

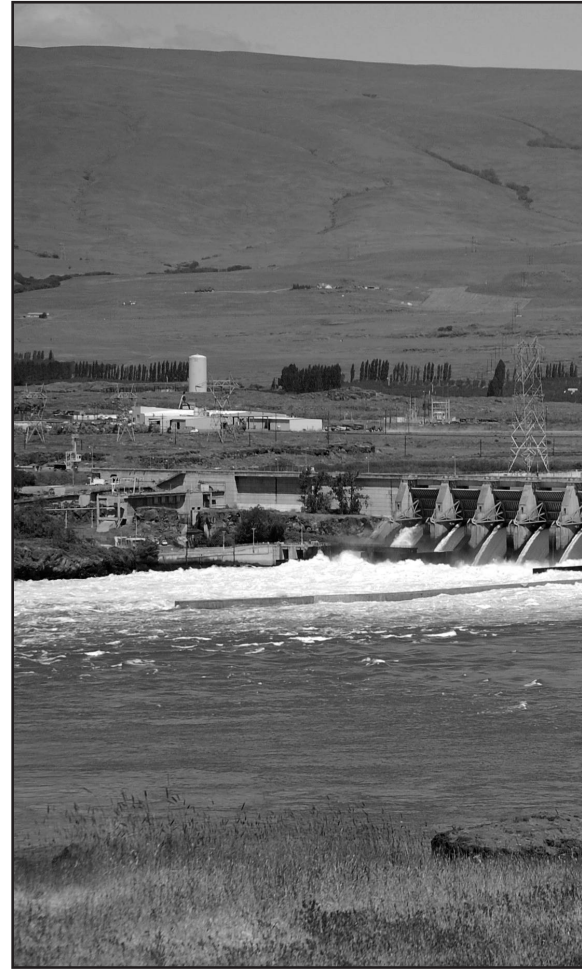
# More of a Good Thing

*NWCPUD proposes new low-impact hydroelectric project to increase utility's power production*

The Northern Wasco County PUD has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to develop a second hydroelectric generation project at The Dalles Dam. The new project would be built alongside another of the utility's generating resources, The Dalles Fishway Project.

The proposed facility has been named the "Freedom Project" in recognition of U.S. military veterans and patriots. "We wanted to dedicate it to those who have given so much," says Dwight Langer, NWCPUD General Manager.

Since the early 1980s, the PUD Board of Directors has been interested in developing cost-effective small hydro projects. The utility built The Dalles Fishway Project 21 years ago and partnered with Klickitat County PUD to complete the ten-megawatt McNary



Fishway Project in 1997.

The Freedom Project, like its sister generating facility The Dalles Fishway Project, is anticipated to have the capacity to generate five megawatt/hours of electricity—enough to power 1,000 to 1,500 homes per year. In comparison, the United States Army Corp of Engineers operates 23 units at The Dalles Dam, each capable of producing 70 megawatts/hour.

The power from the Freedom Project could be used directly by the utility's customer-owners or sold to offset increasing energy costs and help keep the PUD's rates affordable.

Like the Dalles Fishway Project, the Freedom Project would use attraction water from the dam's north fish ladder for power production. Water entering the system would be screened to prevent juvenile salmon or other small fish from entering the unit's turbine. The Dalles



**The Dalles Fishway Project on the north shore of The Dalles Dam has proved to be a good investment for NWCPUD. Revenue from the facility has helped insulate PUD customers from many of the rate hikes other utilities have passed on to their customers over the past two decades.**



The Dalles Dam, as seen from the Oregon shore of the Columbia River.

Fishway Project is a certified low impact hydro facility.

NWCPUD must obtain a federal license to build and operate the Freedom Project. In the next few months, the utility will hear whether its preliminary permit has been granted.

If so, the project will enter a three-year licensing phase which includes consultation with public, state and federal agencies, tribes and local interest groups that may be affected. In addition, NWCPUD will hold public hearings where area residents can learn about the project in detail and make comments.

“The Freedom Project is exactly the type of environmentally responsible project that the PUD has focused on and has invested resources to develop for the benefit of our customer-owners,” says Director Howard Gonser.

The electricity created would provide an affordable source of clean hydropower free from greenhouse gases or other emissions. The addition of the power generator would also further stabilize the PUD’s system so that residences and businesses receive a reliable supply of power.

“The district’s two existing hydro projects along with the new Freedom Project are investments in our community’s economic development—continuing with a long public power tradition of locally controlled, affordable, extremely competitive electric rates,” says Board President Milt Skov.

“When you look at those communities who have been successful in economic development and have a high quality of life,” says Director Dan Williams, “the common denominator is adequate supplies of energy at affordable prices.” ■

# NORTHERN WASCO COUNTY PUD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### August 1-6

#### Pacific Northwest 14U Babe Ruth Regional Baseball Tournament.

Cheer on area Babe Ruth baseball players as they face All Star teams from throughout the Pacific Northwest at Quinton Street Ballpark. Adult \$6.00, youth \$4.00.

For times and game details, check *The Dalles Chronicle*, call 541-993-2230 or e-mail [butchbrbb@embarqmail.com](mailto:butchbrbb@embarqmail.com).

### August 10-12

#### Cruise the Gorge Car Show.

Friday night, “Neon Cruise,” 7 p.m., Downtown The Dalles.

Saturday, “Show in the Shade” at Sorosis Park. Parade of Champions, 3 p.m.

Sunday, drag races, 10 a.m. at The Dalles Regional Airport in Dallesport.

For details, go to [midcolumbiacarclub.org](http://midcolumbiacarclub.org).

### August 11-12

#### Dufur Threshing Bee.

Celebrate the harvest at this annual event. Saturday, parade 10 a.m., tractor pull, 1 p.m. Antique horse-drawn equipment and threshing demonstrations. Steak feed, grange breakfast, classic car show, vendors, antique tractors and farming demonstrations.

For information, call 541-467-2205 or go to [dufurthreshingbee.org](http://dufurthreshingbee.org).

### August 15

#### Music in the Park.

Free concert featuring the R&B sounds of the David Gerald Band, 6 p.m. at The Dalles City Park, 5th and Union Streets.

For information, call 541-5296-2231.

### August 26

#### Fourth Sunday Concert Series.

Enjoy the old-time fiddle, gospel and honky tonk sounds of the Dufur Boys, 4 p.m., on the historic grounds of the Fort Dalles Museum, 500 West 15th and Garrison.

For information, go to [fortdallesmuseum.org](http://fortdallesmuseum.org).

### August 28

#### Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting.

6 p.m., 2345 River Rd., The Dalles.