

Idaho utility continues attempt to negate Oregon fish law

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — An Idaho utility is challenging a decision by federal regulators rejecting its request to negate an Oregon law requiring fish passage as part of relicensing for a hydroelectric project on the Snake River.

Idaho Power on Friday petitioned the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to review the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s decision in January.

The commission dismissed Boise-based Idaho Power’s request that it exempt the three-dam Hells Canyon Complex from an Oregon law requiring fish passage as part of relicensing.

The company says the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution that has to do with federal authority over states pre-empt the Oregon law. But the commission said it found no reason why Oregon couldn’t require fish passage and reintroduction as

part of relicensing.

Mary O’Driscoll, commission spokeswoman, said the commission had no comment.

While Oregon requires fish passage, Idaho lawmakers have prohibited moving salmon and steelhead upstream of the three dams.

The company has previously said it’s stuck between the two states and their conflicting positions.

Idaho Power spokesman Brad Bowlin said he couldn’t comment on the petition before the court, which could be made unnecessary if Idaho and Oregon reach an agreement.

“The states have been working toward a solution in the last several months,” he said. “We are optimistic that a solution can be reached.”

Idaho Power’s 50-year license to operate the complex expired in 2005, and the company has since been operating on annually issued licenses.

Oregon has said it wants salmon and steelhead to be able to access four Oregon

tributaries that feed into the Hells Canyon Complex. Chris Pair, spokesman for Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, didn’t return a call from the AP on Friday.

For Idaho Power to meet Oregon’s requirement, it would have to trap and transport the fish, which would require approval from Idaho.

But Idaho is against reintroducing salmon and steelhead above the dams and has passed a law opposing reintroduction of any species without the consent of the Legislature and governor.

Biologists have said the Snake River above the dams is so degraded it couldn’t support salmon and steelhead without significant rehabilitation work, which would require cooperation from landowners.

Idaho Power supplies electricity to customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. The Hells Canyon Complex produces about 40 percent of the company’s total annual power generation, the company said in its filing.

Pendleton woman turns side jobs into organizational business

East Oregonian

Pendleton area residents looking to get a head start on spring cleaning activities can contact Jennifer Dokka for some organizational help.

Dokka said she had already been organizing homes and offices as a side job, but she decided to make it her full-time focus when she started A Fresh Start in January.

She said business is already starting to pick up, as she already has five new upcoming jobs on her schedule.

Based in Pendleton, Dokka said she does jobs in some of the surrounding areas like Adams, Pilot Rock and

Hermiston, but she mostly tries to stick close to home.

Dokka can be contacted at 541-240-9847

A Fresh Start is one of 12 business licenses the city of Pendleton issued in December 2017 and January 2018. Below are the rest of the business names, their physical or mailing address and their owner or contact person.

- Ram Jack West, 850 Bethel Drive, Eugene, Kenneth Marquardt
- Layne of Washington, P.O. Box 610, Pasco
- Associated Petroleum Products, 2320 Milwaukee Way, Tacoma, Washington
- OMG! Burgers & Brew, 241 S. Main St. Pendleton,

Kimberly Burt

- KC Custom Concrete, 214 S.W. 10th Street, Pendleton, Kenneth Williams
- InCyte Diagnostics, 3001 St. Anthony Way Suite 107, Spokane
- 1st Choice Restoration, 6250 W. Clearwater Ave. Suite 201, Kennewick
- Eagle Pipe & Mechanical, 54 Seven Sisters Road, Port Ludlow, Washington
- American Carpet Cleaning & Janitorial, 810 S.W. 16th Street, Pendleton, Fernando Ortiz
- We Paint, 423 S. Main St. APT 205, Pendleton, Jamie Stone
- Wagner Trees, 416 N.W. Fifth Street, Pendleton, Shayne Wagner

BRIEFLY

Walla Walla VA hospital welcomes interim director

WALLA WALLA — An acting director was recently introduced at Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla.

Chad Adams, who began his role as interim director Jan. 15, comes to the Walla Walla facility from the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System, where he served as assistant director of outpatient clinics and planning. His veterans administration career began in 1994 at the Miami VA Medical Center as a kinesiotherapist.

His responsibilities will include oversight of services through the medical center, including community-based outpatient clinics in La Grande, Yakima, Richland and Lewiston, Idaho; tele-health outreach clinics in Boardman and Enterprise; a contracted community clinic in Grangeville, Idaho; and a home-based primary care program.

For more information, contact Linda Wondra, public affairs officer, at 509-525-5200, linda.wondra@va.gov or visit www.wallawalla.va.gov.



Adams

Feb. 26 to ensure there’s enough food and seating. For more information or to register, contact 541-676-5536 or heppnerchamber@centurytel.net.

Banker returns to Baker Boyer as vice president

WALLA WALLA — Ted Cohan recently rejoined Baker Boyer as vice president/senior portfolio manager.

After serving four years as executive director of business services at the Walla Walla School District, Cohan returned to the bank where he previously worked for 14 years on the asset management team. In his new role, Cohan will be responsible for the management of individual and retirement accounts as well as researching and choosing the right investments for clients.

A community bank based in Walla Walla, Baker Boyer also has a branch in Milton-Freewater. For more information, visit www.bakerboyer.com.



Cohan

Ram trucks recalled to fix problem with gear shifters

DETROIT (AP) — Fiat Chrysler is recalling about 229,000 Ram trucks, mostly in North America, because they can be shifted out of park without a key in the ignition or a foot on the brake.

The recall covers certain 1500, 2500 and 3500 pickups. Also included are 3500, 4500 and 5500 Chassis Cab trucks. All are from 2017 and 2018 and have steering column shifters.

U.S. government documents say if the brake pedal is pushed for a long time when the trucks are running and in park, the brake-shift interlock pin can become lodged in an open position, increasing the risk of an unintended rollaway.

Fiat Chrysler says it’s not aware of any crashes or injuries related to this recall.

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H6008P

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H5817P

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H5383PC

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\$15,479

H6010P

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Crew Cab, Lifted, Must See!



\$15,944

H7962B

2008 FORD F550 4X4

Diesel, Auto, Flatbed



\$16,924

H6004TA

2017 MAZDA 6

4 Cyl, Auto, 27k Miles, Leather



\$20,788

H6009B

2015 CHEVY CAMARO

V6, 6 Spd



\$20,989

H6040P

2013 FORD EXPEDITION EL 4X4

Fully Equipped!



\$20,999

H8033AB

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THE COST FOR THIS SERIES OF 4 FORUMS IS \$15 PER PERSON, \$25 PER COUPLE OR \$5 PER FORUM AT THE DOOR - STUDENTS ARE FREE

For more information about the EO Forum, please contact: Karen Parker at 541-966-3177.

The EO Forum is a collaborative effort among leaders from the Blue Mountain Community College. InterMountain Education Service District; the East Oregonian; American Association of University Women; and Harriet Isom, a former United States ambassador who also serves on the committee. This EO Forum program is offered as part of Blue Mountain Community College's annual Arts and Culture Festival. For more information on the festival go to www.bluecc.edu.