

## It's Motorcycle Safety Month

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Drivers:

- Remember, motorcycles are vehicles with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width – never try to share a lane.

- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic.

- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. Don't tailgate.

Motorcyclists:

- Always wear a helmet and highly visible, protective clothing.

- Allow time and space to react to other motorists or changing road conditions.

- Always signal your intentions.

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## Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer, General Manager,  
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



### We Need Your Support

Like most consumer-owned, non-profit utilities, West Oregon Electric Cooperative purchases some or all of their electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Recently, Energy Secretary Steven Chu issued a memorandum outlining potential changes to BPA operations in an effort

to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

The changes outlined by the Department of Energy are unnecessary for our region; do not recognize the accomplishments that BPA has already achieved through existing programs; and would likely lead to higher electric rates for our customers.

With the help of BPA, the Pacific Northwest leads the nation in using renewable sources of power and in saving energy. In fact, BPA has a higher percentage of wind power on its transmission system than any other part of the country. And, Northwest citizens have saved an average of 5,000 megawatts of electricity – enough to power four cities the size of Seattle – through energy conservation and efficiency programs since 1980. All of these efforts continue to grow at the regional level.

BPA is successful because it works together with utilities, tribes and other regional stakeholders on initiatives like these. We don't need Washington, D.C., making the decisions about what works best for the Northwest without input from our customers.

If the Department of Energy moves forward, BPA likely will increase electric rates across the region to implement these recommendations, which no one wants. Please take a minute to copy the message below, and e-mail or mail it to Secretary Chu at the Department of Energy by Tuesday, May 29. Thank you!

E-MAIL: the.secretary@hq.doe.gov  
MAIL: Secretary Steven Chu  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

### Sample Message:

May 2012

Secretary Steven Chu  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

My utility purchases electricity from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). I recently learned that the U.S. Department of Energy is proposing changes to BPA that would result in higher electric rates for my utility, and therefore my family and community.

I understand that your agency is trying to increase the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency with these changes. However, the Northwest already leads the nation in saving energy and using renewables and should be recognized for the successes it has had in these areas.

After 75 years serving Northwest utilities, BPA is successful because it works together with its customers to make decisions impacting electric rates that we have to pay. This process is one reason why my community continues to have access to low-cost, clean energy. Please don't make decisions on our behalf without talking to the people, like me, who will be affected by higher electric rates.

Thank you for listening to my concerns. I would appreciate hearing a response from your office about this matter of importance to my family.

Sincerely,  
Your Name  
Address  
City State and Zip  
Telephone and Email

## \$1 million challenge met to help build new school

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traordinary grant to leverage even more support for our town."

With the support from The Ford Family Foundation, the campaign has secured \$37 million in funding and long-term financing toward the \$40 million dollars needed to replace all of Vernonia's schools at once. The total includes a \$13 million bond that district residents overwhelmingly passed in 2009, a 2010 FEMA waiver allowing the district and city to access \$11.2 million, and numerous grants and contributions from public sector and philanthropic organizations, businesses and individuals from all across Oregon who

have stepped up to fill the gap and get the town back on its feet.

"This Vernonia project tells the story of who we are as Oregonians," said Norm Smith, president of the Roseburg-based foundation. "When we stand together, we can bridge what many see as urban and rural divides, and create a new model for rural sustainability, multi-use design and partnerships with higher education institutions to create economic and community opportunities. It's an exceptional story, we are proud to be a partner and we hope others will join us as supporters to take it over the finish line."

Ninety percent of construc-

tion is complete, and the school and community center is on track to open in September. The Catalyst campaign committee is pursuing the balance of funds needed through public sector and private philanthropic sources, and is working diligently to continue the momentum and reach the finish line.

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