

COAL: About 60 percent of PacifiCorp’s power still comes from coal

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Though the Sierra Club says PacifiCorp’s plan to retire 2,800 megawatts of coal generation is a good thing, they are concerned about potential pollution controls needed at 13 other coal units that, if implemented, would cost ratepayers an estimated \$1.3 billion.

“If you just look at the economic risk of running these fossil fuel fleets, it’s expensive,” said Travis Ritchie, a San Francisco-based attorney with the Sierra Club. “There’s a risk that not only are these bad for the environment because they pollute, they’re bad for ratepayers’ pocketbooks.”

Rick Link, who led the IRP process for PacifiCorp, said there are no immediate plans to install new pollution controls at their facilities. He said the preferred action plan actually calls for shutting down or converting units at three Wyoming power plants — Naughton, Wyodak and Dave Johnston — as well as the Cholla Power Plant in Arizona, to avoid those high costs.

The company already closed two other units in Carbon County, Utah in April.

Stricter emissions standards, such as the Environmental Protection Agency’s Regional Haze Program, mean coal plants must install greater pollution controls to continue operating. These upgrades can cost hundreds of millions of dollars per unit, Link said.

“For those assets that we studied with near-term decisions, our IRP shows that it’s more economical to convert them to natural gas or to avoid installing (controls),” he said.

PacifiCorp updates its IRP with regulators every two years. The plan is a 500-page document that essentially guides how the utility will satisfy power needs over the next 20 years at the lowest cost available.

About 60 percent of PacifiCorp’s power still comes from coal, which would be reduced to 30 percent if this IRP is followed. The Sierra Club says it’s a step in the right direction, but doesn’t go nearly far enough.

“What we need to see is them taking a more proactive stance in moving off their coal fleet,” Ritchie said. “In 20 years, their coal fleet should be gone.”

With less coal in its energy portfolio, PacifiCorp intends to expand its energy efficiency programs to account for the vast majority of new power demand. According to the company, they saved 553,200 megawatt-hours of electricity in 2014 alone. That’s enough to power nearly 59,000 homes for a year.

President and CEO Stefan Bird said they’ve also taken a leadership role in maximizing the use of wind and solar energy by partnering with California ISO on an “energy imbalance market.” The real-time market is controlled by a computer system that balances the grid every five minutes, and draws from a broader network of low-cost available resources.

“Working with the ISO and other utilities that are joining us in this transformation, we are able to maximize the use of intermittent renewables, enhance

reliability and lower costs to our customers,” Bird said in a statement.

PacifiCorp ranks as the second-largest owner of wind assets among rate-regulated utilities, though the Sierra Club argues even that is a misleading statement since much of the renewable power PacifiCorp buys is required under the federal Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. The organization claims PacifiCorp has gotten away with the bare minimum in renewable energy by law, while still relying heavily on coal.

Schwark said the IRP has gone through an open and transparent process, and does its best to factor numerous costs and risk into the equation.

“We need to make sure we get those decisions right,” he said.

PacifiCorp serves a total of 1.8 million customers in six western states, including 730,000 customers in Oregon.

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Treasury says woman will be picked for \$10 bill

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Alexander Hamilton, who has been featured on the \$10 bill since 1929, is making way for a woman.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew is to officially announce Thursday that a redesign of the \$10 will feature the first woman on the nation’s paper money in more than a century. The plan is to decide which woman sometime this summer.

The bill will have new security features to make it harder to counterfeit and will go into circulation in 2020, the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Lew is asking the public for suggestions on who should be chosen for the bill, as well as what symbols of democracy it should feature. Ideas can be submitted by visiting thenew10.treasury.gov website.

Various groups have been campaigning to get a woman honored on the nation’s paper currency, which has been an all-male domain for more than a century. The last woman featured on U.S. paper money was Martha Washington, who was on a dollar silver certificate from 1891 to 1896. The only other

woman ever featured on U.S. paper money was Pocahontas, from 1865 to 1869. Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea are on dollar coins.

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-New Hampshire, who is sponsoring legislation to put a woman on the \$20 bill, praised Lew for moving forward with a decision to use the \$10 bill, which is the next denomination of currency scheduled to be redesigned.

“While it may not be the twenty dollar bill, make no mistake, this is a historic announcement,” Shaheen said in a statement. “Young girls across this country will soon be able to see an inspiring woman on the ten dollar bill.”

A grassroots group, Women on 20s, had been pushing to get a woman’s portrait on the \$20, which currently features Andrew Jackson. They had conducted an online poll that gathered over 600,000 votes. African-American abolitionist Harriett Tubman was the top choice in that poll.

Lew said that Hamilton, the nation’s first Treasury secretary, would still be honored in some way. He said one possibility being considered would keep Hamilton’s portrait on some of the redesigned \$10 bills. Lew said no final decision had been made yet.

