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Rochelle Olson, Public Affairs Manager, 509-377-4728

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Michael Paoli, Public Affairs Supervisor, 509-377-4164

Pend Oreille County PUD Joins Energy Northwest, Membership Reaches 28

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest’s Board of Directors today voted unanimously to approve the membership application from Pend Oreille County Public Utility District. As a member of the public power agency, the PUD will have the opportunity to help shape Energy Northwest’s role in regional public power activities.

The new member brings the Energy Northwest membership to 28, including 23 public utility districts and five city municipal utilities. This is the largest membership in the almost 53-year history of the organization.

“Pend Oreille is a welcomed addition to the state’s public power consortium,” said Vic Parrish, Energy Northwest CEO. “Our strength, from inception, has been in working together to benefit Washington ratepayers, helping bring environmentally responsible solutions to the region’s energy challenges.”

Energy Northwest was formed as a joint operating agency in 1957 to provide low-cost power for its publicly owned utility members by aggregating needs and building power generation facilities to meet those needs. The agency produces power at the cost of production for its members and operates Columbia Generating Station, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, White Bluffs Solar Station and Nine Canyon Wind Project.

Each member utility has a seat on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors. The board meets quarterly and holds the authority to start and terminate major construction projects and approve membership applications.

“We are pleased to welcome Pend Oreille County PUD as our 28th member,” said Judy Ridge, Energy Northwest Board of Directors President. “Our growing membership demonstrates the importance of Energy Northwest in aggregating public power needs to provide clean and affordable electricity options in our region.”

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Pend Oreille County PUD is a consumer-owned and locally controlled electric and water utility in Pend Oreille County, Wash., serving approximately 8,500 electricity customers. Kenneth R. Hirsch, president of the Pend Oreille County PUD commission, will represent the utility on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors. Pend Oreille County Public Utility District – www.popud.com.

About Energy Northwest

Energy Northwest develops, owns and operates a diverse mix of electricity generating resources, including hydro, solar, and wind projects - and the Northwest's only nuclear power plant. These projects provide enough reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to power more than a million Washington homes each year, and that carbon-free electricity is provided at the cost of generation. As a Washington state joint operating agency, Energy Northwest comprises 28 public power member utilities from across the state serving more than 1.5 million ratepayers. The agency continually explores new generation projects to meet its members' needs. Energy Northwest – www.energy-northwest.com.

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