

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

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

## Board of Directors

Clay Smith, President  
Milt Skov, Vice President  
Howard Gonser, Secretary  
Barbara Nagle, Treasurer  
Dan Williams, Director

## Manager

Dwight D. Langer

## Board Meetings

Usually the fourth 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:

- ▶ Public ownership and local control.
- ▶ Integrity.
- ▶ Keeping power rates as low as possible.
- ▶ Providing quality essential services.
- ▶ Quality customer service.
- ▶ Community involvement.

OR-3

## Manager's Report



### Dear Customers – Our Friends and Our Neighbors,

One glance at the mighty Columbia and it is apparent river levels are higher than we have seen in years. In early June, this year's water supply had already ranked as the fourth highest since 1970. The flows at The Dalles Dam were in the range of 520 thousand cubic feet per second (520 Kcfs) or nearly 4 million gallons per second. That is a lot of water!

You know what they say about getting too much of a good thing. To maintain the stability and reliability of the electric grid, power generation must balance with electric load.

Electricity demand is down due to our slowed economy and decreased need for air conditioning due to cooler weather conditions. High water levels coupled with decreased power demand has resulted in times when the lowest hydro generation levels exceeded the electrical load on the system.

Some would suggest dumping or spilling more water when the levels at the dams is too high. Unfortunately, more spill would raise the total dissolved gas levels in the water to where they are fatal to the salmon. The operating parameters for acceptable gas levels are set forth in the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

Further complicating the situation were the high winds in the Columbia Gorge this spring. With the wind generators in the area, this has resulted in even more of a good thing. To maintain system reliability, generation at some projects—including wind generators—have had to go off line or “curtail” production. While unfortunate and beyond anyone's control, the actions taken by the Bonneville Power Administration are completely appropriate at these times.

Before wind generators are curtailed, all thermal plants are reduced to absolute minimum levels, all the energy anyone can take is provided at no cost and other generators must go off line. One such generator is NWCPUD's McNary hydro project, which was curtailed during the middle of June every night from midnight until 5 a.m.

While the PUD is impacted, we support the actions taken by BPA during this most unusual high water/high wind season. Our compliments to BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on their superb operations to protect fish and wildlife and prevent further flooding. Emergency situations call for emergency actions, and each must bear its share of the burden and consequences.

Until next time, have a great day.

**Dwight Langer**  
General Manager