



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

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James "Jim" Anderson

Operations & Engineering Manager

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OR-23

General Manager's Message

Dear Member,



The four federal dams on the lower Snake River have long been discussed for breaching or removal to help salmon and steelhead runs. While we all wish to be good wildlife and environmental stewards, the role these dams play in affordable and reliable carbon-free renewable energy cannot be overemphasized.

During our region's June heatwave, these dams played a critical role in managing the extreme heat. According to the Bonneville Power Administration, the electrical generation of the four lower Snake River dams ranged between 439 and 1,009 megawatts during this time. To put that in perspective, the average annual consumption of Seattle is 1,000 megawatts. As the region adds more intermittent renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, the balance reserves these dams afford us is becoming even more vital.

In addition to delivering affordable and reliable carbon-free renewable energy, these dams feature state-of-the-art fish passages and contribute to our region's economy by supporting irrigation, navigation and recreation.

A recent assessment by BPA concluded the four lower Snake River dams also played a crucial role during the deep freeze of early 2021. As the Northwest turned up their thermostats to keep warm during the February storm, the dams revved up on numerous occasions to meet the demand. While Texas plunged into a deep freeze where, unfortunately, many Texans lost their lives, the Snake River dams helped keep the Northwest electric grid humming when other power sources failed.

However, even with these recent substantiating weather events, the move to breach the four lower Snake River dams continue. Federal studies show removing these dams would be detrimental to consumer rates and the Northwest's efforts to decarbonize. The studies indicated breaching these dams would add 3.3 million metric tons of carbon a year to our atmosphere, the equivalent of adding more than 717,000 internal combustion engines to the road. This is counterintuitive to the recently passed Oregon HB 2021 clean energy bill, which strives to move Oregon to 100% clean energy by 2040.

Wind and solar are good renewable resources, but our existing affordable and reliable carbon-free Northwest hydropower should not be underscored. Wind and solar cannot serve as the foundation of the state's reliable energy supply. Hydropower is flexible and can be ramped up and down, unlike when there is a lack of sun and wind to power solar panels and wind turbines.

In the future, resource adequacy—the ability to meet consumer energy needs—is sure to be a frequent topic as we prepare to meet energy demand in all scenarios with energy sources that are available at the ready.

Midstate Electric Cooperative will continue to work to ensure our members continue to enjoy clean, affordable and reliable energy.

James "Jim" Anderson
CEO/General Manager