



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**October 5, 2009**

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**The Oregon People's Utility District Association Celebrates Seven Decades of Public Power  
And Green Energy for Oregon Communities**

**SALEM, OR-** The Oregon People's Utility District (OPUDA) is celebrating Public Power Week 2009 by acknowledging the exemplary efforts of Oregon's PUDs as they provide low-cost rates to almost a quarter of a million Oregonians, while at the same time focusing on renewable generation, conservation and energy efficiency.

Over seven decades ago, President Franklin Roosevelt stood on Oregon soil as he dedicated the Bonneville Dam. Since that day, public power utilities have harnessed the green hydropower of our region to electrify Oregon's communities and maintain thousands of family-wage jobs in the industrial sector with affordable rates to these important customers.

Since over 90% of the power generated and distributed by Oregon's PUDs is green and renewable power already, Oregon's PUDs have been focusing on conservation and energy efficiency measures to become even more resourceful.

The 2009 President of OPUDA's Board of Directors, Katherine Schacht stated, *"Oregon's PUDs should be proud of the work that has been accomplished in conservation and renewable energy development. PUDs in Oregon were green before the green movement was popular and we will persist with additional conservation efforts, while continuing to provide local control and low rates for our customers"*.

*Examples of this work from Oregon's six PUDs include:*

- **Central Lincoln PUD-** Central Lincoln PUD, serving portions of Lincoln, Lane, Douglas and Coos counties provides affordable electricity to more than 83,542 Oregonians, supporting thousands of jobs in the tourism, fishing, and forest products industries. Central Lincoln has helped many of its commercial and industrial customers with long-term energy saving projects, including the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Georgia-Pacific paper mill in Toledo. Central Lincoln is a platinum sponsor of cutting edge renewable energy and electricity storage research at Oregon State University's Wallace Energy Systems & Renewables Facility at its school of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Central Lincoln is enhancing its focus on conservation and energy efficiency, including the hiring of an energy services specialist, who will provide technical assistance and information to customers and the general public regarding practical application of a variety of energy technologies.

- Clatskanie PUD-** Clatskanie PUD's Mission Statement is "The Pacific Northwest's Leading Public Power Innovator." They continually look for ways to improve and provide the best energy value possible for their customer-owners. By doing so, they have the lowest retail electric rates in Oregon and some of the lowest rates in the Nation. Clatskanie PUD is committed to acquiring new, clean renewable resources to meet future electrical load growth particularly for local businesses and industry. One of their current projects, in conjunction with five irrigation districts from Idaho and Oregon, is the development of the 18 megawatt hydroelectric project at the Arrowrock Dam on the Boise River in Idaho. This project is being added to an existing dam and was found to have no adverse impact to the environment. Set to be operating in early 2010, Clatskanie will be acquiring the 81,000 average megawatt hours electricity expected to be produced annually. This equals approximately 7% of the District's power needs. Another renewable energy project in their power portfolio is co-ownership of a 36 MW co-generation facility at the Georgia Pacific Paper Mill near Clatskanie. The Wauna Paper Mill, which currently provides 1000 family-wage jobs to the community, is home to the co-generation facility which generates electricity directly from processed steam currently produced at the mill. The boiler burns "sludge," a moist, sawdust-like, non-hazardous waste product of the papermaking process that otherwise would have to be land filled. This project and the Arrowrock project will help the PUD meet the requirements of the Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- Columbia River PUD-** When it began providing service in 1984, Columbia River PUD made a promise to customers that it would keep electric rates at least 5% below PGE's rates. Over the past 25 years, that promise has produced huge savings for PUD customers. In 2009, Columbia River PUD residential rates are 36.5% less than PGE rates, resulting in \$7.9 million in savings for PUD customers this year alone. That savings keeps money in the county. With 15% unemployment in the county, it is vital to keep these savings local at a time when many residents and businesses are struggling to make ends meet. In addition to having over 80% of its power supply come from the clean, renewable Columbia River hydro electric system, Columbia River PUD offers its customers further opportunities to purchase green power from three wind farms in Eastern Oregon as part of its Choice Energy Program.
- Emerald PUD-** Emerald PUD in Eugene provides low cost power to almost 1200 industrial and commercial customers, supporting thousands of jobs for Oregonians. One of those customers, Roseburg Forest Products, recently worked with Emerald PUD to make their facility in Junction City more energy efficient. The plant wanted to replace their 25 year old and very inefficient lighting system and worked in cooperation with Emerald PUD to replace 145 outdated fixtures with new, high performance fluorescent lights. The new lighting saves electricity by reducing the input wattage and also reduces the runtime by utilizing advanced occupancy controls that turn on lights only when human movement is detected in the space. With the new lighting in place, Roseburg Forest Products will reduce their annual energy usage in that facility by 44%, or roughly \$11,000 a year. More than 73% of the \$70,000 project was funded by rebates and tax credits, and the project will pay for itself in energy savings in less than 17 months.
- Northern Wasco County PUD-** Over the years, Northern Wasco County PUD customers have invested \$27 million in two renewable energy hydro projects. Both projects provide enhanced fish passage and green power. In addition, they are currently looking at development of a methane gas capture project in partnership with the City of The Dalles at their wastewater treatment plant and a micro-hydro project with the City on the water transmission line. Furthermore, Northern Wasco PUD is exploring a U.S. Department of energy grant for potential geothermal generation project in cooperation with a group of other utilities. Northern Wasco is most proud of their commitment to providing their residential and industrial customers with adequate supplies of energy at affordable prices, especially in light of the difficult economic circumstances facing rural Oregon.

- **Tillamook PUD-** Tillamook PUD and Hampton Lumber's Tillamook Lumber Mill have a strong working relationship and have worked together on energy efficiency improvement projects for more than two decades. Tillamook Lumber, one of Tillamook PUD's largest customers, has always valued conservation, but has demonstrated its importance even through this rough economic downturn. During the spring, operations at the mill decreased from a 24 hour operation to one shift, leaving nearly one-third of its workforce out of work. With rebates and assistance from Tillamook PUD, Hampton installed new motors and variable frequency drives in several areas of the mill, resulting in annual savings of over \$90,000. More than 40% of the \$486,000 project costs were paid through the Tillamook PUD/BPA rebate program. Tillamook PUD and the Port of Tillamook are also converting a very valuable asset from its famous cows into energy. In 2003, the Port constructed a centralized methane digester to biologically process the manure from 4000 of the county's 30,000 dairy cows. The digester has the ability to produce and capture methane from the manure and reduces the amount of methane that otherwise would enter the atmosphere. The green power generated is sold to Tillamook PUD, powers approximately over 200 homes and maintains more than 150 family-wage dairy industry jobs in the community.

*The Oregon People's Utility District Association became an active, full time non-profit association in 1984. OPUDA is an alliance of Oregon's six electric PUDs, devoted to furthering the cause of public ownership and control of critical utility services. Oregon's six electric PUDs are Central Lincoln PUD, Clatskanie PUD, Columbia River PUD, Emerald PUD, Northern Wasco County PUD and Tillamook PUD.*