

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 22, 2009****News Release 09-13****Rochelle Olson, Corporate Communications, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 2****Gary Miller, Public Affairs, 509-377-8728**

## **Lewis County PUD, City of Centralia Join Energy Northwest, Membership Reaches 27**

RICHLAND, Wash. —. Energy Northwest's Board of Directors today voted unanimously to approve membership applications from Lewis Public Utilities and the City of Centralia. As members of the public power agency, both Washington State public utilities will have the opportunity to help shape Energy Northwest's role in regional public power activities.

The new members bring the Energy Northwest membership roll to 27, including 22 public utility districts and five city municipal utilities. This is the largest membership in the 51-year history of the organization.

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-cost" for its members and operates Columbia Generating Station, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, White Bluffs Solar Station and Nine Canyon Wind Project.

"Our growing membership is an indication of the important role Energy Northwest is playing, and will continue to play, in bringing innovative solutions to the energy challenges of our region," said Vic Parrish, Energy Northwest Chief Executive Officer. "We are extremely pleased to welcome Lewis County PUD and the City of Centralia."

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.

Lewis County PUD is a customer-owned municipal corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington serving approximately 30,000 customers. Lewis County PUD provides electric service to the southeast portion of Pierce County and substantially all of Lewis County with the exception of the City of Centralia. Chuck TenPas, Lewis County PUD Commissioner, will represent the utility on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors.

The Centralia Public Works Department provides water, sewer and electrical power to approximately 10,000 customers. Centralia City Light General Manager Ed Williams will represent the utility on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors.

**About Energy Northwest:**

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest now has 27 public power members; 22 public utility districts and five municipalities. The consortium's nuclear, hydro, wind, and solar projects deliver nearly 1,300 megawatts of reliable, affordable, environmentally responsible electricity to the Northwest power grid. Energy Northwest continually explores and develops new generation opportunities while offering a wide range of energy and business services.

Energy Northwest -- [www.energy-northwest.com](http://www.energy-northwest.com)

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