

WOEC board considers merger and rate increases

By Jim Buxton

A meeting last week of the boards of directors and general managers of West Oregon Electric Cooperative and the Clatskanie, Tillamook and Columbia River Peoples' Utility Districts was termed "strictly informational" concerning the future of WOEC.

Whether the Cooperative will continue on its own, be bought out, or merge with one or more of the adjoining utilities will eventually be determined, but not until an objective feasibility study has been undertaken, a spokesman said.

In the meantime, there was some good news as the Coop continues to deal with its burgeoning financial problems. After severe damage caused by back-to-back storms this winter, the utility applied for a \$300,000 disaster grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration. Though it won't receive that amount, word has been received that a sum estimated to be in the \$75-\$95,000 range has been approved.

Consulting Engineer Rex Brown submitted his latest cost of service study and retail rate analysis to the WOEC board at their April 17 meeting.

He presented two rate increase proposals, one of which will likely be implemented July 1, 1990, and be operative until September 30, 1991, when it is anticipated the Bonneville Power Administration will increase wholesale power rates.

One proposal would be an increase in the facilities (basic) charge to \$25 a month, which would include the first 200 kilowatt hours of electricity used each month. The rate for the next 1300 KWH would be 6.8 cents per unit with all usage above 1500 KWH billed at 6¢ per KWH. This proposal would include a 1.5% discount for prompt payment.

The second proposal also calls for a \$25 monthly service charge, with the first 1,500 hours billed at 5.3¢ per KWH, and a 5¢ KWH rate for all power used above 1500 hours. Under this proposal,

WOEC RATE COMPARISON CHART*

KWH Used	Current Rate	Proposal No. 1**	\$ Inc-rease	Proposal No. 2	\$ Inc-rease
500	41.60	45.40	3.80	52.50	10.90
750	55.15	62.40	7.25	66.25	11.10
1,000	68.70	79.40	10.70	80.00	11.30
1,250	82.25	96.40	14.15	93.75	11.50
1,500	95.80	113.40	17.60	107.50	11.70
2,000	120.30	143.40	23.10	132.50	12.20
3,000	169.30	203.40	34.10	182.50	13.20
5,000	267.30	323.40	56.10	282.50	15.20

* Monthly residential rates.

**Does not include discount of 1.5% for prompt payment.

no power is included in the basic rate and there is no discount for prompt payment.

The residential facilities charge is now \$14.50 per month. Power costs 5.42¢ per KWH for the first 1500 hours; beyond that amount, the charge is 4.9¢ KWH.

A hypothetical ratepayer using an average of 1200 KWH per month would find little difference in the costs of the two proposals.

Under the first proposal he would pay the \$25 basic

charge, which includes the first 200 kilowatt hours, the remaining kilowatts would be charged at 6.8¢ per unit, or \$68.00, for a combined \$93.00. If he then paid the bill promptly, he would receive a 1.5% discount of \$1.40 for a total of \$91.60.

Under proposal two, he would pay the \$25 basic charge and 5.5¢ per KWH for 1200 kilowatt hours, or \$66, for a combined total of \$91.00.

The current combined res-

idential rate totals \$79.54 for 1200 KWH.

Overall, the first proposal would be better for low end users, the second would benefit those who use larger amounts of electrical power.

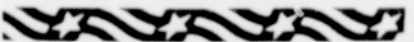
Changes are also under consideration for irrigation, large and small commercial users, and public street lighting. Copies of the report are available at WOEC during office hours.

The Coop's rate committee will review the proposals tonight, April 25 at 7 p.m. They will then discuss their conclusions with the board of directors in a special meeting sometime next month.

A rate hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. in the WOEC board room.

Jamboree theme

The theme for this year's Friendship Jamboree, in anticipation of next year's centennial, will be "Catch the Spirit for 91."



HEARTHSIDE REAL ESTATE, INC.

1803 NE Cornell Rd, Hillsboro, 97124

TOLL FREE 800-825-6805

TOM STRAND (503) 429-4300

Whatever your needs,
check with us first!

If you want results, call Tom.

• INVESTMENT HOMES • STARTER HOMES • RETIREMENT HOMES

- 2 BR home on 6 lots. Needs some TLC, great investment.....\$ 26,500
- 2 BR home on corner lot. Concrete foundation, approx. 1100 sq. ft.....\$ 33,000
- 3 BR home with large shop, fenced. Great investment, assume contract.....\$ 37,500
- 2 BR, 2 story home on double lot. Large rec. room. Home is completely updated...\$ 49,500

- 2 BR home on 55'x150' lot. Concrete foundation, near schools and shopping.....\$24,500
- 2 BR home, remodeled. Ready for you to move in.....\$ 27,500
- 3 BR, 2 story home, completely updated. This home is a real charmer.....\$ 44,900
- 3 BR, 2 story home on corner lot. Located close to shopping.....\$ 46,900



Tom Strand

We Need More Listings!