JAIL: Meetings, homework give structure to lives that had none

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Parole/probation officer Wayne Dennis heads out in a van to bring participants to sessions. The idea is to remove easy excuses for not showing up. The Oregon’s Justice Reinvestment Grant Program, which comes from money the state saves by not opening prisons, provided \$318,830 to the county for day management.

Each client takes individualized programs that can include drug treatment, job searches and curfews.

Parole/probation officer Jeff Brown is in charge of the group discussions that are geared to getting offenders to re-think their attitudes, beliefs and behaviors. Brown goes over the same ideas session after session after session. Yes, he said, it is repetitive. That is the point.

“These guys are looking at their hand in front of their face,” he said. “Getting them out of that survival mode is huge.”

The people in the class have ingrained behaviors that result in bad “outcomes” (Brown said he likes that more than “consequences” because outcomes can be good or bad). So he uses a model that challenges years and sometimes decades of criminal and anti-social



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Jeff Brown, parole/probation officer for the Umatilla County Justice Department, talks to his Day Management class Wednesday about strategies for dealing with frustration.

thinking, pushing participants to understand they are in charge of thoughts and actions and ergo their outcomes.

In other words, Brown said, they cannot blame law enforcement — or society, or their spouse — when they end up in jail.

Hernandez said it took two months of regular attendance before he started to change his thinking. During the Wednesday group discussion he revealed he heard some bad news from his immigration lawyer, and in the past that would have been an excuse to round up some buddies for some booze and “controlled substances.” Instead, he said,

bad moment when someone disrespected her, but she dealt with it.

Brown asked, “Did you get the outcome you wanted?”

“I’m not in jail,” she replied.

Sherman-Tune said in that moment she felt flooded by anxiety and anger, but before responding she thought about her actions and what they could produce. Brown almost beamed.

The group sessions, completing homework Brown assigns and meeting program goals give structure to lives that had none. Brown time and again comes back to key messages of motivation and ability. Staying out of jail is the motivation, but people also need the ability — the thinking, skills, and lifestyle — to do that.

“Both have to be present for change to occur,” Brown said.

Hernandez said because of his deportation problem, he might not get to see the program all the way out. But he was confident what he gained these past eight months he would take with him no matter where he goes.

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EXCHANGE: Will not send students overseas for 2016-17 year

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bers thinking, “How can people live here?”

On Friday she will say goodbye to Pendleton after a school-year-long study abroad trip.

Each year Rotary District 5100 hosts 40 to 50 exchange students from around the globe, according to Kathleen Robertson, a member of the Pendleton Rotary club’s youth exchange committee. Students invited into Oregon and southern Washington have hailed from foreign lands including Russia, Italy, France and Taiwan. This year’s Eastern Oregon cohort traveled from Austria, Japan, Thailand and South Korea.

What struck Min-seo at Pendleton High School was how informally students chatted with teachers. Students asked their teachers about family life, something that would rarely happen back in metropolitan Busan. Such personal conversation with an instructor would be considered “weird,” she said.

But that small-town familiarity soon grew on her. She recalled fondly that “if you go into Wal-Mart, you know everyone in there. That’s really nice.”

Robertson, 46, has served as Min-seo’s Rotary counselor during the school year. Even though Min-seo did not live with her, Robertson described the counselor’s role as “the parent for the child.” A Rotary exchange student lives in three households during their stay, so a counselor can act

as a stable point of contact. Once during a soccer game, Min-seo broke her right ring finger. Robertson drove her to the medical appointments.

The bond forged between counselor and student over the last nine months may not be broken by an ocean. Robertson said she hopes to make the journey to South Korea sometime.

A yearlong hiatus

The Pendleton Rotary club will not send a student overseas for the 2016-17 school year, nor will it receive one, said Robertson. For the time being, the youth exchange committee is looking to build its volunteer base.

“We just need a few more bodies, honestly,” she said.

The plan at this point is to welcome Taiwanese student Sam Kung, 16, for the 2015-2016 school year. Pendleton resident Brooke Porter will spend the school year in Tres Lagoas, Brazil. The

youth exchange will take the 2016-17 academic year off, and then possibly resume its program in the fall of 2017, according to Robertson.

For her, the hardest part is finding a host family here in Oregon.

“That is the great dance of exchange,” she said. “You get used to rejection.”

Some families don’t have time for an exchange student, and enthusiasm is a must for the position.

“The most important thing is that the family wants to host,” said Robertson.

The youth exchange program asks host families to donate room and board costs for the student for roughly three months.

Rotary clubs in Eastern Oregon usually advertise their study abroad program at high schools and have a standard application. If Oregon students pass through an application and interview process, they

spend their sophomore year preparing for a junior year abroad. Robertson described the youth exchange program as a “true exchange,” because the Rotary club sends a local student to the same country from which it receives one. Were the Rotary club to bring in five students from Japan, for example, five Oregon students would go to Japan, said Robertson.

The long hours spent coordinating, looking for host parents and serving as a counselor pays off for Robertson. She knows the program teaches students about the commonalities between all people.

“The best thing is that it shows we’re all the same, no matter where you’re from,” she said.

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