



Okanogon County Electric Co-op Newsletter

October 2018

Office Info:

Starting October 1st
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:

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Electric & Propane Companies Represented at Fire Meetings

During emergency events such as Wildland fires, a "cooperators" group is established consisting of members of the Fire Team which includes the Incident Commander, a Liaison Officer, Operations Manager, and their Public Information Officer. This team also invites key members of local agencies and groups, which varies depending on the location and nature of the event. For the Crescent & McLeod fires, it includes Okanogon County Fire District 6, Police - Local, County and State, Aero Methow, public land agency reps such as the Forest Service, WDFW and DNR, the Town Mayors, and both the Electric and Propane companies.

Daily meetings occur where discussions include current and expected fire behavior, public communication and coordination of appropriate agency responses. Attending the meetings establishes personal contact with the Incident Commander, and strengthens existing relationships between the local agencies. These positive interactions pay dividends during this and future responses to emergency situations.

Propane Manager Tracy McCabe and Staking Technician Deanna Melton attended daily Cooperators meetings at the fire camp. Deanna even attended on her birthday and received a present from the Incident Command staff.



OCEI Propane Manager Tracy McCabe and Staking Technician Deanna Melton.



Deanna Melton receives a birthday present from the Fire Team.

BPA Environmental Issues Delay Redundant Power for the Methow Valley

The Pateros-Twisp transmission line is completed. Because of a BPA environmental delay the final step to connect Winthrop and Mazama residents will not be finished until sometime next year. In preparation for the new connection, Okanogon County PUD has installed a new switch in the Twisp substation and OCEC has converted an overhead distribution line to underground in order to mitigate clearance issues. Once BPA completes its environmental review, the project can move forward providing the valley residents with redundant power.



Upcoming Transmission Outage

The Okanogan PUD will have a transmission outage on their Loup Line which feeds the Winthrop Substation starting Thursday, October 25th at 11:30 PM and ending Friday, October 26th at 6:00 AM. This outage will last approximately six and a half hours. Please check our website for any changes. As a reminder OCEC will also send out text messages before this outage.

While our members out of the Twisp substation will remain on, members served from the Winthrop Substation will be out of power during this time period.

New Solar Incentives Maxed Out

In 2017 the Washington State Legislature approved a new solar incentive program named the Renewable Energy System Incentive Program (RESIP). The RESIP program provides incentives for utility customers to install grid-tied solar power. Certified residential systems can earn up to 50% of install costs and up to \$5,000 annually for eight years. Funding for the program is based on each utility which has: A specific annual cap that limits total annual incentive payments to 1.5% of their calendar year 2014 power sales, and Project-specific caps (for shared commercial and community solar, and commercial solar projects).



Residential solar install located on Balky Hill.

Demand for the program was high and OCEC reached the new limit on solar incentives on September 12th. Approximately 25 residential units and one community solar were able to use the new additional incentives approved for 2018. Therefore OCEC is no longer accepting new applications at this time. OCEC will have a total of 48 residential, one commercial and three community solar units using all the Washington State incentives which includes both the legacy and the new participants.

Energy from OCEC is 96.5% Carbon Free

Below is a breakdown of the sources of energy for OCEC.

- Hydro – 86.3%
- Nuclear - 10.2%
- Coal – 2.4%
- Natural Gas – 1%
- Community Solar - .1%
- Other - .9%

Facts About Hydropower

Hydropower keeps your lights on!

About 61% (approximately 33,000 megawatts) of the Pacific Northwest region's generating capacity comes from hydroelectric dams. The lower Snake River dams alone have the capability to produce 3,000 megawatts of clean, renewable, energy.

