:49 PM</td>
<td>Power Restoration Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 8, NUMBEROFPOWERCYCLES = 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:54 PM</td>
<td>RMS Voltage Restored</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 9:55 PM</td>
<td>RMS Voltage Low Anomaly</td>
<td>PHASE = Phase A, PHASEVOLTAGEVALUE = 121.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/08/2020, 10:20 PM</td>
<td>Power Outage Detected</td>
<td>OUTAGEID = 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Itron Analytics – Outage Detection

Itron Analytics Outage Detection is part of the AMI project and provides a visual representation of outages in the service territory.

To monitor current outages, the web base portal needs to be actively running. The District and Itron are working to implement an email notification system to the District as outages occur. The notification would prompt the receiver(s) of the email to actively monitor the outage and help identify the location with a goal of a quicker response time.
Questions?
Problems with
Cap and Trade

To the editor,
Rep. Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles) released the following list of "problems" with the Cap and Trade bill:
1. This plan allows unelected bureaucrats to raise taxes and costs on consumers and businesses without a vote of the legislature.
2. The cost of this legislation lands on Oregonians to the tune of $600-$1000 per year per household.
3. The current proposed legislation creates an unfair advantage for politically-connected corporations to avoid the tax.
4. Cap & Trade will raise hundreds of millions in new revenue for the state without accountability or full disclosure—sections 4 through 31 of the bill are exempt from public records disclosure.
5. This program will allow massive outside influence from California speculators and corporations to come in and drive up costs.

Rep. Daniel Bonham
The Dalles
February 24, 2020

Dear Governors Brown, Bullock, Inslee and Little:

The debate over the management and impacts of the Columbia Basin’s federal dams has reached an inflection point.

With the pending release of the Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), there is an opportunity to use the EIS as a springboard to collaboratively develop a long-term vision and strategic plan that will identify investments needed to recover and conserve salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife populations, ensure tribal needs are honored and sustained, and strengthen the electricity and agricultural services that communities depend upon from the river.

The region needs your leadership and that of the Northwest congressional delegation to foster a new dialogue with all sovereigns and constituents to develop this vision and strategic plan.

Over the last several months, we – a group of regional leaders from the conservation community, transportation and energy sectors – have agreed upon truths that we hope will form the foundation of a solution to this multifaceted and urgent challenge. What is most clear to all of us, and especially to those whose wellbeing and livelihoods are inextricably tied to the Columbia and Snake Rivers, is the following:

- Tribal identity, wellbeing and economies are reliant on access to abundant cultural resources historically provided by the Columbia and Snake Rivers.
- Many Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs remain at risk of extinction and other fish and wildlife are threatened. The wellbeing of salmon is critical to our entire Pacific Northwest ecosystem, from the inland forests to ocean species.
- Many communities, be it fishing communities on the coast or in central Idaho, depend on healthy and abundant salmon and steelhead.
- The region benefits from access to low-carbon, affordable and reliable electricity.
- To ensure a healthy and thriving farming community and economies, there must be sustainable infrastructure to deliver supplies inland and transport commodities down river.

While the pending EIS has the potential to be divisive, we are open to utilizing its release as an opportunity to forge a path forward and have a different dialogue. With your patience and support, we would like to continue and grow solutions-oriented conversations around enhancing the many values of the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We are committed to working together to find sustainable solutions for fish and wildlife, tribal treaty and trust resources, electricity, food production, transportation and recreation. Durable resolution of these issues will provide long-term value and certainty for the Northwest regional economy and its communities.
Along these lines we have identified the following shared goals we think will allow for solutions to this multifaceted challenge:

- Abundant and harvestable fish originating in the Columbia River Basin are recovered.
- The regional economy is enhanced, including the farming, transportation, fishing, recreation, port, and tribal enterprises in the Columbia Basin.
- The identity and cultural values of the Columbia Basin tribes are honored and federal treaty and trust responsibilities are fulfilled.
- Electric system reliability, affordability and decarbonization are bolstered for communities in the region.

We appreciate the hard work by federal agency staff on the forthcoming draft EIS. We know it is an enormous undertaking. However, the scope of the EIS alone is too narrow to solve the region’s complex, interconnected challenges. Consequently, there is an urgent need for stakeholders and sovereigns to forge an agreement on actions and investments leading to a durable, long-term solution that provides reasonable certainty to the objectives of all interests, including state policy priorities. We are hopeful that information and analysis in the draft EIS will be useful in that effort.

