

## ***Fall 2004***

### **Shooting for stable rates in 2005**

#### ***BPA rate cut announced***

The Bonneville Power Administration announced that it plans to cut its wholesale power rates beginning October 1. The decrease, which could be between 5 and 7.5 percent, is welcome news. Clark and most other BPA customers have argued the agency should become more efficient by reducing unnecessary expenses. The increase probably won't mean a retail rate decrease here; however, commissioners will evaluate rate adjustment responsibility as they prepare for the 2005 budget and make a decision at that time. As BPA costs drop, the cost of natural gas for the River Road Generating Plant remain higher than expected. This means lower BPA costs will offset higher gas prices.

You may recall just the opposite happened earlier this year. BPA rates increased about 4.3 percent in April, but we absorbed that increase with savings on natural gas, which at the time was less expensive than it is today. All of this shows the benefits of a diversified resource mix, which was one of the goals commissioners set when they decided to build the River Road plant ten years ago. The ultimate objective is to provide our customers with stable rates.

### **Substations to get squirrel protection**

#### ***Several power outages have been linked to squirrel activity***

A power outage at Mac Heights Substation plus a couple of smaller outages have been linked to squirrel activity. These interruptions have caused downtime and lost production for some of our more voltage-sensitive industrial businesses. Other commercial and industrial customers have had business interruptions as well.

A team of utility employees investigated options to reduce squirrel interference with sensitive equipment. Squirrel guards, a new protective device that resembles a giant, circular waffle made of plastic, will be installed at several substations acquired from BPA in recent years. During the investigation we discovered these substations were more susceptible to squirrel-related outages. Larry Bekkedahl, director of engineering, explained that "this installation, in combination with our tree trimming program, is part of a continued effort to reduce the number of outages and average outage time for our customers." The substations that are scheduled to get the new squirrel guards are Mac heights, Shipyard, Carborundum and Oak Park.

This problem though is not isolated to Clark County. In a front-page story in *The Wall Street Journal* last year, it was reported that severe and costly damages to electrical equipment caused by squirrels is happening across the nation. The problem is worse in areas that are heavily treed.

**Hewlett Packard joins Clark Public Utilities' Green Lights program**

The list of participating commercial and industrial customers is growing. Along with Hewlett Packard, other participants include Shell Solar, Clark County, Columbia Vista, Wild Oats, Kinko's, Sharp, Lutgens-Carter Attorneys, NWPPA, Pacific Sterling and Frito Lay.

**Free seminar on arc flash hazard analysis**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2004 from 1 – 4:30p.m.**

**Clark Public Utilities' Operations Center**

Clark Public Utilities and ESA, Inc., a local leader in arc flash hazard analysis software, are teaming up to sponsor a half-day seminar on arc flash hazards and implementation of an arc flash hazard program in your facility. This informative session will explain what is currently happening within the electrical industry and show you how to help improve plant safety and profitability, while obtaining and maintaining compliance with industry mandates.

Join us Tuesday, November 9, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. to learn more about arc flash hazards and how to address this important industry issue in your facility. We will have a demonstration of the latest arc flash analysis tools. There is no cost for this training which will be held at the Clark Public Utilities Operation Center Training Education Center at 8600 NE 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue. To register, please contact Patty Westby at 360-992-3462 or by e-mail at [pwestby@clarkpud.com](mailto:pwestby@clarkpud.com).

For additional information on arc flash hazards, log on to ESA's Arc Flash Resource Center at [www.EasyPower.com](http://www.EasyPower.com)

**Data is the key to managing your energy information:*****Identify corrections to optimize your energy use***

Hidden deep within your facility is most of the information you need to control energy costs. With this information you can identify equipment or system operational and technical corrections to optimize energy use. Or track usage costs, shave peaks and validate energy efficiency programs you have instituted or identified as higher-than-normal usage.

To help you access this information Clark Public Utilities is offering E-Manager. Once installed, E-Manager will provide all the tools you will need to view your load profile data.

Each day the prior day's data is downloaded and available for you to view. E-Manager can provide average hourly profiles, periodic reports that are important to your business and assist you as you prepare your annual energy budgets. It's secure and only you and those you authorize can access the data.

Business customers can now sign up for E-Manager. The cost is \$50 per month per meter. This service is offered at cost, and includes a new meter. This offer is limited to the first 50 meters requested. Communication links to the meter are the responsibility of the customer. Call Larry or Rick if you are interested.

## Building Operators Certification Training

In an effort to keep our facility managers informed, we wanted to let you know about a series of new Building Operators Certification (BOC) classes being offered this fall. The BOC brings the latest in building system energy conservation and efficiency information as well as comprehensive instruction in typical system design, operation, troubleshooting and maintenance.

The Northwest Energy Education Institute (NEEI), a division of Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon will be offering BOC courses. The certification is a performance-based training and certification opportunity for the individuals responsible for the operation of commercial and public building systems.

Series: BOC LEVEL I

Duration: September 22, 2004 through March 16, 2005

Location: OIT Metro Center, 7726 SE Harmony Road, Portland, Oregon

### Schedule of classes:

September 22, 2004

BOC 101 - Building Systems Overview

October 20, 2004

BOC 107 - Facility Electrical Systems

November 17, 2004

BOC 102 - Energy Conservation Techniques

December 15 and 16, 2004

BOC 103 - HVAC Systems and Controls (Two-day class)

January 19, 2005

BOC 104 - Efficient Lighting Fundamentals

February 16, 2005

BOC 105 - Maintenance and Related Codes

March 16, 2005

BOC 106 - Indoor Air Quality

All classes are held one day each month and the class time is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (unless otherwise specified)

For more detailed information on class descriptions, schedules, fees and registration please contact

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 NEEI at Lane Community College  
 4000 E. 30th Ave.  
 Eugene, OR 97405-0640  
 541-463-3154  
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If you have general questions regarding the classes, please feel free to call Rick Closson, Clark Public Utilities' Commercial Accounts Representative at 360-992-3109.

**Energy Efficiency Savings Opportunities*****Straight to the bottom line*****Motors**

If you have a large inventory of motors, Clark Public Utilities works with the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to bring the Energy Efficient Motor Management (EM2) software tool to you at no charge. This software provides you with a motor inventory (a great feature); tracks cost and maintenance; and helps you decide whether to repair or replace the motor. It even calculates the cost-effectiveness of different motor choices.

Jim Williams, an independent consultant, will come to your facility and install the software, train you, and even assist you in getting your motor inventory in the program. To control costs and make good decisions on motor selection, this software is a must. Please call Larry Blaufus if you are interested.

**Compressed Air**

For those of you with compressed air systems, this can be the most critical component in your manufacturing operation. The production of compressed air can use a lot of electricity – in some facilities it can be one-third of energy costs. Not only can energy efficiency gains be identified by having an audit done by one of our professional energy specialists but you can also have improved air supply, enhanced maintenance cycle, noise reduction and other efficiency improvements. An audit may identify air leaks that need repair. Clark Public Utilities continues to offer up to \$3,000 for compressed air audits. Call Larry or Rick for more information

**Financing**

Low-interest loans are available to help finance implementation of lighting or other energy-efficient projects. Please don't hesitate to call Rick Closson who can help you with any questions you have about our financing program.

**Free energy audit**

If your business has never had a comprehensive energy study this is a great opportunity for a free energy audit. If you are a company with gross sales below \$75 million, have fewer than 500 employees, have annual energy bills less than \$1.75 million and lack in-house technical staff to perform energy analysis, you can have a free Department of Energy audit performed by the Oregon State University engineering team. Call Rick or Larry today to schedule your audit.