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OUR MISSION

Serving as the voice of the Columbia Basin Project – advocating for completion and sustainable maintenance.



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POWER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT

By Christina Wyatt, Manager of Power Supply & System Planning, Big Bend Electric Cooperative

At the most basic level, electric power in the northwest is generated by the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, along with a few other facilities. This energy is transported by a network of high voltage transmission lines to local substations, then along distribution lines by your local power company to homes, businesses and farms. This is the same infrastructure required for the new pumping plants under consideration for the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP).

When a new electric service request is received by an electric company, that company evaluates its existing electric system to determine if they

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"Power Infrastructure for the Columbia Basin Project" continued from page 1

are physically able to serve the requested load. The demand of the facility, which represents the largest electrical need at one time, and the location, are the most important pieces of information required for this analysis. Most often, this process is informal and cursory for a small business or home. However, a larger request will be reviewed by the company's system engineer to determine the ability to provide adequate voltage to the new load. If the existing system is not large enough to support the load, upgrades would be required.



These upgrades might consist of larger wires to be installed, the system voltage to be increased, the distribution system to be re-configured, a substation to be constructed and/or transmission work to be completed.

As the OGWRP individual pumping plans are being contemplated, both the required horsepower of the plant and its location are important. Just as important, are the locations and deep-well horsepower which will be eliminated when the surface water is distributed. If retired deep well pumps are on the same electrical circuit as the new pumping plant and represent an equal offset to overall horsepower, fewer upgrades are more likely. Conversely, if the location is far away (electrically) from an existing substation, or requires a very large amount of horsepower, the amount of required upgrades increases. The

number of deep well pumps being retired may not represent enough in horsepower to offset the new pumping plant. This may also be due to the location of the deep wells in respect to the location of the pumping plant along the canal.

After the size and location of the pumping plant and the required electric system upgrades are determined, time is necessary to implement the work. Depending on the system upgrades required – distribution or substation/transmission – the planning and construction process could take anywhere from a couple of years to more than eight years. Substation and transmission projects require coordination with Bonneville Power Administration, the state and the county for technical and environmental reviews. Alternatively, if the pumping plant is a gravity system, there are minimal electrical

requirements. This type of facility, if located in close proximity to distribution lines, could be connected with less lead time by the electric company.

There are also contractual issues that must be addressed. Some of the generation produced by the Bureau of Reclamation is designated for the use of the irrigation project. This is known as 'Reserve Power'. Big Bend Electric Cooperative is working with federal agencies and the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District on contract language that insures this preferential treatment.

As we all work together to reduce pumping from the Odessa Aquifer, electrical needs are one more integral part of the big picture that are being factored into OGWRP planning and implementation.

2018 CONFERENCE & 54th ANNUAL MEETING

The Columbia Basin Project: Momentum in the Face of Challenge
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2018
ATEC, Big Bend Community College
Moses Lake, WA

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Registration/Check-in	9:00 AM
Welcome	9:45 AM
Lunch, Annual Meeting & Awards	Noon
Safe Journey Home	4:30 PM

REGISTRATION FEE:

Registration includes lunch

Members: \$75 (\$90 after Oct. 11)

Non-Members: \$100 (\$125 after Oct. 11)

AGENDA TO INCLUDE:

- Bureau of Reclamation Update
- View from the Canals - CBP Irrigation Districts Information and Updates
- Status of the Columbia River Treaty
- OGWRP Update
- Federal Issues & Election Projections
- State Issues & Advocacy Recap
- Power for Water: Meeting Infrastructure Needs

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AMERICA'S WATER INFRASTRUCTURE ACT OF 2018

By: Ian Lyle, Director of Government Relations | Water Strategies LLC

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is legislation historically passed by Congress every two years. This legislation largely focuses on water projects under the Army Corps of Engineers and includes navigation and flood control policies. Over the last few years this legislation has also included limited provisions that relate to the Bureau of Reclamation.

The most recent version of the 2018 WRDA bill, titled: "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018", was introduced late on September 10th. It includes Section 4301, which directs the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).

