

HOT WIRE

Regulation, technical and policy issues for Oregon Co-ops

July 2009

Roger Kuhlman, Salem Electric's E&O Manager, Named Engineer of the Year

At the 2009 Annual Professional Engineers Oregon meeting, Roger was recognized for his "great contribution to the engineering community." Congratulations Roger, it's well deserved!

Clarifying NERC Definition Co-ops have been working to clarify NERC's definition (PRC-005) of having "an effect on the bulk transmission system," having WECC and NERC work together on how the standard is applied and conducting a cost/benefit analysis.

DEQ Lists 140 Persistent Priority Pollutants DEQ delivered to the Oregon Legislature a list of 140 pollutants found in waterways that adversely effect human health, wildlife and aquatic life.

- ☑ DEQ's new Director, Dick Peterson, has taken an aggressive stance in fining companies and publicizing violations.
- ☑ By year's end, DEQ will identify the sources and ways to reduce these pollutants.

PUC Pushes for Greater Awareness of Overhead Line Safety

The PUC is working with electric utilities and state agencies to increase public awareness of the hazards of working near overhead electric lines. The PUC will visit a local government to learn more about increasing awareness in the permitting process.

PUC Briefed on Utility Progress with Arc Flash Protection

- ☑ 60% of utilities have completed a facility assessment
- ☑ 50% have trained staff
- ☑ 90% plan to purchase protective clothing.

ODOE's New Energy Planning Council Oregon launched a new Council to develop a comprehensive strategy for energy efficiency and renewable energy, which may replace the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Work Groups.

- ☑ The REWG has been a strong advocate for development of renewable energy in rural Oregon and would be a loss for co-ops.
- ☑ The Council's first biennial report is due in late 2010.

PUC Rulings

IMPLEMENTING RPS The PUC is finalizing technical implementation details of RPS (AR 518) for IOUs and ESSs.

- The issues are: alternative compliance payment, incremental cost and plan, and compliance standards and reporting.
- Phil Carver, newly retired from ODOE, is now working for OPUC and is the lead staff on this issue.

DUAL USE OF RECs The PUC decided that RECs can be used for both the RPS and power source disclosure but only in the year that the REC is used for RPS compliance and is retired.

- The PUC hopes to streamline and minimize the cost of reporting.

INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS > 10 MW

The PUC temporarily suspended setting new interconnection standards for projects greater than 10 MW for IOUs.

B2H Line In June, the PUC granted Idaho Power's request to delay consideration of proposed 500 KV transmission line from Boardman, Oregon to Hemingway, Idaho.

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