

**NORTHERN
WASCO
COUNTY
PUD**

2345 River Road
The Dalles, OR 97058
(541) 296-2226 • FAX 298-3320
e-mail: thepud@nwasco.com

Board of Directors

Milt Skov, President
Bill Ward, Vice President
Howard Gonser, Secretary
Barbara Nagle, Treasurer
Clay Smith

Manager

Dwight D. Langer

Board Meetings

Usually the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the PUD offices, 2345 River Road. 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.*

Manager's Report



Dear Customers – Our Friends and Our Neighbors,
I recently read an article in USA Today, “Shocking Electricity Prices Follow Deregulation.” Remember that legislative wonder of the 1980s and ‘90s that practically guaranteed low electricity prices by better competition? While more than twenty states passed deregulation laws and seventeen still have them on the books, not one saw rate relief for its citizens.

According to the USA Today article, while the average price of electricity in regulated states rose 21 percent, costs leapt 36 percent in deregulated states where rate caps expired. In Illinois, a couple saw their bill increase from \$172 in January to \$600 in February. In March, their bill was \$1,024! The article states that electric rates for customers in the Baltimore area surged 50 percent in June after a 15 percent jump last year. Rate increases occurred in Connecticut, Delaware, Rhode Island and other states that rushed to deregulation. One company in California charges its residential customers over \$0.34 per kilowatt hour for electric service – a whopping 556 percent higher than NWCPUD's average residential rate of \$0.06 per kilowatt hour.

We have been dubious of such legislative fixes in the electric industry and we continue to be cautious in our dealings that would affect your future costs. If state legislators are not extra careful, we could see economic upheaval from renewable portfolio standards and carbon reduction legislation that is similar to what we have seen in states that joined the deregulation bandwagon.

You would be amazed how many discussions occur about changing or adopting laws that affect your electric service and no one can tell us the costs or the net benefits. That's scary – and poor public policy.

Our message is, “Do it right and know the cost to the public.” If we do not know what a proposed piece of legislation will cost, then perhaps it is not a good idea to proceed until we do.

At NWCPUD, we are in favor of the further development of renewable resources and of slowing, stopping, and eventually reversing carbon dioxide emissions in our atmosphere. We support decisions based upon good science and an understanding of the cost to the public that is paying the bill.

Until next time, have a great day.

Dwight Langer
General Manager

OR-3