CONGRESS SET TO CONSIDER LEGISLATION THAT COULD PAVE THE WAY FOR NEW RECLAMATION FUNDING OPTION THROUGH WIFIA

WIFIA is a low interest loan program first authorized by Congress in 2014 that provides funding for up to 49 percent of an eligible project's costs. It allows for loans of up to 35 years, and loan repayment can be deferred for up to five years after substantial completion of the project. The interest rate for the loan is

set by the current U.S. Treasury rate, which has varied from 2.78 to 3.22 percent for 30-year loans this year.

For a project to qualify for a WIFIA loan it must be credit worthy and interested parties must pay an upfront application fee that helps fund the administration of the loan program. These fees can be somewhat costly, however for projects that are looking for another low interest funding avenue they can be worth the cost.

This legislation has yet to pass Congress. However, earlier versions of this legislation enjoyed broad bipartisan support. The U.S.

House of Representatives and the Senate are expected to vote on this legislation in the next few weeks, before both chambers break prior to the November elections. If the legislation is passed by both chambers and is signed by the President, the EPA and Reclamation will then have one year to work out an agreement on how the two agencies will work together to finance projects.

WIFIA is not a silver bullet that will solve every water infrastructure financing need, but it could be one more valuable tool that water users can look to as they work to develop the infrastructure our nation and its economy rely on.



Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Sen. John Barrasso (left) and committee ranking member Sen. Tom Carper (right), along with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Rep. Bill Shuster (not pictured) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (not pictured), announced agreement on America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. Photo courtesy of Anna MoneyMaker, The Hill.



CONGRESS ISSUES CONFERENCE REPORT ON ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

By: Mike Schwisow | Government Relations Director, Columbia Basin Development League

Each year, by October 1st, Congress must enact 12 appropriations bills to fund the operation of the Federal Government for the next fiscal year. When Congress fails to get the bills passed, Continuing Resolutions (CR's) are enacted to keep the government running until the final bills are enacted. Sometimes several CR's are necessary before final agreement is reached.

Majority Republicans are working hard this year to meet the October 1st deadline and have chosen to package 9 of the 12 appropriations bills into three "minibuses" or omnibus bills to facilitate the process moving forward. The Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill, which funds the Bureau of Reclamation operations and capital projects, is in the first "minibus" to move forward. Both House and Senate have passed their versions of Energy & Water Development along with the Legislative and Military Construction & Veterans bills. A Conference Committee made up of House and

Senate members has negotiated the difference and issued a Conference Report that is now ready to be voted on by the entire body. A Conference Committee made up of House and Senate members has negotiated the difference and issued a Conference Report that has been voted on by the entire body, passed, and sent to the President for final approval.

The Conference Report provides \$1.39 billion for Water & Related Resources. The amount funds the administration's budget request and provides an additional \$394.6 million in additional FY19 funding. This extra money is directed to fund projects in several different categorical areas. Since Congress may not direct funds through earmarks when additional funds are provided Reclamation chooses which projects to fund on a competitive basis in the various categories. Reclamation will have 45 days following enactment of the bill to identify projects that will be funded.

The Conference Report directs that priority be given to advance and complete ongoing work; improve water supply reliability; improve water deliveries; enhance national, regional or local economic development; promote job growth; or address critical backlog maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

The first \$750,000 in Federal funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) came in the 2018 Fiscal Year budget through this process. With improvements to the OGWRP benefit/cost ratio in place, OGWRP is now positioned to complete for a share of this additional funding. The Washington Congressional delegation, particularly Senators Murray and Cantwell and Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Newhouse, have played a critical role in achieving access to Federal funding for OGWRP.



INVESTING IN CONSERVATION IN SOUTH DISTRICT

By: John O'Callaghan | Assistant Manager, Technical Services, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (District) has long been interested in pumping water from the Esquatzel Diversion Canal (EDC) into the Pasco Pump Lateral (PPL). The EDC and the PPL cross each other just east of where the EDC returns project waste, seepage and return flows to the Columbia River. The PPL receives water from the tail end of the Potholes Canal, serving Block 1, and frequently would face water shortages during peak demand.

