



# Nor'wester Newsletter

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## Columbia Snake River dams and methane

Readers may have seen [this article](#) about a WSU researcher's upcoming study on the production of methane from dam reservoirs. The study is an analysis of 100 different studies over the past sixteen years on the relationship of dam reservoirs and methane production and found that on a worldwide basis, dam reservoirs produce more methane than previously expected.

Since 60% of the Northwest's energy is produced by hydropower from dams, this research and the accompanying article may create the impression that the dams in this region are a source of greenhouse gasses. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has examined this issue, and notes that the pools created by the Snake River dams produce no measureable methane. Because of the high oxygen content, shallow reservoirs, and constant water circulation, the conditions necessary for methane production are not present in those pools. There is also relatively little organic matter decomposing in any of the projects. Finally, the Corps states that methane producing reservoirs are relatively rare and are mostly found in tropical regions, where the conditions needed to produce methane are much more common.

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For more information, check out the [Corps of Engineers fact sheet on methane](#).

## Congressman Smith reintroduces bill to create National Freight Investment Fund

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Representative Adam Smith (WA-09) reintroduced the [Freight Infrastructure Reinvestment Act \(H.R.6193\)](#) on September 27th. If passed, the bill would create a dedicated grant program specifically for freight infrastructure improvements. The program would build upon the [FASTLANE Grant program](#), and would be supported by a one percent fee on freight cargo shipments. The fee would go into a National Freight Mobility Infrastructure Fund, which would focus on those projects with a regional significance that enhance rail and roadway capacity and safety. PNWA will continue to monitor the progress of this bill. For more information, contact [Heather Stebbings](#).

## Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. joins PNWA!

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[Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc.](#) (MFA) is an integrated environmental engineering consulting firm specializing in brownfields, stormwater, and site development. MFA offers services in strategic planning, environmental and civil engineering, environmental assessment and cleanup, planning and development, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), health and safety services, and landscape architecture. MFA has offices in Portland, Oregon; Vancouver, Seattle, and Bellingham, Washington; and Coeur d'Alene and Kellogg, Idaho. Within PNWA, MFA will be represented by Kathy Lombardi, who can be reached at [klombardi@maulfoster.com](mailto:klombardi@maulfoster.com).



# PNWA welcomes new member Miller Nash Graham & Dunn

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[Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP](#) - offers comprehensive legal services, regulatory compliance advice, and advocacy before administrative agencies and courts regarding all aspects of: real estate and land use, environmental regulation and contaminated site clean-up, commercial litigation, insurance coverage and claims handling, eminent domain, natural resources, endangered species act compliance, emergency response, admiralty and maritime law, open meetings, public records, public works and commercial contracts, ethics, public policy, employment and labor relations, municipal bonding, tax and financing. Within PNWA, the firm will be represented by Richard Mitchell, who can be reached by email at [Richard.Mitchell@millernash.com](mailto:Richard.Mitchell@millernash.com).



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