



2019 Annual Conference Program

Marriott Downtown Waterfront Hotel

Theme: *Energized for the Future*

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

2:00-8:00 Exhibitor Setup – Salons A-E

Wednesday, February 20

7:00 Registration/Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area Salons A-E

General Session Salons F-I

8:00 Welcome: NWHA President *Trey Acteson*, Southeast Alaska Power Agency

Keynote: *Alejandro Moreno*, Director, Water Power Technologies Office, Department of Energy

8:40 ***What's in Your Reservoir of Policy Initiatives***

A review of national policy initiatives and a “state by state” analysis of what’s happening in the Western U.S. regarding hydropower-related issues. From greenhouse gas reduction to new renewable portfolio standards (RPS), from grant programs to the energy storage markets—panelists will provide their perspective on key legislation, hot topics, and other policy trends that could impact your project and our industry.

Moderator: *Laura Johnson*, Licensing & Regulatory Consultant, McMillen Jacobs Associates

Panelists:

Charles Sensiba, Partner, Troutman Sanders LLP

Brendan McCarthy, Government Affairs Analyst, Portland General Electric

Jan Smutny-Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Independent Energy Producers Association

Jennifer Visser, Government Affairs Program Manager, Idaho Power Company

10:00 Break – Exhibit Area

10:30 ***Who Says You Can't Teach an Old Dog New Tricks?***

...Using the latest technology to investigate hydro project conditions

The hydropower industry is continually striving to make operation and maintenance safer and more efficient. Advancements can be attributed to development of new technologies but are often a result of repurposing existing products and skills adopted from other industries.

Opportunities that help optimize resources, reduce costs, increase safety and reduce the environmental impacts, can be difficult to identify and implement.

Moderator: *Ken Christison*, Water Resources Consultant, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants

Panelists:

Robert Siedman, Director of Engineering & Technical Services, Southeast Alaska Power Agency
ROV's, A Deep Dive into Risk Management

Dr. Andre Zimmermann, Principal, Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
Real-Time Sediment Management

Adam Williams, P.Eng., P.E., S.E., Principal, Gygax Engineering Associates
Design & Implementation of a Custom Desander Air Purge System

Lunch Session – Lower Level

12:00 Lunch: NWAHA Annual Membership Meeting, Awards,
“Hiring for Hydro” program of the Hydropower Foundation

General Session Salons F-I

1:30 ***Passing Gas: The Science & Management of Total Dissolved Gas at Hydro Facilities***
The science and policy of total dissolved gas (TDG) is evolving as regulators and hydropower operators wrestle with compliance at the Federal Columbia River Power System and other regional hydropower projects. This topic has implications for project economics, Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance, and water quality certification processes. This panel will survey the landscape of compliance planning and monitoring; modeling of TDG and TDG abatement measures; and fisheries interaction. Practitioners will identify opportunities for new and emergent best practices.

Moderator: *Erik Lesko*, Senior Environmental Scientist, PacifiCorp

Panelists:

Shari Dunlop, Principal Engineer, Alden Labs

Kenneth Ham, Fisheries Biologist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratories

Dan Turner, NW Division Water Quality Team Lead, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Peter Graf, Fisheries Scientist, Grant County PUD (change name spelling and title)

3:00 Break – Exhibit Area

3:30 **Hydropower and the Energy Grid**
Hydropower is reliable and provides peaking capacity, flexibility and storage. With a significant increase in variable electricity generation such as wind and solar power, the certainty of hydropower is increasingly important as a premiere energy resource, yet its place in the renewable portfolio is falling. This panel will discuss our current hydro quandary so that everyday practitioners can understand the opportunities and risks associated with market uncertainty and rally around realistic solutions for the future.

Moderator: *Steve Kerns*, Director of Grid Modernization, Bonneville Power Administration

Panelists:

Gregg Carrington, Managing Director, Energy Resources, Chelan PUD

Paul Wetherbee, Director, Energy Supply, Puget Sound Energy [replaced Mills]

Kieran Connolly, Vice President of Generation and Asset Management, Bonneville Power Administration

Tom Burns, Director, Short-Term Energy Supply, PacifiCorp

Abhishek Somani, Senior Research Economist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

5:00-6:30 NWAHA Sponsored Social – Exhibit Area

Thursday, February 21

7:45 Registration/Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area

General Session Salons F – I

8:30 Welcome: NWAHA President *Trey Acteson*, Southeast Alaska Power Agency

8:40 **Innovative Waterpower Technologies**

This panel will explore some of the more innovative ways that waterpower projects are meeting the unique needs of our electric grid as we transform into a low or no carbon state. Waterpower developers from marine to pumped energy storage are stepping up and developing the innovative projects that will be needed to keep the lights on and the renewable and non-carbon energy flowing.

