



Okanogan County Electric Co-op Newsletter

November 2018

Office Info:

Winter Office Hours:
Mon - Fri
8 am - 4:30 pm

Our customer service call center is available 24/7/365 to handle most electric & propane concerns.
(509) 996-2228

OCEC Board:

Sara Carlberg
(scarlberg@oceec.coop)

Curtis Edwards
(cedwards@oceec.coop)

John Kirner
(jkirner@oceec.coop)

Ray Peterson
(rpeterson@oceec.coop)

Dale Sekijima
(dsekijima@oceec.coop)

Alan Watson
(awatson@oceec.coop)

Contacts:

General Manager
David Gottula
(dgottula@oceec.coop)

Information
(info@oceec.coop)

No Increase in Power Rates for 2019

The OCEC Board has determined that there will be no increase in power rates in 2019. As background, BPA increased wholesale power rates in October of 2017 and the actual amount of this increase was what was forecasted. OCEC had raised rates in January of 2018 to recover these additional costs.

BPA is forecasting another rate increase in October of 2019 and this may require OCEC to raise rates in January of 2020.

OCEC Board Openings

There is currently a Board opening due to the resignation of a Board member who has moved out of the Valley. In addition, a board member up for re-election next April has decided not to seek re-election. If you are interested in being on the OCEC Board, please contact GM David Gottula at 509-996-2228.

WANTED - Commercial Lighting Projects for Energy Efficiency Dollars

BPA is currently sponsoring commercial lighting retrofit projects to convert current lighting to energy efficient LED. If you have a commercial building and are interested in partial funding of a LED retrofit project, please contact Jessica at 509-996-2228.

Value of Snake River Dams



The Snake River dams are powerful and irreplaceable energy producers for the Northwest. Together, the four federal dams on the lower Snake River produce enough energy to power a city the size of Seattle every year, and are capable of providing over twice that amount for short periods of time during power emergencies.



Snake River Dams continued...

Unlike coal or natural gas-fired power, Snake River hydropower is 100 percent renewable and adds no carbon to the skies. The lower Snake River dams also provide other important benefits to the region, including river navigation that enables over \$20 billion in trade and commerce, recreation opportunities, and irrigation that allows farmers to feed the Northwest and the world.

The energy the dams produce cannot be replaced by wind power or conservation measures. Wind and other resources can't be stored, so reliable resources like hydropower, nuclear, coal and gas must always be available to meet the full load at all times to assure the lights stay on even when the wind isn't blowing. Wind and conservation can't reliably supply the same volume of renewable energy or any of the other benefits that the Snake River dams provide.

- A 2015 BPA reliability analysis concluded that replacement of the lower Snake Dams with natural gas generation would increase the region's carbon dioxide emissions by 2.0 to 2.6 million metric tons annually. At the low end, this would be equivalent of adding 421,000 passenger cars to the region's roads each year.
- The Snake River dams supply 12 percent of all the energy produced on average by the entire federal hydro system and 5 percent of the Northwest's total hydro energy.
- The Snake River dams help in dealing with power emergencies because they can provide over 2,650 megawatts over a period of 10 hours per day for five consecutive days.
- Because of their location, the Snake River dams provide voltage stability on a long transmission path between western Montana and eastern Washington. Without these dams, the carrying capability of certain major transmission lines would have to be reduced and reliability would suffer.
- Only four species of salmon listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act are affected by the Snake River dams. Survival through the dams for young salmon heading downstream to the ocean is already high, at 97 percent on average.
- More adult chinook will have passed Lower Granite dam in the last 5 years (2015 included) than in the previous 37 years combined.

It would take two nuclear, three coal-fired, or six gas-fired power plants (exact amounts depend on the size of the power plant) to replace the average annual power produced by the Snake River dams. Energy conservation and intermittent resources like wind and solar can't replace them.

Courtesy of the Northwest River Partners