

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – April 23, 2009**News Release 09-07****Rochelle Olson, Corporate Communications, 509-377-4728****Page 1 of 2****Gary Miller, Communications, 509-377-8728**

Jefferson County PUD joins Energy Northwest, Membership Reaches 25

RICHLAND, Wash. – Energy Northwest’s Board of Directors yesterday voted unanimously to approve a membership application from Jefferson County Public Utility District (PUD). The utility brings the Energy Northwest membership roll to 25, the highest in the 51-year history of the organization.

As a member of the public power Joint Operating Agency, Jefferson County PUD will have the opportunity to help shape Energy Northwest’s role in regional public power activities.

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.

“We are extremely pleased to welcome Jefferson County PUD as our 25th member utility as we begin our next half century of service to the region,” said Vic Parrish, Energy Northwest Chief Executive Officer.

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.

Jefferson County PUD is a customer-owned utility providing water and sewer service in Jefferson County, Washington. A municipal corporation organized under the laws of the state of Washington, the utility was formed by a vote of the people in the 1930s. The utility currently provides service to more than 3,000 customers. In November 2008, voters granted the utility electrical power authority to provide service to East Jefferson County.

Ken McMillen, Jefferson County PUD Commissioner, will represent the utility on the Energy Northwest Board of Directors.

Jefferson Public Utility District #1: <http://pud.co.jefferson.wa.us/>.

Energy Northwest is a not-for-profit public power, state Joint Operating Agency headquartered in Richland, Washington. Chartered in 1957, Energy Northwest has 25 public power members; 21 public utility districts and four 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.

- end -

Energy Northwest -- www.energy-northwest.com

#