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Energy Northwest Executive Board Members Elected

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest’s board of directors today elected five of its members to serve a four-year term on the public power agency’s eleven-member executive board. The agency’s executive board is responsible for setting policy and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. The new term begins June 17.

The election began with 10 individuals vying for the board’s five elected positions. After one round of balloting, the following public power leaders were chosen to serve on the executive board: Dan Gunkel, Klickitat County Public Utility District; Jack Janda, Mason County 1 PUD; Will Purser, Clallam County PUD; Lori Sanders, Benton County PUD; and Kathy Vaughn, Snohomish County PUD. Gunkel, Janda and Vaughn are returning executive board members.

"A spirit of public service and community leadership surrounded today's elections," said Judy Ridge, board of directors president and Asotin County Public Utility District commissioner. "It's this spirit that makes public power an invaluable asset to the Pacific Northwest."

Speaking during the consortium’s quarterly board of directors meeting, Ridge said, "To those of you who were elected, you represent public power leadership in Washington state. Stay focused on the agency’s responsibility to aggregate public power resources to continue providing affordable, reliable power for the region’s ratepayers."

Energy Northwest’s board of directors has 28 members, one representative for each of the 23 public utility districts and five municipal utilities that comprise Energy Northwest. The board of directors has sole authority to authorize and terminate Energy Northwest projects. The executive board has 11 members; five elected from the board of directors, three appointed by the board of directors from outside Energy Northwest, and the remaining three appointed by the governor of Washington.

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.

(Please see the following pages for short bios of the elected executive board members.)

Biographies of Newly Elected Energy Northwest Executive Board Members:

DAN GUNKEL, commissioner, Klickitat County PUD Goldendale, Wash.

Dan Gunkel was elected commissioner of the Klickitat County Public Utility District in 1991 and currently serves as secretary of the commission board. He was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors that same year. In 1994, Commissioner Gunkel was elected to the Energy Northwest Executive Board. In April 2006, he was re-elected to serve another term on the executive board and was appointed chairman of the Energy Northwest Operations, Construction and Safety Committee in June 2006.

During his tenure as a commissioner, Mr. Gunkel has supported the PUD's policy of not cross-subsidizing irrigators with revenues from other energy consumers.

Commissioner Gunkel is also a co-owner and business manager of Gunkel Orchards, Inc.

JACK JANDA, commissioner, Mason County PUD 1 Shelton, Wash.

Jack Janda was elected to the Mason County Public Utility District 1 Board of Commissioners in 2001, and currently serves as president of the board. Commissioner Janda was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in January 2003. He was elected by the board of directors to serve on the executive board in January 2005. In April 2006, he was re-elected to serve another term on the executive board. In addition, he has served as secretary/treasurer, vice president and president of the Columbia Generating Station Participants Review Board.

While serving on the Mason PUD Commission, he has represented the utility on the Washington Public Utility District Association and has served on the WPUDA board as secretary/treasurer, vice president and president. Mr. Janda also served as first chair of the WPUDA Energy Committee in 2008.

Prior to his election, Commissioner Janda was employed with the Forest Service and retired after 32 years of government service. Commissioner Janda is a member of Mason County Fire District 1 and served as its chief for 10 years. Mr. Janda attended Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif., and the College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif.

WILL PURSER, commissioner, Clallam County PUD Sequim, Wash.

Will Purser has served as Clallam County Public Utility District 1 Commissioner since April 2001. Mr. Purser was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in April 2008.

He came to the PUD with 28 years of business and engineering experience in the energy industry. His background includes national and international siting and construction of power generation facilities, power sales, and electrical rate case intervener before state public utility commissions. He has experience in water treatment and waste disposal regulations and technologies. As a manager of health, safety and environmental processes, he has worked with government agencies and public organizations to maximize performance in these areas.

He is a Vietnam Era veteran who attended undergraduate and graduate school on the GI Bill. Before retirement, he was a registered professional engineer in California, Colorado and Texas.

LORI SANDERS, commissioner, Benton County PUD Kennewick, Wash.

Lori Sanders became a Benton County Commissioner in January 2005 and currently serves as president of the commission board. She was also appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in January 2005 and was elected secretary in January 2007.

Commissioner Sanders is the owner and president of Energy Incentives, Inc., a consulting firm on conservation and renewables. A Kennewick native, she brings 25 years of experience as a successful small business owner to her post on the commission board. She is also a founding board member of "Coram Deo," a Classical Christian School.

KATHY VAUGHN, commissioner, Snohomish County PUD Lynnwood, Wash.

Kathy Vaughn began her second term as Snohomish Public Utility District 2 commissioner in 2001. She currently serves as secretary of the board of commissioners. Commissioner Vaughn was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in August 2004 and served as its vice president from January 2005 to January 2007. In April 2006, she was elected by the board of directors to serve on the executive board, and in June 2006 she was elected assistant secretary of that board.

Commissioner Vaughn is the owner of Goldmark Financial Corporation, a Snohomish County mortgage company. She also is co-owner of a construction firm. Prior to her election to the commission, she was active in the community, running many youth organizations and serving as a precinct committee person.

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