



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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541-536-2126 • 800-722-7219

Departments

Member Service Option 3
Engineering Option 4
Marketing Option 5
Operations Option 6

After-Hours Outage and Emergencies:
541-536-2165
or 800-752-5935

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Closed Fridays and holidays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Robert Reed, La Pine

Leland Smith, Sunriver

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Board meets the fourth Monday
of each month at the co-op office.

STAFF

General Manager

Dave Schneider

Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Steinhauer

Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

Attorney

Raymond Kindley

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The Columbia River System Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released February 28. The statement rejects the potentially disastrous removal of the four Lower Snake River dams and recognizes the vital role the dams play in Oregon's clean and reliable energy system.

The CRSO DEIS was completed due to a National Environmental Policy Act review ordered by Federal District Court Judge Michael Simon to specifically study the breaching of the four dams. NEPA requires a balanced look at fish and wildlife, socioeconomics and the environment.

The DEIS found that while salmon would do better without the dams in place, the benefit to fish is uncertain and the societal costs would be extreme.

The study found breaching the Lower Snake River dams would double the risk of regionwide blackouts; add 3 million metric tons of carbon to the atmosphere each year from electricity production (assumes the lost generation is replaced with natural gas-fueled power plants); increase power costs by \$1 billion annually; raise residential utility bills by 25% or more (assumes the lost generation is replaced with a carbon-free portfolio, such as wind, solar and batteries); reduce our ability to safely add new wind and solar power to the grid; and will cost \$457 million in social welfare as the result of lost irrigation and farm laborer jobs.

The 45-day public comment period ends April 13. Midstate Electric Cooperative looks forward to taking part in the comment period to maintain our role in providing clean, reliable and cost-effective hydropower for our members. MEC will

likely need to call on our ORECA-Action grassroots members to help with our message. If you are not an ORECA-Action member, please join today at ORECA-Action.org.

Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MEC's business continuity plan has been designed to maintain the health and safety of our employees and members and to ensure business critical operations continue without interruption. These measures help ensure MEC continues to provide reliable electricity during a business continuity event.

Although the pandemic is unique to our business continuity planning, we have taken steps to be prepared in the event there is a significant impact from the coronavirus in our communities. Our focus is to maintain a healthy workforce and keep key personnel—such as line workers and member service representatives—available so we can continue to provide the excellent service you expect from us.

We are closely monitoring the progression of COVID-19. In response to the governor's actions to contain the spread of COVID-19, MEC has closed lobby access to the public. The office will remain closed to walk-in traffic until further notice. Employees are available to provide assistance by phone at 541-536-2126.

We offer members various payment methods, such as the drop box, payment kiosk, phone portal at 541-536-2126 option 2 or SmartHub on Midstate's website, www.mse.coop.

Please monitor MEC's social media channels and website for updated information.

General Manager Dave Schneider