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Suit against BPA for pact with WOEC

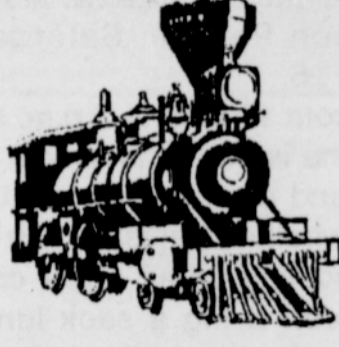
By Jim Buxton
 Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is being sued over the power sales contract it recently negotiated with West Oregon Electric Cooperative, WOEC's board of directors were told last week.
 According to WOEC's attorney, Charles Fadeley, the Utility Reform Project and Kathy Weaver have sued BPA for the following reasons:

- Selling power to WOEC at a "reduced rate" reduces BPA's revenue, thereby reducing its ability to fund fish mitigation.
 - Weaver, a PGE customer, will be affected by BPA action because it will have less money to fund the residential exchange, so her rate will increase.
 - Because WOEC is being charged less for power, incentives to conserve will be discouraged.
- The plaintiffs also allege that, for a few technical reasons, BPA lacks the authority to enter into such a contract.
 According to Fadeley, BPA is sure of its legal authority, sees this as a test case, and plans "to contest it vigorously".
 Weaver is no stranger to WOEC. She was a professional advocate for power issues in Columbia County at the time George Smith was WOEC manager. She helped WOEC members organize to change the bylaws and open board meetings to members. Until that time, WOEC board meetings had been held in secret.
 In other business, the board voted to fund the proposed Distribution Automa-

tion System. The system will have a computer in the office connected to all substations and to 50 monitors elsewhere on the power system. The computer will allow load monitoring and switching from the office, allowing speedier isolation of faults during power outages.
 The Load Management portion of the original proposal will not be funded or implemented. That will result in a savings of approximately \$90 per meter in capital investment. The amount voted for the part that will be implemented is \$446,882. RUS (the former REA) wanted to issue loan funds for a partial system including only one substation. WOEC will submit a modified work plan in an attempt to get RUS to agree to the present plan.
 Officer Manager Don Amundson reported that some expenditures are over budget and others are under, resulting in net expenditures of \$120,754 under budget, so far this year.

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Community Calendar

| AUG | SEPT | OCT |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 2 3 4 5 | 1 2 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 |
| 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 | 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 |
| 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 | 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 |
| 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 | 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 | 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 |
| 27 28 29 30 31 | 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 | 29 30 31 |

| VERNONIA | MIST-BIRKENFELD | COLUMBIA COUNTY |
|---|---|--|
| Adult & Family Services 2nd Thursday 1-2:00 p.m., School District Ofc. | Mist-Birkenfeld Fire Bd. 2nd Tuesday 7:30 p.m., Main Fire Station | Citizens of Commissioners Wednesdays 10 a.m., Courthouse |
| AFS 1st Wednesday 7:30 p.m., VHS Library | M-B Firefighters Assoc. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays 7 p.m., Main Fire Station | County Council of Seniors 2nd Friday 1:00 p.m., Courthouse |
| Alcoholics Anonymous Fridays 8 p.m., 1st Baptist Church | M-B Ambulance Assoc. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Thursdays 7 p.m., Main Fire Station | Columbia ESD 3rd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., 800 Port Ave. |
| American Cancer Society 2nd Wednesday 12:30 p.m., Golf Course Boosters | Natal Grange 2nd Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Grange Hall | County Fair Board 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7 p.m., 4-H Bldg., Fairgrounds |
| 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 |
| Boy Scout Parents 4th Thursday 8-9:00 p.m. WGS Cafeteria | | Historical Society 4th Wednesday Noon, location call 429-3713 |
| Chamber of Commerce 2nd Wednesday 7:30 a.m., Country Kitchen | | Traffic Safety Commission 1st Wednesday 7 a.m., Village Inn |
| Community Center Project 2nd Wednesday 6 p.m., School District Ofc. | | |
| Cub Scouts Tuesdays 7:00 p.m., WGS Gym | | |
| Girl Scouts Thursdays 6:30-8 p.m., Christian Church | | |
| Izaak Walton League 3rd Wednesday For location call 429-7193 | | |
| Jamboree Committee 1st Tuesday 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 Thursday 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. | | |
| Society of Arts & Crafts 2nd Thursday City Library, 429-7605 for time | | |
| 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 7:00 p.m., City Library | | |
| Vernonia Grange 2nd Saturday 10:00 a.m., Grange Hall | | |
| Vernonia Preschool Directors 1st Tuesday 7 p.m., 627 Adams | | |

*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.