Taking advantage of Bonneville Power Administration's Energy Smart Reserve Power Program, the District received an incentive payment of \$1.52M to build a new pumping plant, called the PPL1.6 Pumping Plant. The District directly funded another \$3.51M for a total project cost of \$5.03M. The District contracted with RH2 Engineering to provide project management, design and construction management services. Apollo Inc. of Kennewick, Washington was the low bidder and construction began in January, 2017 and the plant was commissioned in October, 2017. There were numerous challenges encountered

during the design and construction of this project and the success thereof was largely due to the efforts of both RH2 and Apollo.

In order for the plant to receive project reserve power, the facilities design and construction had to be approved by the Bureau of Reclamation. Upon completion of the plant and associated facilities, facility title, or ownership, is transferred to Reclamation, which then transfers the operation and maintenance of the facilities back to the District.

The PPL1.6PP entered regular service in April, 2018 and provided about two-thirds of the demand in Block 1 during this first year of operation. As with any new large piece of operational infrastructure, a period of developing operational experience has been required. The District expects to deliver nearly all of the Block 1 irrigation demand, approximately 30,000-acre feet, via the new pumping plant beginning in 2019.

Benefits of this project include reducing the demand on the Potholes Canal thereby

...[IT'S] THE LARGEST WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT CONSTRUCTED ON THE COLUMBIA BASIN PROJECT TO DATE.

relieving conveyance pressure, reducing water diversions out of the Columbia River at Grand Coulee Dam, ensuring water supply for Block 1, and improving tail end water management during aquatic herbicide applications. It is worth noting that the PPL1.6PP is the largest water conservation project constructed on the Columbia Basin Project to date. Additionally, with large scale urbanization taking place in the Block 1 service area, the PPL1.6PP provides greater operational flexibility for an aged lateral system facing new requirements.

MODERNIZING THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

By Tom Myrum | Executive Director, Washington State Water Resources Association

Flood control on the Columbia River is vital to numerous industries in the Basin including irrigation. The Columbia River Treaty (CRT) contains the agreed-upon rules for holding back or passing through significant floodwaters to avoid damage along the River. After several years of preparation, negotiations between the United States and Canada began in May of this year to address the future of flood control and other issues represented by the Treaty.

The second round of negotiations on the modernization of the CRT took place in Nelson, BC in August. The third round is scheduled for October 17th and 18th in Portland, OR. U.S. State Department Columbia River Treaty lead negotiator Jill Smail recently stated at a town hall meeting in Portland, OR that, "this is a very exciting time to be working on the treaty. People here in the Northwest have anticipated and planned for this for many years." Ms. Smail added, "the Northwest is a pillar of the US economy and millions of people depend on flood risk management to protect their lives, property and businesses."

Representatives from the Washington State irrigation community and the Columbia Basin Project have participated intensively for several years to shape the State Department's positions on important issues related to flood control as Lake Roosevelt plays a central role in flood risk management on the United States side of the border. It is imperative that a modernized treaty have no detrimental impact to Grand Coulee Dam operations, Lake Roosevelt water levels or the ability of the Columbia Basin Project to pump water through the John Keys pumping



plant into Banks Lake. The Keys pumping plant cannot pump water to Banks Lake below the 1208-foot lake elevation.

For 50 years, the process for coming to an annual agreed-upon "assured storage plan" will come to an end in 2024. The State Department has indicated that it hopes to have an updated agreement on flood control (and other issues) within two years of the beginning of negotiations which kicked off in May. If no agreement is reached on modernized flood control procedures by 2024 the process for coming to agreed-upon flood control will occur on an annual basis in what the treaty calls "called upon"

storage. This annual process could lead to great uncertainty regarding how river flows are managed for flood control and power generation and the associated cost to the United States and its stakeholders for assuring this storage.

Irrigation representatives from the Northwest, including the Columbia Basin Project, will meet with the regional delegation staff and agency representatives when we travel to Washington, D.C. in early October. We will continue to advocate in the best interests of the Columbia Basin Project and irrigation districts statewide for an effective and reasonable modernized Treaty.

