



Nor'wester newsletter

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Welcome new member Consumers Power Inc.



CONSUMERS POWER INC.

Consumers Power Inc. (CPI) is an electric distribution cooperative incorporated in 1939 with headquarters in Philomath, Oregon serving 23,000 members in six counties encompassing a 3,500 square mile service area: Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Polk, Marion, and Lane.

President and CEO Roman Gillen will be CPI's designated representative to PNWA. Roman can be reached at 541-929-8500 or romang@cpi.coop

Thank you new Annual Convention sponsors

Thank you to our final [PNWA 2021 Annual Convention](#) sponsors for your generous support:

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Port of Ridgefield selects Mueller as CEO



PNWA member Port of Ridgefield has hired Randy Mueller to pick-up the CEO mantle beginning January 1. He'll replace Brent Grening, who's retiring January 3.

Mueller is no stranger to the Port of Ridgefield; he worked as Director of Business Development from 2007 to 2014, departing Ridgefield to take the job of CEO at PNWA member Port of Chehalis; a position he held for seven years. He's enthusiastic about the opportunity to take the helm at Ridgefield's port.

"I'm thrilled to be returning to Ridgefield and Clark County," Mueller said. "This community is very special and it's exciting to continue the great work done by this port."

Mueller noted Grening was his professional mentor in the port world. "Brent leaves me with some very big shoes to fill," Mueller said, "but I'm confident the next chapter of the port's history will be as great as its last."

While at the Port of Chehalis Mueller led a two-year strategic planning effort to align with objectives of the port commission, developed new partnerships, significantly increased operating revenues, filled all vacant properties, and constructed the first new building there in 20 years.

Mueller holds a B.A. from Washington State University, a Master of Real Estate Development from Portland State University, and an Executive Master of Public Administration from University of Washington.

PNWA extends our congratulations to Randy on his new role. We look forward to continuing our work with him and the Port of Ridgefield, and connecting with his successor at the Port of Chehalis.

Port of Everett's Lefebber named to AAPA Board of Directors

The American Association of Port Authorities appointed Lisa Lefebber, CEO/Executive Director of PNWA member Port of Everett, to fill the vacant at-large position on the association's Board of Directors.

Lefebber started at the Port of Everett in 2005 and was named the port's first female CEO. She recently earned her certification in AAPA's Professional Port Management Program and was recognized for her thesis project: *Shifting from White to Blue: Strategic Roadmap for Port Infrastructure Supporting the U.S.*

Arctic during the graduation ceremony held last month at AAPA's Annual Convention.

The full slate of AAPA Board of Directors includes newly appointed Lefeber along with Julianna Marler, CEO of PNWA Member Port of Vancouver USA, who was installed during AAPA's Annual Convention to serve a two-year term representing the U.S. North Pacific Ports Region.

We congratulate Lisa and Julianna, and are pleased to see our region so well represented on the AAPA board.



FEMA seeks input on National Flood Insurance Program



FEMA

The Association of State Floodplain Managers and the Natural Resources Defense Council requested the Federal Emergency Management Agency update and strengthen the current National Flood Insurance Program base standards in January 2021.

On October 12, FEMA [issued a Request for Information](#) to receive the public's input on:

1. Revising the National Flood Insurance Program's floodplain management standards for land management and use regulations to better align with the current understanding of flood risk and flood risk reduction approaches. Specifically, FEMA is seeking input from the public on the floodplain management standards that communities should adopt to result in safer, stronger, and more resilient communities.
2. How the NFIP can better promote protection of and minimize any adverse impact to threatened and endangered species, and their habitats.

FEMA is seeking to address a series of 18 different questions/topics. As we understand it, FEMA is also considering whether to expand its list of minimum required standards for communities to encompass Endangered Species Act considerations. We are curious if ports and other PNWA members anticipate any adverse or challenging impacts as a result of additional ESA conditions that could be applied to the NFIP.

Comments to FEMA are due on or before December 13, 2021. When you submit comments, you must reference Docket ID: FEMA-2021-0024, through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#) and follow the instructions for submitting comments. Please send a copy of your comments to [Dena Horton](#), too.

Save the date: USACE Civil Works listening session

Save the Date:
USACE Civil Works Partner Listening Session
November 4, 2021
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. PDT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is taking bold actions to improve its performance and engineer solutions for the nation's toughest challenges through the [Revolutionize USACE Civil Works](#) initiative. Traditional delivery of the annual Civil Works program is being overhauled by using innovative tools, modernizing internal processes, and pursuing alternative financing approaches. USACE is streamlining permit processes and eliminating duplicative reviews to expedite permit decisions for infrastructure projects while protecting the environment. Speeding up how USACE does business will save millions of dollars and complete projects sooner.

Continuous and transparent communication across the USACE enterprise and with partners, is essential to maintaining a strong working relationship built on trust and shared understanding.

More information about this event will be forthcoming

DeFazio urges Administration to evaluate Corps' Nationwide Permits

Chair of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Representative Steve Cohen (D-TN) urged President Biden to ensure protection of clean water by reopening and reexamining the 57 Nationwide Permits proposed by the Trump administration.



Codified in the Clean Water Act of 1977, NWP's are intended to authorize projects with minor environmental impacts to land, wetlands, and waterways; however, the previous administration sought to broaden their application, including for large projects with far-reaching cumulative impacts.

[In their letter](#), DeFazio and Cohen called on President Biden to consider the climate and environmental justice impacts of projects that utilize NWP's and asked the president to provide additional opportunities for robust public comment on those currently under review.

[Read the full news release here](#)

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