

Year in Review

NWCPUD continued its tradition of reliable service and community involvement in 2009

2009 brought changes, opportunities and challenges for Northern Wasco County PUD.

Our board of directors and staff continued their proactive efforts monitoring energy issues at the state and national levels, ensuring our customers remain represented and protected.

Our crews completed routine maintenance and capital improvement projects to ensure we continue to provide reliable, competitively-priced power for those in our service territory.

As in years past, the PUD also continued its tradition of working with our friends and neighbors for the betterment of our communities.

Improving System Reliability

The PUD's capital improvements program seeks to maximize our system's reliability, while minimizing cost. Projects include both improvements to better serve existing customers and building new facilities to serve new customers.

At our Columbia Heights Substation, vintage oil circuit breakers were replaced with state-of-the-art magnetic actuated vacuum interrupted breakers. The new breakers are more efficient and reliable, and more environmentally friendly as they eliminate the possibility of an oil leak. Oil containment barriers also were completed at the Columbia Heights and Seufert substations.

Crews upgraded service to the Barlow Ranger Station by installing conduit-protected underground service in coordination with its facility remodel.

The PUD extended services to several new irrigation pump installations at Volcano Ridge Vineyards, Pink Orchards and The Dalles Country Club.

Services were extended to many new construction projects, including Mid-Columbia Medical Center's Water's Edge Health and Wellness Center (and three additional lots), Lone Pine Village, Columbia Gorge Community College's new energy technology building, a new agriculture building at Dufur School, The

Dalles Surgery Center (and three adjacent lots), Jack-In-The-Box restaurant, a family residence built by Habitat for Humanity, the new Verizon cell tower at the Home At Last Humane Society and the new AT&T cell tower on Dufur Hill.

NWCPUD crews worked to relocate electric lines along West 1st Street from the City of The Dalles Public Works building to the Oregon Cherry Growers facilities to allow for street and Riverfront Trail improvements.

Overhead lines were replaced with underground services for the East Gateway/Brewery Grade Project. Crews also worked to upgrade the facilities for the City of The Dalles eastside (sewer) lift station.

Compliance With Federal Mandates

The PUD's three-person engineering department prepares electrical drawings and plans for upgrades, new services and improvements to the electrical system.

In addition, this department monitors the utility to assure it is in compliance with federal mandates.

In an effort to prevent widespread electric blackouts like those on the East Coast several years ago, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)—through the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Western Electric Coordinating Council (WECC)—has developed reliability standards that utilities are required to follow.

Our engineering staff monitors more than 90 standards to assure NWCPUD remains in compliance.

New Employees

The PUD welcomed two new employees in 2009: Stacie Agidius and Lance Kubrick.

Stacie took over as a payroll/credit clerk in June, managing employee payroll and assisting customers who are having difficulty paying their power bills.

Lance Kubrick joined the PUD as an energy specialist assistant in September. He helps manage the appliance rebate

program, which offers customers money back on the purchase of approved energy-efficient refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers and water heaters. He also assists with home energy audits and inspections.

Employees Honored for Service

NWCPUD employees Dwight Huskey, Phil Erickson, Verna Lousignont, Dennis Fisher and Earl Ayres logged 30 years of employment with the utility in 2009.

Jim Johnson celebrated his 25th anniversary.

Korena Colquitt, Ted Rosenburg, Darlene Way and Laurie Layton reached five-year milestones with the PUD.

Economic Development Grants

The PUD board of directors awarded \$30,000 in grants to five local economic development projects in 2009.

The Riverside Gymnastics Academy Booster Club received \$10,000 to buy a trampoline, foam blocks and padding for a tumbling pit at its new gymnastics center.

The Wasco County-City of The Dalles Museum Commission was granted \$10,000 to put a new roof on the historic Anderson House at the Fort Dalles Museum.

The Mid-Columbia Health Foundation received \$4,300 to use as matching funds when applying for other grants for its "Next Century Campaign," which is raising funds for digital radiology equipment and other technological upgrades.

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce's downtown committee was awarded \$4,300 to install plants and planters along Second Street.

The Mid-Columbia Center for Living was given \$1,400 to install electrical service for a wheelchair elevator at its new location in the Tenneson Building.

NWCPUD received 13 grant applications in 2009, with requests totaling \$115,046.

To be eligible for consideration, grant requests must be for the development or improvement of infrastructure within the

PUD service area and have some degree of permanence. Public, nonprofit ventures and projects that have not received PUD Economic Development Grant funding twice in a five-year period are eligible for grant monies.

Electrical Safety Programs

Each year, PUD employees visit schools in our service territory to teach students about electrical safety.

The program also is offered free of charge to law enforcement personnel, fire and rescue, businesses and service groups.

Neighbor to Neighbor

NWCPUD's employees and their families were busy again this holiday season making festive creations for the second annual Holiday Wreath Raffle to benefit the utility's Neighbor to Neighbor program.

The event raised more than \$500 for friends and neighbors in the community who are having difficulty paying their electric bills this winter.

All of the money raised goes directly to the Neighbor to Neighbor program, which helps families on an emergency, one-time-per-heating-season basis.

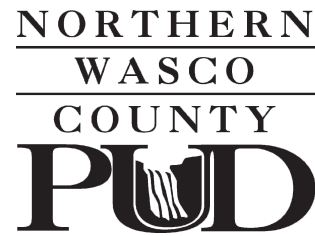
PUD Office Remodel/Expansion

By September, the construction dust had cleared and PUD employees were enjoying the newly remodeled and expanded facilities at 2345 River Road.

PUD Warehouseman Earl Ayers oversaw the yearlong project, which added office, training and records retention space, a new crew room, an expanded board/community meeting room and a remodeled lobby.

The remodel also included installation of two rooftop solar energy systems on the garage that houses district vehicles and service trucks. One system heats the water used in the PUD buildings; the other generates electricity that is used at the facility.

In addition to the rooftop solar panels, energy-efficient lighting and recycled materials were used, where applicable. ■



Visit our Web site at:
www.nwasco.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 5, 6

Go Red for Women.

Friday: Heart Expo, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. Free health screenings, food and raffle. Heart Walk through downtown at noon. Lunch available. Saturday: 3K/5K Heart Truth Walk/Run, 10 a.m. at The Dalles Marina.

For more information, call 296-8444. To pre-register for the walk/run, go to www.mcmc.net or visit the Planetree Health Resource Center, 200 E. 4th St.

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Free Family Movies.

10 a.m. Saturday mornings at Columbia Cinemas. Canned food donations accepted.

For more information, call 296-8081.

February 12

Father Daughter Valentine Dance.

The Northern Wasco County Parks and Recreation District sponsors an evening dance open to girls in kindergarten to eighth grade and their dads or father figures.

To register, call 296-9533.

February 23

Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

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

Nonprofit community organizations are encouraged to promote events and activities.

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