



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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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

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Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Secretary/Treasurer

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Diana Cox, Christmas Valley
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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

OR-23

Manager's Message

Dear Member:

The Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association released this statement on Gov. Kate Brown's support for removal of the lower Snake River dams:

Oregon's 18 electric cooperatives are extremely disappointed with Gov. Kate Brown's decision to support the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams. The Snake River dams produce more than 1,000 average megawatts of reliable, carbon-free energy—enough energy for more than 800,000 Northwest homes.

Gov. Brown's decision, made without any consultation with leaders of consumer-owned utilities, will have severe consequences for our mission to provide affordable, reliable electricity to more than a half-million Oregonians.

It is stunning that during a serious legislative debate on carbon reduction, Gov. Brown supports a course of action that is estimated to increase CO₂ emissions by more than 2 million metric tons every year. This output is the equivalent of adding 421,000 passenger cars to the region's roads each year. If the state of Oregon is serious about addressing climate change, it is now moving in the wrong direction.

Furthermore, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council—to which Gov. Brown has appointed two Oregon members—has concluded that the Northwest power supply becomes inadequate as early as next year. Taking out the lower Snake River dams, which help keep our region's power and transmission systems in balance, could lead to the crashing of the electrical grid and blackouts for Oregonians.

Finally, we disagree with Gov. Brown's claim that the removal of the Snake River dams will “simultaneously address both

the orca and salmon recovery dilemma” in the region. The region's ratepayers have made significant long-term investments in large-scale structural and operational changes to further improve existing fish passage routes as well as provide new safe passage structures at these dams. The juvenile survival performance standard target is 96% for yearling chinook and steelhead. Gov. Brown should support building on this success story rather than embracing an extreme position that will harm rural Oregonians.

We urge Gov. Brown to reconsider this ill-fated decision.

MEC's 68th Annual Meeting

Preparations are progressing for MEC's 68th Annual Meeting of the Members on Saturday, May 9, at La Pine High School. The event gives you a chance to participate in the business of your electric cooperative. It also provides you with a firsthand look at our programs and services. Registration, displays, demonstrations, health fair and barbecue begin at 10 a.m. The business meeting starts at noon.

MEC's Scholarship Program

MEC's 2020 scholarship application is available at www.mse.coop. The deadline for submitting all required materials is Monday, May 4. For more information, call 541-536-2126 option 5.

There is additional information about your cooperative on pages 8 and 25.

General Manager Dave Schneider

