

Coastlines

May 2015



Mitch Wagner and his team members will be using GPS technology to map each of our 26,425 utility poles, and what's on them

Every Pole, Every Line, Every Streetlight...

From Lincoln Beach to North Bend, crews will be mapping nearly 40,000 pieces of infrastructure!



Workers such as Ammon Bonham and Mitch Wagner will be wearing GPS units on frames above their heads when mapping



(left) The old pole numbers are rusting and hard to see. (bottom left) Workers will attach bright yellow markers to every pole. The new numbers will be especially helpful for customers wanting to report streetlights that are out or other problems. (below) Workers will use notebook computers to record the info they collect.



1,500 transformers. More than 5,000 streetlights in 700+ square miles of territory. We have maps, of course, but not with super-accurate global positioning system (GPS) technology. We've hired GMS, a company specializing in GPS mapping for utilities, to do this work for us.

"We'll be tabulating just about everything: Equipment on the poles such as transformers, the size of transformers, phases, wires, and more, like telephone lines, cable lines, etc.," says Mitch Wagner, a technical lead with GMS. That information will be very useful. "GPS mapping will help our crews find affected infrastructure more quickly during outages," adds Randy Grove, our Distribution Engineering & Operations Manager. GMS' workers will cover every part of our District during the next year. If they need to get into customers' yards, they will knock, and check in with those customers. They plan to work Mondays-Fridays, no earlier than 7 a.m., and no later than 6 p.m., but some weekend work is possible.

How Are We Doing?

Our online survey is ready for your comments

Are you pleased with our service? Is there something you feel we could be doing better? Do you know about our rebate programs for saving electricity?



If you didn't get a call from our telephone surveyors last month, please go to clnud.org to give us your input. Thank you!

CENTRAL LINCOLN
A COMMUNITY-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITY

Our \$6 Million Florence-Area Upgrade Project

Please slow down if you see crews and flaggers on Highway 101

Twenty years ago, our engineers projected demand for electricity in the Florence area would grow so much we would need a third substation in or near Florence. The only question was 'when, exactly?'

That time has come, and we are rebuilding an existing distribution line along Highway 101, building a new substation, and rebuilding our Heceta Beach Substation.

Work on the project is being done almost entirely by Central Lincoln employees, and the scope of work is so extensive, our Reedsport line crew and a line crew from our northern operations area in Lincoln County are teaming up with our Florence crew to complete the project.



(left) Drivers on Highway 101 between Heceta Beach Road and 27th Street in Florence will need to watch for traffic cones, trucks, and linemen working on the shoulder of the highway. (right) An aerial view of the work underway at our new substation in the Pacific View Industrial Park in Florence.

Our checklist includes a new 2.4-mile, 115-kilovolt transmission line along Highway 101, north of Heceta Beach Road to 27th Street in Florence. This will complete a transmission loop around Florence that will reduce outages in the Florence area. Crews will work on Highway 101

Mondays through Thursdays, except for the Thursday of this month's Rhododendron Festival. Work on this phase of the project will then continue through October of this year.

The site of our new substation at the Pacific View Industrial Park in Florence has been graded, and construction is underway. The new substation should be in operation this fall.

The final part of our Florence-area upgrade will be rebuilding our existing Heceta Beach substation. This substation has served the north Florence area well, but needs to be modernized. Rebuilding of this substation will begin in the spring next year, and is scheduled to be completed by October, 2016.

The Florence-Area Upgrade will allow us to meet growth in Florence and the surrounding area for the next twenty years, and we're excited to know there will be fewer outages here when we're finished.

Your Neighbors & Friends

Bob Cusick, South Beach

An occasional series about the people at Central Lincoln who strive to provide you with reliable and affordable electricity in the spirit of publicly-owned power



Bob Cusick volunteers after Christmas to shred old Christmas trees for donations to help folks in need pay for heat

On weekdays, Bob Cusick cares for our fleet of bucket trucks, "digger derricks" (trucks with an auger to dig holes for utility poles), equipment trailers, and even a boat— to serve customers who live on a lake. Nights and weekends, though, he is caring for people—from youngsters needing direction,

to fellow church members who love how his guitar playing enhances their worship.

"I work with middle schoolers and teenagers to help them see how their lives are important," Bob says. "I talk to them about how it is crucial not to cheat, lie, or steal, and the importance of forgiveness. It's a blessing to be able to do that, to show them their lives have purpose and meaning. They tell me, 'You talk to us like we're people, not kids' and they're right. I show them I respect them."

Bob plays guitar on Sundays, and again on Tuesday nights at services for Spanish-speakers. "It's a good thing musical notes are universal, because I can't read a word of Spanish!" he laughs. "The fun part is we have an amazing 13-year old interpreter who translates English into Spanish, and Spanish into English, so English speakers are coming on Tuesday nights, too, because they appreciate what they're hearing and learning. Sometimes those services go late because people are so into it, and I don't get home until after 11 p.m. on a work night, but it's worth it."

Another volunteer passion of Bob's is leading an annual fundraiser recycling old Christmas trees. Thanks to his leadership, thousands of dollars have been raised to help needy families and seniors with winter heating bills: "I was raised to believe 'it is better to serve, than to be served.' My mom was a nurse; she taught me that," he says. "And I try to follow her example."