

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 23, 2008****News Release 08-03****Brad Peck, Public Information Officer, 509-377-8247****Page 1 of 2****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

### **Clallam PUD, Whatcom PUD Join Energy Northwest**

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest’s Board of Directors today voted unanimously to approve membership applications from Clallam County Public Utility District and Whatcom County Public Utility District. As members of the public power Joint Operating Agency, both PUDs 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 22, including 19 public utility districts and three city municipal utilities.

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.

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.

Clallam PUD provides electric service to 28,000 customers with offices in Port Angeles, Sequim, Forks, and Clallam Bay/Seki. The utility was approved by voters in 1940 and began providing water and electric services to the county in 1944.

Clallam PUD was one of 18 utilities that originally joined together in 1957 to form the forerunner of Energy Northwest, the Washington Public Power Supply System. The District still receives annual payments for its share of the Packwood Hydroelectric Project, Energy Northwest’s first generation project. The utility is returning to Energy Northwest membership after a 24-year absence.

“Our relationship with Energy Northwest goes back more than 50 years,” said Will Purser, Clallam PUD Commissioner. “The northwest energy picture is increasingly complex and costly. As a well-established, smaller PUD it serves the interest of our ratepayers to be closely aligned with other public utilities facing the same challenges. Energy Northwest membership is an excellent vehicle for us to share our views and expertise. After being away for more than two decades it is time for us to rejoin the organization and help shape the future of public power in our region.”

Whatcom County PUD Commissioner Michael Murphy said his utility is pleased to be joining Energy Northwest. “Whatcom is the second largest water utility in the state but our current power operations are comparatively small. Nearly all of our current power service is to industries at Cherry Point. However, power demand is growing rapidly in our service area and we believe the time is right for us to become more directly involved in the regional dialogue on future power supply options. We see membership in Energy Northwest as a wise first step in that process.”

At today’s meeting the Energy Northwest Board of Directors also reappointed Tim Sheldon of Potlatch, Wash., to one of three seats on the agency’s 11-member Executive Board reserved for members from outside the organization. Sheldon has been a member of the Executive Board since October 2003. His present term ends June 30, 2008.

The Executive Board has 11 members; three appointed by the Governor of Washington, three members from outside the organization approved by the Board of Directors, and five members selected by and from the Board of Directors.

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest has 22 public power members; 19 public utility districts and three municipalities. The consortium’s nuclear, hydroelectric, wind, and solar projects deliver nearly 1,400 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 owns and operates Columbia Generating Station, Nine Canyon Wind Project, Packwood Lake Hydroelectric Project, and White Bluffs Solar Station.

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