If we respect our differences and direct our energy toward identifying the strategic investments needed to meet our shared vision and goals for the Pacific Northwest, we can build a comprehensive regional plan and investment package that will be supported by the region’s sovereign leaders, including the Northwest congressional delegation. Over the next several months, we want to use our voices in leadership positions to bring additional key parties to the table to help envision what next steps could look like on this inspiring mission.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for the region and all of us whose wellbeing is tied to the Columbia and Snake Rivers to come together to identify the actions and investments needed to recover harvestable salmon and steelhead populations, conserve other fish and wildlife, honor and protect tribal needs and way of life, and strengthen the electricity and agricultural services that communities rely on. A well-designed regional strategic vision and plan that moves all interests forward together is the way these interconnected challenges will be solved.

We thank you for all you have recently done to foster dialogue and engage communities across the region. We believe it is timely and important for you and the congressional delegation to further support and help advance a solutions-based conversation. We now call on you at this defining moment to help us push further and build a legacy for the region that will serve many generations.

In cooperation,
K David Hagen, General Manager
Clearwater Power Company

Mark Johnson, General Manager
Flathead Electric Cooperative

Chad V. Jensen, CEO
Inland Power & Light

Nancy Hirsh, Executive Director
NW Energy Coalition

Roger Gray, President & CEO
PNGC Power

Joseph Bogaard, Executive Director
Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition

Bill Arthur, Chair, Snake/Columbia River Salmon Campaign
Sierra Club

Frank Lawson, General Manager
Eugene Water & Electric Board

Bear Prairie, General Manager
Idaho Falls Power

Giulia Good Stefani, Senior Attorney
Natural Resources Defense Council

Wendy Gerlitz, Policy Director
NW Energy Coalition

David Doeringsfeld
Port of Lewiston

Debra J. Smith, General Manager & CEO
Seattle City Light

John Haarlow, General Manager
Snohomish County Public Utility District #1
Chris Robinson, General Manager & Superintendent
Tacoma Power

Rob Masonis, Vice President for Western Conservation
Trout Unlimited

Joe Lukas, General Manager
Western Montana G&T

CC:
Pacific Northwest congressional delegation
Pacific Northwest tribal government and inter-tribal organization leaders
February 11, 2020

The Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
416 14th Ave. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

I am writing to thank you for your leadership and initiative to restore health to our iconic orcas, and to share with you my perspective on long-term and interim steps necessary to support that effort. The imperilment of Southern Resident Killer Whales is a tragedy shared by all of us in the Pacific Northwest, and Oregon stands with you to boldly address those factors contributing to their demise.

Among the three primary threats (i.e., toxins, noise and lack of food), Oregon’s primary opportunity is to enhance the availability of salmon to foraging orcas. The recent draft report from your task force *Lower Snake River Dams Engagement Report* provides a good context for sharing my perspective on long-term and interim steps to enhance the availability of salmon to foraging orcas. Importantly, this can be done while preserving the foundation of the low cost, carbon-free hydropower system that has helped fuel Oregon’s economy for the last century, and will help us to integrate more wind and solar to achieve our long-term climate goals.

As you know, Oregon is actively engaged in a long-standing effort to recover salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin as a vital part of our ecological, cultural and economic heritage and prosperity. The science is clear that removing the earthen portions of the four lower Snake River dams is the most certain and robust solution to Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery. No other action has the potential to improve overall survival two-to-three-fold and simultaneously address both the orca and salmon recovery dilemma while providing certainty in the legal challenge that has complicated operations for decades. This option would likely provide a dramatic increase in salmon available for orca forage, particularly during the late winter when vulnerable gestating orcas may be foraging off the mouth of the Columbia River. This option reduces direct and delayed mortality of wild and hatchery salmon associated with dam and reservoir passage and provides the most resilience to climate change (e.g., reduced thermal loading in the lower Snake and Columbia rivers and better access to and from the alpine headwaters most resilient to shrinking snowpacks).

I believe restoring the lower Snake River must be a key presumption of our long-term solution for salmon and orca recovery, but much must be done before this is accomplished in order to help minimize and mitigate for potential harm to other vital sectors. Among other
considerations, this includes an affordable, nimble and reliable power system that can help us to integrate renewables to meet our climate goals; continued water supplies for agriculture and municipalities; and efficient and affordable ways to get commodities to market. As identified in your draft report, collaborative, solution-based discussions among stakeholders are needed to facilitate these transitions. Oregon stands ready to be an effective leader and partner in these efforts.

In the interim, I believe there are two important actions that we can take together to address immediate needs of orcas and salmon. First, the Flexible Spill and Power Agreement that we both signed can provide the foundation for an effective bridge to a long-term solution for salmon that also preserves the hydropower system as an important tool in meeting our carbon objectives.

