

WOEC negotiating lower wholesale rate from BPA

By Jim Buxton

West Oregon Electric Co-operative board of directors has agreed in principle to a new power sales contract with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The action took place last night during the regular August board meeting, after the directors met behind closed doors with WOEC corporate attorney Charles Fadeley.

Before the vote, Director David Hess, a member of the

board's Power Supply sub-committee, described the process to members present at the meeting.

According to Hess, WOEC had broken ground last year by successfully negotiating a unique contract with BPA, providing stable rates for WOEC members.

The contract is no longer unique, however, since other utilities have followed suit, negotiating even lower rates from BPA. Now WOEC and

BPA are about to agree to a better deal for WOEC.

Elements of the new agreement include:

- Reduction in the wholesale power cost to WOEC, to 2.463 cents per kilowatt-hour, starting in September.

- Elimination of built-in 2.75 percent rate increases, as in the present contract.

- No demand charge.
- Extension of the contract to 2001.

- WOEC must purchase power exclusively from BPA, except...

- Option to purchase power from other suppliers for customers who draw over 10 megawatts.

- WOEC will not be required to pay "stranded costs" if it does not continue to purchase power from BPA in the future.

- No change in the conservation plan.

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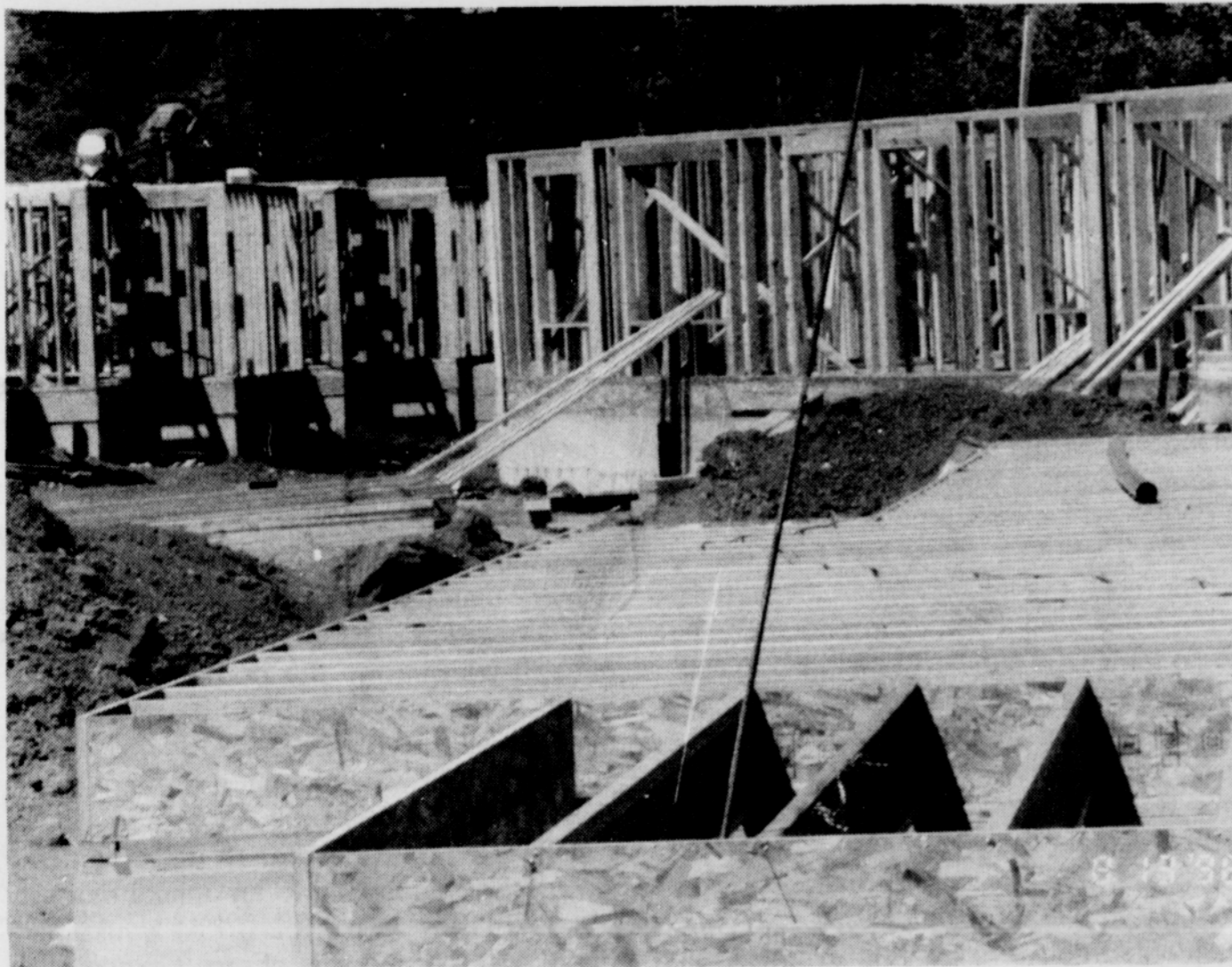
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Rising from its nesting place against the base of OA Hill, the Blue Heron Hollow condominium/apartment project is rapidly taking shape. The complex will have six two-story units providing 26 one, two and three bedroom dwellings. The Community Action Team project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year, according to CAT representative Jim Tierney. Applications for occupancy are not available at this time; complete details will be available for prospective tenants within a couple of months.

