



# the Lakeview Light

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The Newsletter of Lakeview Light & Power

Autumn 2011

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## Northwest Rivers ~

# Dams, Fish & Judge's Ruling

There has been a great deal of news coverage lately regarding the removal of two dams on the Elwah River. It's the largest dam removal project in the world, and it will set a precedent for habitat restoration throughout the country.

The Elwah Dam and the Glines Canyon Dam are nearly 100 years old. Both were built without fish passage, and completely blocked five species of native salmon from their historic habitat.

Some activist groups will try to compare these obsolete dams to dams on the Snake River, which they would also like to see breached. But, according to Terry Flores, Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners, there is simply no comparison.

"The public really understands the difference between the small, outmoded dams and the Snake River dams," Ms. Flores said, citing a recent NWRP poll that showed that 74 percent of the public thinks removal of the Snake River dams is an 'extreme solution.' "That's up from 67 percent last year," she said.

The power output of the Elwah dams is 19 megawatts – only 0.5% of that of the Snake dams which generate more than 1,000 megawatts.

That's enough to light a city the size of Seattle.

The Snake dams have sophisticated technology that helps fish get safely up- and down-stream. The Elwah dams have no fish passage whatever.

Economically, the Elwah dams are insignificant, whereas the Snake dams provide vital irrigation to Northwest farmers. The Snake dams also help provide back-up power for wind farms when the wind isn't blowing. "The wind doesn't always blow, but the rivers always flow," Ms. Flores said.

Speaking of fish, in 2011, the Columbia River system has again seen excellent runs of chinook, sockeye, coho and steelhead. But this abundance comes with a significant cost. According to the Northwest Power Planning Council, 15 to 20 percent of a typical customer's power bill goes to BPA's fish and wildlife programs. "For LLP customers, it's at least 20 percent of their electric bill," Ms. Flores said.

Part of that goes to pay for 'summer spill', a federally mandated program that spills extra water over the dams to help migrating fish get downstream.

## Holiday Closures

Our office will be closed the following dates:  
Columbus Day – Oct. 10;  
Veterans Day – Nov. 11;  
Thanksgiving – Nov. 24 & 25;  
Christmas – Dec. 26 and  
New Year's – Jan. 2, 2012.

"Some spill can be helpful sometimes to some fish, but not in August when there are very few migrating fish in the river. Summer spill in August is wasteful," she said.

Summer spill is one of the actions Judge James Redden has required in recent years to protect endangered fish.

In July, for the third time, Judge Redden rejected the federal government's plan for operating hydro dams on the Columbia River without jeopardizing salmon. NWRP supports the federal plan.

"We were very disappointed in the judge's ruling," Ms. Flores said. "We'd like him to approve the government's plan, but, basically, he got it both ways. He told the feds to continue doing what they're doing now through 2013, but to specifically say what they're planning to do after 2013. He called for the government to focus specifically on habitat restoration beyond 2013, and he said, 'Oh, and while you're at it, you should also look further at other things you can do.'"



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**Get Ready for Storm Season...  
Winter Weather Can  
Cause Power Outages**

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Leaves are already falling, days are noticeably shorter and the wheel of the seasons has turned to autumn. It's time to start preparing for the challenges winter weather often brings.

Meteorologists say we could have another La Niña year – which means colder, wetter weather, more snow in the mountains and the possibility of power outages.

At LLP, we start our annual tree trimming work this month, which helps prevent power outages caused by trees falling onto lines.

Our customers can take important steps to be prepared for storm-related power disruptions and other emergencies:

- Put together several emergency kits containing canned or packaged food – a manual can opener – bottled water – blankets – flashlight and battery-powered radio with extra batteries – sanitation supplies – medications and basic first aid supplies. Keep a kit in each vehicle and one at home.
- Make sure backup generators are properly installed and inspected. The safest way to run a generator is to plug lights and appliances directly into the unit. A free brochure on generator safety is available at our office and on our website.
- Protect your electronic equipment from power fluctuations with surge protectors. Be sure yours carries a warranty that will pay for replacement of any equipment damaged by a surge. If the power does go out, unplug electronics that might be damaged by a surge when power is restored. Remember, you are responsible for your own surge protection. Lakeview Light and Power is not liable for any loss, injury or damage resulting from any power outage.

Please report any outage immediately by calling our office at (253)584-6060, 24 hours a day. And please stay away from downed power lines.

Winter storms increase the possibility of power outages, in spite of all our best efforts. Outages are much easier to endure when we're prepared.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**• Attention High School Seniors •  
Scholarship Applications  
are Due January 27, 2012**

**Member-Owned Utilities  
Across the Country Celebrate  
Public Power Week**

More than 2,000 electric utilities across the country celebrated Public Power Week Oct. 2-8. It's a national event started in 1986 by the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, D.C. to recognize the vital roll member-owned utilities, such as LLP, play in providing reliable, low-cost power to their communities.

APPA President and CEO

Mark Crisson noted that despite the tough economic climate, an unprecedented year of storm-related tragedies, and uncertainty about climate change that is creating understandable anxiety in the utility industry, public power remains strong. "And we will continue to have a strong and abiding influence on the future course of our nation's energy policies," he said.

**Project Help**



As we shift into the winter storm season, we're all thinking about higher power bills. And, with the on-going challenges of the economy, many LLP customers are struggling to make ends meet even before the onset of colder weather.

Project Help provides relief for many of our customers-in-need by helping them pay their power bills.

Please consider making a contribution to this important program. Just fill in the box on your enclosed statement. LLP doubles every donation, so every gift increases three-fold. Through August 31, we have received \$3,160.19 in donations. LLP's contribution of \$6,320.38 makes the total amount available to our needy customers just \$9,480.57. This won't go very far, so we encourage you to make a contribution.

*We thank you!*

**Find Your Account  
Number, Win \$20**

In each issue of *The Lakeview Light*, we hide five randomly chosen account numbers (like 12345-678). If you find yours, call us at 584-6060 before the next edition is published and you'll receive a \$20 credit on your next bill.

Andre Harper and Dennis Banks were winners in our summer edition.

*Good luck!*

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**Lakeview  
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Please send comments or  
story ideas to:

**Lakeview Light & Power**  
11509 Bridgeport Way SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499-3041  
or email: [LLP@lakeviewlight.com](mailto:LLP@lakeviewlight.com)



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