A VIEW FROM EAST COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

- The District is negotiating a Renewal Master Water Service Contract (MWSC) and has provided corresponding information to landowners. Negotiation sessions were held in July 2017, May 2018, July 2018, and August 2018. To reiterate the importance, new contract authority for the additional 70,000 acres of the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program (OGWRP) must be obtained from Reclamation for the District to be able to offer new contracts to eligible delivery system landowners. Progress is being made toward this objective, and design work may proceed concurrently, if desired. East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) is expecting MWSC contract to be signed before the end of 2018.
- ECBID strives to emphasize that the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program is an aquifer rescue mission, rather than a full Columbia Basin Project (CBP) development program. It doesn't contemplate all CBP development issues. However, it is a first-step, phased approach toward a solution for the failing aquifer.
- The \$10 million state grant award agreement, resulting from allocated funds from the Office of Columbia River's 2017-2019 capital budget, was completed for orderly mainstem expansion of the East Low Canal; specifically, for Kansas Prairie 1 & 2 siphons, and several control gates. Bidding and construction work is anticipated to begin this fall. These funds are consistent with the enabling legislation and administered in accordance with specific direction by the Office of Columbia River (OCR) of the Department of Ecology. Despite differing opinions, funds will not be diverted to other functions or delivery systems.
- ECBID is designing and constructing the EL 47.5 system. This effort is being done concurrently with the development of other system designs. This project utilizes initial water availability by early groundwater replacement supplies. Municipal bond financing was secured by landowner water service contracts for EL 47.5. In turn, this enabled ECBID to design and build.
- Grant PUD is performing a comprehensive process to deal with future electrical needs, including rate-setting for cryptocurrency or "emerging industry" demands; to preserve advantages and priority for irrigation use in their service area in Grant County. Likewise, Big Bend Electric (BBEC) is performing review and seeking input from Bonneville Power Administration to supply electrical needs in Adams County. The District takes an active role in project development and has initiated electrical substation plans with BBEC to serve future plants.



SCADA MONITORING TRANSITION

By: Alexis Mills, Lead Operator, Hydraulic Engineer | Ephrata Field Office, Bureau of Reclamation

The Ephrata Field Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (EFO) maintains a 24/7 Irrigation Operations Center for the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) during the nine-month irrigation season using a combination of Canal and Reservoir Operators (Operators) and night Monitors (Monitors). Operators use the CBP Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to adjust flow rates in canals, respond to hydropower plant and pump plant outages, monitor canal levels, and manage the three CBP reservoirs. The Operator on duty is on call 24/7 to respond

Security Dispatchers already monitor security-related items at Grand Coulee Dam and Hungry Horse Dam 24/7 year-round. Because Grand Coulee Dam is part of the Columbia Basin Project, some of the infrastructure needed to transition these duties was already in place resulting in a relatively straightforward transition of the technological aspects.

The transition of night monitoring shifts to GCPO has taken place over three phases: (1) training, technical upgrades, and testing; (2) a "soft transition"; and (3) a "hard

and graveyard monitoring shifts to GCPO; first with a "soft transition", during which time EFO staff-maintained presence in EFO as backup Monitors with GCPO Security Dispatchers as primary Monitors, then a "hard transition", at which point GCPO Security Staff were sole Monitors of the CBP SCADA system during grave and swing shifts.

The roles and responsibilities of the Operator and Monitor positions have not changed, only the physical location of the person conducting the Monitoring duty. Operation of the CBP irrigation system remains in EFO. The Operator is still at EFO during the day seven days a week, performs nightly system checks, and is on call 24/7. Additionally, as of the 2018 water season, each Operator has a SCADA station at their residence to periodically check the system and verify alarms as they are reported by GCPO Security Dispatch.

In addition to daily communication between the EFO Operators and GCPO Monitors, quarterly face-to-face meetings occur between GCPO and EFO to review communication protocols, training needs, and budget status. EFO is projecting cost savings to the CBIDs because of the reduced staffing in EFO and GCPO staff charging only that time required to monitor the system.