Courthouse security measures

The Columbia County Courthouse has begun to institute building security measures. Recently posted signs at the entrances to the courthouse warn persons not to bring weapons or hazardous substances into the building. These include guns, mace, pepper spray or the following described knives: "Any knife having a blade that projects or swings into position by force of a spring or by centrifugal force and commonly known as a switchblade knife, any dirk, dagger, ice pick, slung shot, metal knuckles, or any similar instrument by the use of which injury could be inflicted upon the person or property of any other person."

A person who brings a firearm into the courthouse is in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes.

Anyone appearing in court who wishes to present a weapon as evidence in a criminal proceeding may turn it in to the Sheriff's Office, in the basement of the court-

house. Anyone else who comes to the courthouse with a weapon should secure the weapon in the trunk of their vehicle.

Additional security measures are being planned for implementation at a later date.

Filing time extended

Vernonia residents wishing to file for election as either a City Council member or Mayor may continue to do so until August 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Monday night, the Vernonia City Council extended the

time for filing from the previously announced July 29 to August 26, after it was brought to their attention that the early closing date could unnecessarily prevent potential candidates from taking out nomination papers.

Million-dollar road levy will be on ballot

A two-year, \$1 million serial levy will be on the September 17 ballot to fund Columbia County road repairs and maintenance.

The levy is intended to help levy road work that the county has been unable to do because of the massive damage caused by February flood. The flood damage has taken precedence, by necessity, but much more work is needed.

While much of the flood-related damage will be covered by federal agencies, the county estimates that its por-

tion of the cost will exceed \$400,000. In addition, the road department has been falling steadily behind in its maintenance schedule because of inadequate revenues.

Simply put, road usage has increased at a more rapid pace than road department revenues.

The serial levy, which would generate \$500,000 per year for two years, is expected to cost 20.5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

City sets public meeting about hazard mitigation

The Hazard Mitigation Committee has identified

Good news: City grant is approved

The City of Vernonia received good news with approval of their grant requested for a thorough feasibility study of a "Vernonia building" that can combine city offices, police department, library, courtroom, visitor information center and more.

In addition to approving the \$47,500 grant, the Northwest Oregon Economic Alliance also agreed to hold a \$37,500 grant previously awarded to the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce so it can be used to help with the Vernonia building after the design phase is complete.

Even more exciting to city officials, was a request by NOEA that the city return in the fall to seek construction funds. City Administrator Vergie Ries has assured the council that the grant request will be ready.

goals to be incorporated in the mitigation plan. Some of the goals are to:

- Encourage growth out of the floodway and flood plain.
- Raise structures determined to be substantially damaged.
- Acquire greenway by buying out structures substantially damaged
- Expand Urban Growth Boundary out of flood plain.
- Diligently adhere to flood plain development regulations.

These goals will affect everyone living, or owning property, in the flood plain and may affect many others.

For that reason, the first public informational meeting on hazard mitigation within the City of Vernonia will be held August 27, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., in the Fire Hall meeting room.

The meeting has been set to answer questions about mitigation requirements and to provide residents with the opportunity to make suggestions.