Hopefully we can work together to improve on that agreement, which will enhance survival of juvenile wild and hatchery salmon which translate into additional orca forage only two years later. Second, Oregon has capacity to increase interim hatchery production of salmon important for orca forage. This increased production must be focused in areas with low ecological risk to existing wild salmon populations, such as lower Columbia River off-channel areas and other areas outside the range of historical natural production areas. In recognition of this urgent need for orca forage, Oregon already has fish in the queue that could be available to orcas as soon as 2021. I would like to partner with you to help ensure this initiative is fully funded and sustainable during the necessary interim period while long-term solutions are addressed.

Thank you again for your leadership on orca recovery and for facilitating the thoughtful collaborations that will help secure solutions.

Sincerely,

Kate Brown
Governor Kate Brown
US boom ‘should be expected’

Experts assess new coronavirus cases

John Bacon
USA TODAY

A "boom" of confirmed cases of the coronavirus that has killed almost 3,000 people around the world could already be racing across the U.S. despite ramped-up efforts to contain the outbreak, experts say.

The spread of the virus by "community transmissions is an indication that we could indeed be looking at the tip of the iceberg," Ogbonnaya Omenka, an assistant professor and public health specialist at Butler University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, told USA TODAY on Sunday.

Though fewer than 80 U.S. cases have been confirmed thus far, including a handful in Washington state, a re-

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Travelers wearing protective masks make their way through O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on Sunday. The U.S. surgeon general and the CDC say healthy people should not wear masks to protect themselves from respiratory diseases.

NAM Y. HUH/AP
Coronavirus

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There are enormous implications here," Trevor Bedford, a researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, posted on Twitter. "I believe we’re facing an already substantial outbreak in Washington State that was not detected until now."

Bedford studied two cases that were confirmed weeks apart and determined they were linked through community transmission — from a source not directly linked to another known case. Bedford tweeted his belief that the virus has been spreading undetected, at least in Washington state, for six weeks.

Omenka says that doesn’t bode well for efforts to contain the virus nationwide. One of the chief challenges with dealing with community transmission is contact tracing, which may prove difficult because of constant human movements and interactions, Omenka said.

Increased travel and movement of students and families for spring break could also further spread the contagion, he said.

"Under current circumstances, a boom of cases should be expected," Omenka said. "Especially given the possibility of asymptomatic spread and mildness of the disease."

The way to stop the spread: human behavior. It's crucial that people follow steps recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, such as frequently washing hands and self-quarantining when sick, Omenka said.

And the surgeon general has a message for people who want to run out and stockpile masks to combat the coronavirus — don’t.

"Seriously people - STOP BUYING MASKS!" Surgeon General Jerome Adams tweeted Saturday. "They are NOT effective in preventing generalized from catching Coronavirus but if healthcare providers can't get them to care for sick patients, it puts them and our communities at risk."

The uppercase emphasis is all his, and shows how adamant he is that people stick to the script for prevention offered by the CDC.

"CDC does not recommend that people wear face masks to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19," it says.

The CDC recommendations add that "the use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings."

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said last week the U.S. has a stockpile of 30 million N95 masks but needs at least 270 million more for health care workers alone to prepare for a more widespread outbreak.

In the United States, the only death reported thus far was a man in his 50s who died in Washington state. Omenka said the death confirms the existing trend of the disease being most severe among the most vulnerable members of the population.

The disease began its march across the U.S. weeks before reaching the U.S., which gave federal health officials time to prepare, Omenka said.

"Nevertheless, the possibility of a wider spread of the COVID-19 in the U.S. is very likely now, based on recent developments," he said.

The Rhode Island Department of Health announced the state's first presumptive positive case of coronavirus on Monday. The person is in their 40s and had traveled to Italy in mid-February, the department said in a statement.

The person was being treated in a hospital and "all infection control protocols" were being followed, the statement said.

"We are not seeing widespread community transmission in Rhode Island, and the general level of risk for Rhode Islanders is still low," it added.

Elsewhere in the USA, organizers of the CERAWeek conference that was scheduled to draw thousands of energy executives and officials from 80 nations to Houston was canceled because of coronavirus concerns.

The conference was scheduled for March 9-13, Organizer IHS Markit said it was canceling "with deep disappointment."

"An increasing number of companies are instituting travel bans and restrictions, border health checks are becoming more restrictive," IHS said in a statement. "There is growing concern about large conferences with people coming from different parts of the world."

Worldwide, the iconic Louvre museum in France shut down Sunday over coronavirus concerns, and the Dominican Republic and Czech Republic reported their first deaths from the outbreak that has now spread to more than 60 countries. Italian authorities announced that the number of people infected doubled to 1,694 in just 24 hours, and five deaths brought the toll there to 34. Australia and Thailand reported their first deaths, the Associated Press reported.

The global death toll stood at about 3,000, including more than 2,800 in Mainland China. More than 85,000 infections have been reported worldwide, the vast majority of them in China.