



Coastlines

March 2016

Have you seen this huge dam? It's less than 500 miles from here, but few Oregonians know it exists.

Photos © BPA

The Biggest Dam You May Not Have Heard Of

It also helps regulate water flows to protect endangered fish on the Columbia River

"I've actually had people drive right past the dam – and it's a mile long – then turn around and ask me, 'Where's the dam?' says the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Scott Bennett.

Power Administration charges its utility customers. (In terms of the amount of kilowatts purchased each month, Central Lincoln is BPA's tenth-largest customer.)

That dam is the Chief Joseph, spanning the Columbia River just outside of Bridgeport, Washington near Wenatchee, not far from the U.S.-Canadian border. The Chief Joseph is the second-largest hydropower dam in the United States, after the Grand Coulee, also located in Washington. Chief Joseph produces 2,458 megawatts of carbon-free renewable electricity – enough to power the entire Seattle metropolitan area.



The row of generators inside the powerhouse at the Chief Joseph Dam.

Most people have heard of the Grand Coulee Dam – it's the most productive dam in the United States, it was immortalized in a Woody Guthrie song, and NASA shows it as a major landmark in photos taken from space. Every summer, the Grand Coulee Dam serves as a projection screen for nightly laser light shows, attracting even international tourists.

But the Chief Joseph Dam is the one that's getting \$168 million worth of new turbine runners – 16 of them – which will increase the Chief Joseph's output by 6.5 percent. That may not sound like much, but it will mean an additional 53 average megawatts in generation to power homes, businesses, manufacturing facilities and more in the region – enough electricity to power 39,000 homes. The Chief Joseph turbine replacement project will be completed next year.

Where is the 168-million dollars for the upgrade coming from? From power customers throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Central Lincoln's, through the rates the Bonneville

"We're making a wise investment in efficiency improvements," says Joseph Summers, the Chief Joseph's operations power manager. With the new turbine runners, "For the same amount of water, we're getting more power," which is crucial in a region where electricity needs continue to grow, as does the need to balance power fluctuations created primarily by intermittent renewable sources of power, which depend on Mother Nature for sun and wind.

There are 31 federally-owned dams in the federal Columbia River Power System, all producing clean, renewable electricity.

Those dams are the primary reason electricity rates in the Pacific Northwest remain among the lowest in the country. The result is cleaner air, and lower power bills for the people and businesses of the Pacific Northwest. (Thanks to BPA staffers for their help with this article.)



Energy-saving tips and latest news:
www.twitter.com/CLPUDinfo



Outage info: www.twitter.com/CLPUD
or report an outage at **1-866-484-3783**



Like us on Facebook at **Central Lincoln PUD**

Contact us at
info@clpud.org





Planning to Plant Rose Bushes or Trees?

Dialing 8-1-1 could save you money, and, it's FREE!

Building a deck? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any project that involves digging in the ground. "Call Before You Dig" researchers believe there are more than 20 million miles of underground utilities in the United States. Do you know if there are any natural gas, electric, water, or sewer lines around your home, and if so, exactly where they are?

When you call 8-1-1, utility locators will come to your home for free, and show exactly where lines are – or aren't. Hitting one with a shovel can be very dangerous, and expensive. "I remember a guy who had a plugged sewer line on his property, and was fixing it himself," reminisces Stuart Jarman, our Reedsport Operations Supervisor. "He hit a primary underground

line! Fortunately, he wasn't hurt, but power was knocked out in the area, and we had to come out and make repairs on a weekend. Because he didn't call before he dug, we had to charge him for the repairs. It was a very expensive lesson for him to learn. His neighbors weren't too happy with him either, since they had no power until our repairs were complete."

Did You Get a New Card With a Chip?

Our Customer Service Reps need you to call them

Many banks and credit card companies recently mailed out new credit cards with RFID security chips in them. These cards also have new expiration dates, and new three-digit security codes on the back. Why are we telling you this?

If you pay your Central Lincoln bill automatically via credit card, we can't continue to use the cards authorized for

AutoPay every month without the new expiration date and

security code. If you pay your bill via our MyAccount Online system, you can sign in and change those numbers anytime. But if you don't use MyAccount Online, please call us ASAP with the new code and expiration date. Phone numbers for our three offices are on the back of your Central Lincoln bill.



My Electric Story

Featuring Central Lincoln customers who use electricity in unusual ways

Pacific Disc owner Rick Prest buys about 200,000 pounds of used conveyor belts a year to make rubber discs used by bottom trawl fishermen to cover mudlines on their nets, by oil companies for oil containment booms, and by the dairy industry to weigh down covers over silage (livestock feed).

"Pacific Disc is very unique; it's a niche business, a challenge, and it's different," Rick says with a grin. "Fishermen especially need a product that's low-cost, durable, and can withstand harsh ocean conditions, and that's what we provide." This manufacturing company in Toledo employs four workers, and sells its discs here on the West Coast north to Kodiak, Alaska; to oil operations in Oklahoma, east to Florida; and in Canada.

Pacific Disc uses six electric-powered commercial and custom-made hydraulic presses, along with a modified lathe for turning "bobbins" – rollers used on the foot ropes of trawl nets. The company used to make its discs from used "bias ply" truck tires, but when supplies dwindled, switched to old conveyor belts. Pacific Disc's product line ranges from rubber discs 1 3/4" to 10", full and half-bobbins from 8" to 18" in diameter, and resells discs from 12" up to 31".

"I like the fact that my company recycles so many pounds of waste that would otherwise go to landfills," Rick says proudly. "I like the manufacturing process, and that our products help fishermen, oil booms and dairy farmers do a better job."



One of Pacific Disc's electric-powered hydraulic presses looms over Rick Prest and some of his company's unusual products