



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD  
EMPLOYEE CUSTOMER & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

*Rely on us.*

TO: Commissioners Brown, Cunningham, Cassidy, Ernst and Farmer  
FROM: Debra Smith  
DATE: January 12, 2010  
SUBJECT: Memberships and Affiliations

---

## Issue Statement

At the January 5, 2010 Board Meeting, the Board had discussion around EWEB's involvement with the Northwest Energy Coalition (NEC). I agreed to provide an updated list of memberships and affiliations, including the 2010 budgeted funds. The purpose of this memo is to provide that information in support of a decision around continuing the NEC membership beyond June 30, 2010.

## Background /Discussion

EWEB is currently involved with the following trade and advocacy organizations that do work regarding regional and/or national power issues:

**American Public Power Association (APPA)** -- Advocates in Washington DC on matters of national interest and concern to Public Power and provides training and education for its member utilities. APPA is also a source for industry benchmark survey data. There is no formally designated EWEB Representative, but Board members and staff participate to varying degrees. The 2010 budget is \$42,000 and the projected expense is \$49,000 excluding conference fees and related travel (budgeted elsewhere).

**Centre for Energy Advancement through Technology Innovation (CEATI)** – User driver organization committed to providing technology solutions to its electric utility participants who are brought together to collaborate and act jointly to advance the industry through the sharing and developing of practical and applicable knowledge. Catrin van Donkelaar is EWEB's Representative. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$15,000.

**Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE)** -- A national organization that works with utilities, industry, manufacturers, and government regulators to promote energy efficient products and services. The EWEB representative is Bill Welch. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$2,700.

**National Hydropower Association (NHA)** – A national trade association dedicated exclusively to representing the interests of the hydropower industry. Its members span the breadth of the industry and all related fields. Gale Banry serves as EWEB's

Representative. Funds for this membership were cut from the 2010 budget although \$18,000 in membership dues was paid with unspent 2009 money.

**Northwest Energy Coalition (NEC)** -- An alliance of more than 100 organizations, utilities, and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and British Columbia. NEC works to promote development of renewable energy and energy conservation, consumer protection, low-income energy assistance, and fish and wildlife restoration on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Commissioner Ernst is EWEB's Representatives. No membership dues were budgeted for 2010.

**Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)** -- A private non-profit entity that contracts with BPA and others to promote conservation and energy efficiency throughout the region, focusing particularly on code enhancement, energy efficient appliances, and other market-based measures. Clay Norris is EWEB's representative. No membership dues were explicitly budgeted for 2010, but are largely covered by the program development and resource acquisition budgets.

**Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWhA)** -- Provides a regional voice for the hydropower industry. NWhA is dedicated to the promotion of the region's waterpower as a clean, efficient source of energy while protecting the fisheries and environmental quality, which characterize our Northwest region. Gale Banry (NWhA Board member) and Catrin van Donkelaar are EWEB's Representatives. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$1,000.

**Northwest Power Pool (NWPP)** -- An entity that coordinates technical aspects of utility generation and transmission system operation for planning and reliability purposes. NWPP also monitors regional loads and resources, reserve margins, and adherence to inter-utility operating protocols. Dean Ahlsten and Dan Bedbury are EWEB's representatives. The 2010 budget is \$66,000 and the projected expense is \$78,000 excluding related travel (budgeted elsewhere).

**Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA)** -- A regional organization of 160 public utilities of various governance structures in the western U.S. and Canada. The focus is on training and education, public information, communication, federal legislative coordination, surveys, data and networking opportunities and products and services for the utility industry. Commissioner Farmer serves on the NWPPA Board. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$30,000 excluding conference fees and related travel (budgeted elsewhere).

**Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC)** -- A utility forum consisting of representatives from the region's investor and publicly owned utilities, direct service industries, and BPA. PNUCC coordinates the development of regional electric load and resource forecasts and provides a forum for discussion of common issues relating to power supply, coordinated system operation, regional grid reliability, and other related matters. EWEB's designated representative is Clay Norris. Dick Varner serves as the alternate. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$16,000 excluding related travel.

**Public Generation Pool (PGP)** – Represents almost all of the Northwest public utilities who have significant generation. The primary focus is on Bonneville, regional and national issues which are of importance to generating utilities. Dick Varner is EWEB's primary representative with Clay Norris as the alternate. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$35,000.

**Public Power Council (PPC)** -- Represents Northwest Public Utilities on power supply contract and wholesale rate issues before the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and other regional entities. The EWEB representative is Clay Norris. The 2010 budget and projected expense is \$102,000 excluding related travel.

**Western Energy Coordinating Council (WECC)** -- Maintains and monitors reliability standards for the Western U.S. Serves as a technical resource to member utilities on matters concerning generation dispatch, grid interconnection and operating protocols, and serves as regional mechanism for implementation of FERC and NERC reliability standards. EWEB representatives are Jim Wiley, Dean Ahlsten, Richard Jeffryes, and Dave Churchman. The 2010 budget is \$1,100 although EWEB has paid as much as \$11,500 for dues in the past. During 2009, WECC made changes to their structure based on NERC issues.

**Western Energy Institute (WEI)** – A regional association with a mission to educate, develop skills and leadership, and facilitate information exchange and networking among employees of member companies. Debra Smith currently serves on the WEI Board and various staff members represent EWEB on different committees. The 2010 budget is \$6,000 and the projected expense is \$7,000 excluding conference fees and related travel expense (budgeted elsewhere).

## **Recommendation**

During the 2010 budget process, staff made reductions to several previously budgeted industry and/or trade groups. The staff recommendation was to drop the Northwest Energy Coalition membership effective July 1, 2010. In addition, several organizations have adjusted rate structures or incurred unexpected expenses resulting in a projected 2010 expense in excess of budget. Overall, EWEB's dues and memberships budget is tight for 2010; however if the Board chooses to maintain the membership in NEC, staff will reinstate the budget.

## **Requested Action**

Action is not required on this item at this time since NEC dues are paid through June 30, 2010. However, the item has been noticed for action if the Board chooses to provide direction on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Please call or email me with questions. Debra Smith @ [debra.smith@eweb.org](mailto:debra.smith@eweb.org) or (541) 685-7196.