

# Striving for Excellence

*2010 was a year of focus and progress for Northern Wasco County PUD*

The staff and board of directors at Northern Wasco County PUD already are busy with projects for the new year. Before 2010 becomes only a memory, we would like to share with you, our customers, some of what was accomplished in the past year.

## **System Reliability**

NWCPUD is committed to providing reliable energy to our customers. In 2010, our system was up and providing power to the homes and businesses in our community 99.99 percent of the time.

The PUD's capital improvement program assures reliable electric service for our customers by upgrading or replacing existing equipment when needed.

In 2010, crews upgraded the Dufur Substation, a facility that had been in place for more than 70 years. This conversion required changing the voltage of 36 transformers and replacing 120 more. We appreciate our Dufur customers' patience during this essential conversion process.

NWCPUD installed 51 state-of-the-art LED (light-emitting diode) street lights in The Dalles and Dufur. These lights emit a concentrated white light and use about half the energy of standard high-pressure sodium street lights.

PUD crews installed new equipment and replaced aging oil circuit breakers at the Three Mile Substation. The changes will improve the system's efficiency and reliability.

The utility installed new computer operating software at The Dalles Hydro Project. The new system replaced equipment that has been in place for two decades.

## **Record Conservation Efforts**

It was a record year for conservation at NWCPUD. From September 2009 to October 1, 2010, the PUD paid \$320,904 in rebates for appliances, commercial lighting, heat pumps and weatherization projects, which resulted in a savings of 1,854,564 kilowatt-hours.

Bob Stone Freeway Auto Center, The Dalles Court Club, St. Vincent de Paul and Edward D. Jones Investment are just some of the commercial customers who are saving money by upgrading to energy-efficient lighting.

## **Preserving Natural Resources**

NWCPUD continues its support of cost-effective actions to protect and enhance fish and wildlife.

The Biological Opinion is once again before Judge Redden.

The PUD believes it is time to get out of the courtroom and continue working on a broad regional approach to salmon recovery using current scientific information gathered at the watershed level and applied to the problems facing fish as they move to and from the Pacific Ocean.

## **State and Federal Energy Issues**

The NWCPUD board of directors and staff continued their efforts monitoring energy issues at the state and federal levels, assuring our customers are represented and protected.

The utility addressed cap-and-trade issues, promoting Northwest hydropower as a clean, renewable source of energy that should be recognized as such in federal and state policy.

The Pacific Northwest has a history of investing in conservation, nuclear energy, hydropower and other types of renewable energy to meet its customers' electricity demand without generating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The power distributed by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has a carbon content of about one-tenth of the national average.

Any future regulatory plan should

provide flexibility and minimize the cost of complying with targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Regarding carbon regulation, we continue to urge the U.S. Congress to mitigate consumer costs, set realistic targets and time lines, and recognize our enormous past and current investments in clean power generation and energy efficiency.

PUD representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of The Dalles Community Outreach Team, and met with legislators regarding energy issues that could impact local energy rates.

Utility representatives also met with state legislators and encouraged them to consider the cost to PUD consumers when considering future legislation.

NWCPUD representatives went before The Dalles City Council to discourage the city from increasing franchise fees, which directly impact rates paid by its customers.

### Rate Reduction and Savings

NWCPUD customers received a rate reduction last year due to a court ruling against BPA for illegally charging publicly owned utilities for investor-owned utilities' residential exchange program.

The utility partnered with Oregon Equipment to qualify for a Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) from the Oregon Department of Energy.

Two rooftop solar energy systems installed during the 2009 remodel of the PUD offices met the qualifications for the BETC, which allows a tax credit of 50 percent of the eligible project costs.

### Renewable Power

The PUD has completed the application process to certify The Dalles Hydro Project as a "low-impact" green power facility that meets state and federal renewable portfolio standards.

Certification as a low-impact hydro facility would maximize opportunities for the sale of the power generated there.

### Preparing for the Future

The utility continues to assess the challenges we face in the future, including the integration of wind-generated power into the Northwest power grid.

We believe additional transmission lines soon will be needed to ship wind-generated power from the Northwest to customers in California.

When that occurs, out-of-state wind developers should bear more of the enormous cost to expand the system.

Northwest ratepayers should not shoulder the financial burden while private developers reap the rewards.

With anticipated growth in the region, increased demand for electric power, and state and federal regulations that require the use of clean renewable energy resources, the PUD began researching rehabilitation of the historic White River Power Plant east of Tygh Valley.

The first hydroelectric project on the site operated for more than 60 years.

In 2010, the PUD applied for a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to secure priority for the utility's project in the event that other developers also are interested in the site.

If the preliminary permit is granted, the project would enter a three-year licensing phase in which the PUD would obtain information about existing environmental and social conditions, refine the engineering design, and contact interest groups and public, state and federal agencies that may be affected by the design.

In addition, NWCPUD will hold public hearings where area residents can learn about the project in detail.

The proposed White River Falls project would produce enough electricity annually to power 1,600 homes.

The power generated could be used directly by PUD customers or sold to offset increasing energy costs and help keep power rates affordable. ■

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### February 3-5

#### Go Red for Women's Heart Health.

Thursday: Author Carolyn Scott Kortge discusses her book "Healing Walks for Hard Times." Chocolate and wine provided, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Water's Edge. Pre-registration required.  
Friday: Heart Expo & Noon Heart Walk. Free health screenings, interactive exhibits and raffle drawings, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium.  
Saturday: The Heart Truth 3K, 5K, Walk/Run at The Dalles Marina. Registration at 9:30 a.m., race begins at 10.

Pre-register for the walk/run at [www.mcmc.net](http://www.mcmc.net) or call 296-8444 for Go Red details.

### February 5

#### Dam Eagle Watch.

View American bald eagles, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Dalles Dam Visitor Center. Spotting scopes and binoculars available. Keep warm with hot chocolate by the bonfire. Live raptor program in the visitor center at 1:30 p.m. "Birds of the Columbia Gorge" presentation at 2:30 p.m.

### February 5

#### St. Mary's Academy Super Auction.

The 36th annual fundraiser includes dinner, silent and oral auction. Doors open at 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Academy, 1112 Cherry Heights Road.

Call 296-6004 for details.

### February 22

#### Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

6 p.m., 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

To list an item in the community calendar, please call 298-3302.

Visit our website at [www.nwasco.com](http://www.nwasco.com)