

The Daily Insider

Southern Washington Edition

Power rates likely to increase about 4 percent in April, and again in October

Electric rates in Clark County, expected to increase by about 4 percent in April, could increase again, October, if Bonneville Power Administration prevails with an anticipated 15 percent cost recovery clause.

Clark Public Utilities, which has little choice but to pass along BPA wholesale power hikes to its customers, is remonstrating through the Public Power Council, the regional public power support group.

BPA last week informed its customers that it expects to have to increase the wholesale rate it charges its customers for power in order to make its U.S. Treasury payments.

Among the causes of BPA's projected revenue shortfall are two successive years of low water and low wholesale market prices, which dried up surplus power sales, which in normal years, accounts for as much as 25 percent of BPA's annual income.

BPA predicts it will lose another \$200 to \$300 million this year, reports **Paul Norman**, a BPA senior vice president.

The PPC claims that the October increase is unnecessary and even suggests that BPA should get credit for having prepaid the U.S. Treasury \$367 million over the past two years.

Because about half Clark's power is produced by its River Road gas-fire turbine, the effects of BPA increases are only about half as bad as they would be otherwise.

Clark's staff has not yet determined the actual impact of the April BPA increase on its customers and won't know what to expect until BPA announces its October increase.

Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital name put up on Salmon Creek site, hearing is continued

Legacy Salmon Creek Hospital is what Legacy Health System has named its 220-bed hospital to be built on 24 acres just north of NE 134th Avenue in Salmon Creek.

Legacy officials today were at the site putting up a sign proclaiming the new name, although a county hearings examiner's hearing set for 7 p.m. tonight is expected to be continued.

At issue is mitigation of traffic in the NE 134th Street corridor. Traffic standards are expected to be lowered in order to accommodate the hospital, but at the same time Legacy is expected to pay for extensive traffic improvements.

Legacy officials are "confident" that the traffic issues will be resolved, according to Legacy spokeswoman **Maggie Huffman**.

The entire project is expected to cost \$220 million. The acute care hospital will provide emergency, surgery, cancer care, diagnostics, and maternity services. In addition, it will have a 15-bed, level III neonatal intensive care unit.

The hospital complex, being designed by Zimmer

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Gunsul Frasca, includes a four-story medical office building and a nearly 1,500-car parking structure.

Joe Kunkel, site administrator and vice president of clinical operations for Legacy, says construction of the medical office building and parking structure will begin in May and will be completed by September 2004. This hospital will be ready for patients in the summer of 2005, he said.

I-205 to be closed in March for pedestrian bridge construction

I-205 between NE 1354th Street and Highway 500 will be closed from 8 p.m. Friday, March 21, through 5 a.m. Monday, March 24, while crews complete a pedestrian-bicycle bridge over 205 just south of the Padden Parkway overpass. Some delays are expected on Highway 500 at its I-205 interchange.

News briefs

The Hough Swimming Pool will be opened Saturday, March 1, when the Hough Foundation takes possession of the pool from the City of Vancouver. The pool will be operated by the Hough Foundation, according to executive director **Kate Griffith**. ■■■ The Dragonfly Cafe (The dragonfly is the Washington state bug) has opened in Clark County's new Public Service Center. Operated by **Ruth** and **Albert Fung**, the cafe currently offers coffee, pastry, sandwiches, soups and salads, on the premises and take-out, and will begin offering pizza in a few weeks. It is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ■■■ The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council has moved to the Clark County Public Service Center.

Tuesday electronic events

Portland Winter Hawks at Saskatoon (live)—5 p.m. KUPL
San Antonio at Portland Trail Blazers (live)—7 p.m. FSN, KXL
Clark County Land Use Hearings (live)—7 p.m. CVTV

Stocks of northwest interest at 4 p.m. EST, Tuesday, Feb. 11 2002

Alaska Air Group	18.76	-.47	Microsoft	46.44	-.94
Alcoa	19.81	+0.01	Nautilus	14.21	-.04
Amazon.com	20.78	-.62	Nike	43.85	+.51
Bank of America	67.73	-.48	Nordstrom	17.27	+0.06
Bemis	43.85	-.45	PepsiCo	38.39	-.86
Boeing	29.84	-.43	Precision Cast	24.48	-.21
Boise Cascade	24.38	-.20	RLRN	16.30	-1.02
CenturyTel	26.96	-.54	Starbucks	22.12	-.03
Costco	28.62	-.06	TSM	6.47	unch
Expeditors Intl.	33.35	+2.16	Tektronix	16.50	-.14
Georgia Pacific	15.42	-.01	UPS	58.80	-.35
HPQ	16.85	+0.21	US Bancorp	20.21	-.29
Intel	15.34	+0.07	Wash. Mutual	34.95	-.05
Kyocera	52.95	-.05	W. Coast Bancorp	15.39	-.11
Linear Technology	27.07	+0.27	Weyerhaeuser	49.62	-.47

DOW: 7843.11 -77 ■ NASDAQ: 1295.46 -1.22 ■ S&P: 829.2 -6.77

Town Tabloids and The Weather

Randy Smith getting year's worth of accolades. ■■■■ Tom Grant putting on tennis shoes. ■■■■ Dean Sutherland gets speaking engagement. ■■■■ Lee Davis writing headlines. ■■■■ Manny Helm addressing small crowd. ■■■■ Mike Worthy making introductions. ■■■■ Tuesday , mostly dry, mostly sunny, 56. Wednesday , after frost, mostly sunny, 58. Thursday , clouds come back, but dry, 52.	Acapulco 90/72 Athens 45/33 Chicago 28/8 Dallas 65/38 Hong Kong 75/58 Los Angeles 73/52 London 49/38 New Orleans 64/49 New York 26/20 Orlando 68/45 Paris 40/29 Phoenix 67/52 Rome 47/27 Seattle 52/36 Sydney 82/63 Tokyo 52/39 Washington 34/26
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