This improvement to EFO's business practices was accomplished through close coordination and collaboration between the staff of the CBIDs, GCPO, and EFO. The EFO Operations and Technical Services will continue to work in collaboration with the CBIDs and GCPO to ensure safe and effective operation of the CBP.

THIS IMPROVEMENT OF EFO'S BUSINESS PRACTICES WAS ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH CLOSE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE STAFF OF COLUMBIA BASIN IRRIGATION DISTRICTS, GRAND COULEE POWER OFFICE, AND EPHRATA FIELD OFFICE.

to any incident in the CBP system. During swing and graveyard shifts, Monitors report to the Operator and/or Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts (CBIDs) immediately in the event of a critical alarm. Historically, both Operators and Monitors have been physically stationed at EFO.

Staffing the graveyard and swing shifts has been difficult in EFO. As a result, in 2017, EFO initiated discussions with the three (South, East, and Quincy) CBIDs to transition the graveyard and swing shift monitoring duties to the Grand Coulee Power Office (GCPO) Security Dispatchers. The GCPO

transition". Prior to the start of the 2018 water season, all GCPO staff had classroom training and were provided one-on-one support during the first few weeks the water season. The installation of a SCADA computer, phones, and the radio system at GCPO was completed by March 2018. The EFO SCADA team worked closely with the East CBID Communications shop to ensure full functionality of the new radio over internet protocol devices that provide radio communications between GCPO, EFO, and the CBIDs. Once CBID frequency license updates were obtained in August 2018, EFO transitioned the CBP irrigation system swing

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES!

In September, League representatives engaged in several outreach activities raising awareness and investment in the Columbia Basin Project.

League Board Trustees, John Moody, Alice Parker, and Dale Pomeroy represented the League at the annual Quincy Farmer Consumer Awareness Day (QFCAD) at an information booth with displays and handouts about the Columbia Basin Project and the role of the League. Since 1981, QFCAD event has given the public a firsthand look at what agriculture is all about, specifically within the Columbia Basin. The event demonstrates where groceries come from while providing opportunities for the public to talk with the farmers who grow them for a living. The result has been an event that links consumers to the source of their food and firmly credits agriculture with the economic vitality of the area.

Board members Orman Johnson and Matt Hawley along with Director of Government Relations, Mike Schwisow, and Assistant Director Sara Higgins responded to member requests for Columbia Basin Project updates with two briefings provided to CHS Sun Basin Growers and Lamb Weston. The group traveled to Connell and Kennewick to inform leadership at CHS and Lamb Weston of current Columbia Basin Project and Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP) developments.

If you represent a League business member, an opportunity may be available to brief your personnel, too. Let us know if you have interest. The League is currently planning 2019 outreach efforts.



League Trustee Alice Parker spent the day staffing the League's booth



League Trustee Dale Pomeroy educates attendees on the Columbia Basin Project



JOIN THE LEAGUE

There is great momentum with the Columbia Basin Project, but it isn't finished and access to Project water is a necessity for the economic vitality and sustainability of the PNW.

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Join the League: bit.ly/joinCBDL

Many will benefit if we succeed – agriculture, local businesses, recreation, municipalities, fish – many will lose if we don't.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE 54TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN:
November 1, 2018

WHERE:
Big Bend Community College, ATEC Building
Moses Lake, WA

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NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION 87TH CONFERENCE

WHEN:
November 7-9, 2018

WHERE:
Hotel del Coronado
Coronado, CA

WASHINGTON STATE WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION 73RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

WHEN:
December 5-7, 2018

WHERE:
Davenport Hotel
Spokane, WA

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

THE KEY IS NOT TO PRIORITIZE WHAT'S ON YOUR SCHEDULE, BUT TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRIORITIES.

—Stephen Covey, writer and educator

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Carnosi LLC
Carpenter McGuire & DeWulf PS
Cecelia Quirk
Cegnar Company
Central Bean Co
Central Bonded Collectors
City of Warden
Cloudview
Columbia Bank
Columbia Basin Machine Co., Inc.
D&D Gilbert Farms
Dan Piper Farm