

NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

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Board of Directors

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

Would you like to pay a monthly electric bill equal to or greater than your mortgage payment? The idea seems ridiculous, yet as policymakers debate the future of the nation's energy policy, the possibility may not be as crazy as it seems.

Today, Portland General Electric (PGE) customers are paying \$108.44 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity. That is 78 percent more per month than NWCPUD customers. Even so, it could be worse. Customers of Consolidated Edison (ConEd) in New York pay \$210.37 per 1,000 kWh for their power.

This is not an article criticizing PGE. The Portland utility is a fine company, with dedicated employees. We use the rate comparison to paint a possible picture of the future of energy.

Current energy policy at the state and national level appears to be one based on the belief that citizens can afford the cost of electricity no matter how high. PGE is now facing the possibility of a forced closure of its Boardman generating plant 30 years earlier than its likely operating life. The company's best alternative to replace that power would cost its customers \$600 million. Just imagine what the worst alternative would cost!

At the same time, PGE is investing more than \$1 billion in its Biglow Canyon wind farm to help meet the mandates of Oregon's renewable energy portfolio standards. The \$1 billion investment is just the beginning. Current laws ensure that the cost will be higher—a lot higher.

At NWCPUD, we are not opposed to renewable resources. Our customers already own two—The Dalles and McNary Hydro Projects—and we likely will be building more in the future. If and when we do, we want to make sure that the cost to our customers is affordable.

How do we convince our policymakers that electric customers—whether in The Dalles or Portland—are not a bottomless pit of money? Energy policies must make sense, achieve necessary goals and, most importantly, remain affordable. Otherwise, our children and grandchildren may be living in a time when their electric bills will be equal to or greater than their mortgage payments.

Please join us in letting our elected officials know that we need energy policies we can afford.

Until next time, have a great day.

Dwight Langer
General Manager