

# WOEC remains with BPA; future unsure

By Jim Buxton

West Oregon Electric Cooperative has always purchased its power from the Bonneville Power Administration. Until recently there has been no reason to even consider doing otherwise. But with escalating power costs, potentially expensive problems with dams, river flows and salmon, along with perceived inefficiency at BPA, the cooperative's board of directors has been considering purchasing power from other providers such as B.C. Hydro or Portland General Electric Company.

Tuesday, at its regular monthly board meeting, the directors met with WOEC attorney, Chuck Fadeley, in a closed door executive session. After the public session reconvened, Manager David Seuss and Director Hess announced that WOEC would continue to purchase its power from BPA, at least for the next couple of years. There are "too many unknowns to make a prudent decision otherwise," said Seuss.

In other news concerning BPA, Don Amundsen, the cooperative's office manager, told the board he discovered that WOEC has been overcharged for electricity by BPA on a somewhat regular basis. Just as WOEC meters the electricity that enters our homes, BPA meters the electricity that enters WOEC substations. There are several different places where WOEC receives its power from BPA and each of these is metered. Unlike our homes, where only the amount of electricity used is metered, BPA also meters "demand" or peak usage. The demand meter's needle sticks in the highest position reached during the month

and is reset by the meter reader.

If there is a major outage, or if COOP linemen are working on the lines, and the load is switched from one substation to another, BPA's demand meters are activated at each substation for the same power demand.

BPA adds the demands from all substations together when computing WOEC's bill. WOEC is supposed to notify BPA when it switches loads,

but BPA doesn't always issue the proper credits, Amundsen said.

He also discovered that BPA occasionally "estimates" WOEC's power consumption when BPA's equipment fails. Amundsen has forwarded ten years of COOP power records to BPA, pointing out places where there are problems. BPA has already agreed to issue refunds for some of the more recent mischarges.

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## Community Calendar

DEC	JAN	FEB
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

VERNONIA	MIST-BIRKENFELD	COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)
Adult & Family Services 2nd Thursday 1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.	Vernonia Planning Comm. 1st & 3rd Thursdays 7:00 p.m., City Library	Board of Commissioners Wednesdays 10 a.m., Courthouse
AFS 1st Wednesday 7:30 p.m., VHS Library	Vernonia Preschool Directors 1st Tuesday 7 p.m., Sunset Park Church	Citizens for Senior Justice 2nd Tuesday 7 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays 8 p.m., 1st Baptist Church	Vernonia Rural Fire District 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Fire Station	COLCO Transportation 2nd Friday 10:30 a.m., Courthouse
Alcoholics Anonymous Mon. & Thurs. 7 p.m., 64975 Neh. Hwy. N., 429-6063	Vernonia School District 2nd Thursday 8 p.m., School District Office	County Council of Seniors 2nd Friday 1:00 p.m., Courthouse
American Cancer Society 2nd Wednesday 12:30 p.m., Golf Course	Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters 2nd Monday 7 p.m., Fire Station	Columbia ESD 3rd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., 800 Port Ave.
AWANA Clubs Wednesdays 7-8:30 p.m., Evangelical Church	WOEC Directors 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m., WOEC	County Fair Board 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds
Boosters 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., VHS Library		County Parks Commission 2nd Wednesday 7 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Boy Scouts Wednesdays 7:00 p.m., LDS Church		Emergency Comm. Dist. 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m., Courthouse
Chamber of Commerce 2nd Wednesday 7:30 a.m., Country Kitchen		Historical Society 4th Wednesday Noon, location call 429-3713
Cub Scouts Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., WGS Gym		Traffic Safety Commission 1st Wednesday 7 a.m., Village Inn
Girl Scouts Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church		
Izaak Walton League 3rd Wednesday For location call 429-7193		
Jamboree Committee 1st Wednesday 7 p.m., VHS library		
Lions Club 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Lew's Place		
MTC Training & Placement 2nd Thursday 1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.		
Nehalem Valley Car Club 1st Tuesday 7 p.m., Crazy Charlie'		
Oregon State Employ. Dept. 2nd Thursday 1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.		
Preschool Story Hour Wednesdays 10:30 a.m., City Library		
Ridge Riders Saddle Club Last Tuesday 7:30 p.m., City Library		
Senior Center Directors 1st Friday 1 p.m., Senior Center		
Senior & Disabled Services 2nd Thursday 1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc.		
TOPS Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., 627 Adams		
Vernonia Cares Directors 2nd Thursday* 7:30 p.m., 627 Adams		
Vernonia City Council 1st & 3rd Mondays 7:30 p.m., City Library		
Vernonia Grange 2nd Saturday 10:00 a.m., Grange Hall		

\*January, April, July & October only  
Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410, or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 1206 State Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064.