



# Owner's Manual

## Celebrating Our Success and Challenges in 2008

2008 was a busy year for the employees and board of directors at Northern Wasco County PUD. While we are already at work on our projects for the new year, we would like to share with you, our customers, some of what was accomplished in 2008.

Beginning in April, NWCPUD customers saw a six percent reduction in their electric bills as a result of a refund by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

A court ruling determined that BPA had over collected \$322 million from public utilities around the region through their Residential Exchange Program paid to investor-owned utilities since 2000. More than \$1.6 million of that money had been collected from NWCPUD customers.

The rate reduction was applied equally to all PUD customer classifications – residential, industrial and small and large commercial.

NWCPUD power rates have not increased since 2002.

- The board of directors awarded \$27,280 in grants to fund three local economic development projects in 2008.

The Columbia Gorge Hustlers received \$12,000 to help install 350 stadium-style seats for Quinton Street ballpark.

Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation was granted \$3,650 as part of a \$12,000 project to install a

floating swim dock and ladder at Riverfront Park.

The Dalles Swim Team received \$11,630 to complete the purchase of a touchpad-timing-starting system for swim meets at the Ted Walker swimming pool.

The three projects are for development or improvement of infrastructure within the PUD service area and have some degree of permanence. Each is sponsored by a public, non-profit entity.

- The utility welcomed its newest employee, meter reader Robin Coleman, in October.

- The PUD's customers and employees donated \$7,206. to the Neighbor to Neighbor program last year to assist families in our community who needed help paying their electric bills.

The utility also held its first holiday raffle for wreaths made by employees and board members. The event raised approximately \$370 for the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

- In September, construction began on the PUD's facility remodel and expansion. The project includes additional undercover parking for district vehicles and service trucks, additional office, training and records retention space, and expansion of the board/community meeting room.

The remodel and expansion incorporates energy-efficient features such as solar power and will use recycled materials where applicable. Work is expected to be completed in September 2009.

During 2008, the PUD engineering and operations department completed both routine maintenance and capital improvement projects.

Maintenance projects included repairing facilities, tree trimming, inspecting lines and substations, and testing and repairing meters and transformers.

The purpose of the PUD's capital improvements program is to minimize cost and maximize system reliability. Projects include both building new facilities to serve new customers and making improvements to better serve existing customers.

Some of the projects our crews completed in 2008 included:

- The PUD completed the second phase of the Celilo Village renovation installing permanent underground facilities to serve 15 houses, the Bureau of Indian Affairs office and new streetlights.

- Crews also installed underground facilities at the Lone Pine Village – Icon West development and installed underground infrastructure for the 22-lot McCandliss subdivision located at the former Joseph G. Wilson school site.

- The PUD extended underground facilities to two new businesses, Metro Car Wash and Aaron's, located adjacent to Home Depot in The Dalles.

- Overhead powerlines on East 12th Street from Dry Hollow Road. to Oregon Street were relocated for a

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

road widening project by the City of The Dalles.

- Crews replaced overhead power lines with underground facilities at the City of The Dalles Public Works office on West 1st Street.

- Primary power poles were replaced at Kingsley Street and West 9th Place and Washington and Liberty Streets between East 13th and East 14th Streets.

- In October, Northern Wasco PUD hosted the Oregon PUD Association's annual meeting. More than 115 PUD officials, sponsors and guests visited The Dalles for the three-day event.

- For the first time, PUD employees decorated and donated a tree for the Mid-Columbia Health Foundation's Festival of Trees.

The annual fundraiser invites local businesses to donate themed Christmas trees which are then auctioned to raise money for various programs by MCHF. The PUD's tree brought in \$1,500.

- NWCPUD board director Bill Ward has been elected to a second two-year term on the executive committee of the Public Power Council. PPC represents 114 consumer-owned utilities in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Montana.

Public utilities formed PPC in 1966 to ensure that the interests of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) preference customers would be adequately represented in the changing energy environment.

- This fall, the board of directors approved a new 20-year power supply agreement with BPA.

In the past, BPA provided all of its public customers' power needs from

the federal system. After years of growth and other changes, the PUD now faces a future where the existing system cannot meet full load with its existing resources.

When the new power agreement becomes effective in 2011, BPA estimates it will only be able to provide 95 percent to 97 percent of the PUD's total electric needs.

As a result, the PUD will be responsible to meet the balance of its power needs.

The board continues to explore options to obtain affordable electricity to meet future demand.

Although wind generation is renewable, it only blows about 30 percent of the time and it is about three times more expensive than hydro generation. Solar power is even more expensive.

Two other factors that may affect future wholesale power costs include the construction of additional transmission lines to connect generation sources to the heavily-populated areas on the west side of the Cascades and increased budgets to ensure fish survival.

Currently, over 25 percent of every PUD customer's power bill pays to ensure fish recovery.

- While this new year will bring more changes for the power industry, NWCPUD remains dedicated to providing low cost, reliable electricity and excellent service to you, our customers.

Our crews will continue to work on capital improvement and maintenance projects in our local territory.

Our board of directors and staff will carry on their proactive role in monitoring energy issues at the state and national level in 2009 to ensure our customers are represented and protected.

## Community Calendar

### FEBRUARY

**7**

St. Mary's Academy's  
Super Auction  
Dinner, drinks, oral and silent  
auction, 5:30 p.m.,  
1112 Cherry Heights Rd.  
To purchase dinner or raffle  
tickets, call 296-6004.

**14**

Valentine's Day River Run  
3K/5K/10K Run/Walk  
9:30 a.m. registration,  
10:00 start at The Dalles Marina.  
A low-key, timed event.  
\$5.00 entry fee on race day.  
For details, call 340-9307.

**24**

Northern Wasco County PUD  
Board Meeting, 6 p.m.,  
2345 River Road, The Dalles.

**28**

Wendy and Friends High Tea  
Enjoy High Tea, silent and oral  
auction to benefit the scholar-  
ship program at Sunrise  
Academy, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at  
The Dalles Middle School  
Commons. Tickets \$18 in  
advance, \$20 at door.  
Call 298-8922 for details.

**28**

Family Day at the Discovery  
Center, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Storytelling, games, crafts.  
One child admission free with  
each adult admission