Moderator: Mark Andersen P.E., Senior Principal, Waterpower and Dams, Stantec

Panelists:

Nate Sandvig, Director, US Strategic Growth, National Grid

Dan Hellin, Operations & Logistics, PacWave, Oregon State University

Eric Hill, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Mark Jacobson, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

10:00 Break in Exhibit Area

10:30 **Power to the People: Transmission & Distribution in the 21st Century**

ASCE's 2017 Report Card indicates "...more than 640,000 miles of high voltage transmission line in the lower 48 states' power grids are at full capacity...without greater attention to aging equipment, capacity bottlenecks and increased demand, as well as increasing storm and climate impacts, Americans will likely experience longer and more frequent power interruptions." This panel delves into real world transmission infrastructure siting, construction, regulatory, operation and maintenance, and public outreach experiences we face daily.

Moderator: *Kurt Wald*, Senior Associate, Horrocks Engineers

Panelists:

Rosemary Curtain, Owner, RBCI Company

Erik Steimle, VP of Project Development, Rye Development

Zach Funkhouser, Environmental Services Leader, Idaho Power Company

Courtney Busse, Real Estate Specialist, Idaho Bureau of Land Management

12:00 Lunch in Exhibit Area and Foyer– Networking

Women in Hydro Luncheon – Lower Level

1:30 **Low Hanging Fruit**

After license issuance licensees can pursue license amendments or plan modifications that can reduce or sometimes eliminate compliance requirements that may not be providing value to the resources. Working with your consulting agencies to reach agreement on monitoring or reporting requirement changes can save both entities time and money. This panel will showcase several examples where licensees worked with their agency counterparts to streamline compliance requirements.

Moderator: *David Zayas*, FERC Hydro Coordinator, Idaho Power Company

Panelists:

Von Pope, Wildlife Program Coordinator, Chelan County PUD

Dain Bates, Resource Professional, Idaho Power Company

Hallie Meushaw, Counsel, Troutman Sanders

3:00 Break in Exhibit Area

3:30 **Safety & Human Performance – the New Frontier**

Understanding of human performance is being positively applied to safety and safety programs. From human performance labs to cognitive evaluations, safety in the modern age is trending toward zero accidents. This panel will discuss human performance, describe how understanding of this performance is being applied in the field of safety and give real world examples from organizations using this knowledge within their safety programs.

Moderator: *Peter Martins*, Dam Safety Manager, PacifiCorp

Panelists:

Jeremy Coltfelter, Director Hydro Operations, NorthWestern Energy

Vern Porter, Chief Safety Officer, Idaho Power Company

Lee Ostrom, Association Dean, University of Idaho

Elizabeth Rogers, Safety & Health Manager, Black & Veatch

5:15-6:30 NWAH Sponsored Social in Exhibit Area

Friday, February 22

7:30 Registration/Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Area

8:00 NWAH Committee meetings

General Session Salons F-I

9:00 Panel: FERC

Inside FERC

From OEP to PRO, DHAC to OGC, and DHL to D2SI, hear the “inside FERC” perspective with a behind-the-scenes discussion with FERC staff. For novices and veterans alike, panelists will cover the responsibilities of the offices that have a hand in regulating hydropower, provide insight into how the offices work together, and discuss what’s new and noteworthy at FERC.

Moderator: *Julia Wood*, Partner, Van Ness Feldman

Panelists:

Katie Clarkson, Branch Chief, Office of Energy Projects, Division of Dam Safety & Inspections, Portland Regional Office, FERC

Cleo Deschamps, Managing Attorney, Office of General Counsel, FERC

Kelly Houff, Engineering Resources Branch Chief, Office of Energy Projects, Division of Hydropower Administration & Compliance, FERC

David Turner, Northwest Branch Chief, Office of Energy Projects, Division of Hydropower Licensing, FERC

10:30 Break in Exhibit Area

11:00 **Cryptocurrency, Bitcoin and Other Large Loads—How Disruptive Will this be for Northwest Hydro?**

This panel will focus on the impact of new energy intensive industries in the Pacific Northwest and what might be the potential effect on utilities in the region. From data centers to cryptocurrency mining, low cost power in the Pacific Northwest, primarily from abundant hydropower resources, has attracted investment in areas across the region. The panel discussion will include a range of perspectives—from utilities providing reliable power to technology insiders responsible for consuming large loads.

Moderator: *Mike Manwaring*, Water Resources Director, McMillen Jacobs Associates

Panelists:

John Stoll, Customer Utilities Managing Director, Chelan County PUD

Ben Beckmann, Lead Scientist, Complex System Engineering Lab, GE Renewable Energy

Colin Kruse, Owner and Proprietor, Stumptown Networking

12:30 Adjourn