



# Nor'wester Newsletter

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## PNWA celebrates Columbia River jetties with Senator Patty Murray



PNWA and the Portland District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were proud to host Senator Patty Murray at a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Columbia River Jetties on August 8th. The event was held at U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment, and was attended by over fifty community members, agency staff, and regional stakeholders. As the keynote speaker, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) highlighted the role of the jetties in protecting deep draft shipping on the lower Columbia River, which moves exports from the Northwest and the nation. Senator Murray also noted the importance of the jetties for the safety of our commercial and recreational fishing interests in this part of the river. Mark Wilson from the Port of Kalama also spoke at the event, and Capt.

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Dan Jordan of the Columbia River Bar Pilots led the Senator on a brief boat tour of the area.

This ribbon cutting marked the successful completion of the rehab of Jetty A. The rock work at Jetty A is the first part of the major rehabilitation of the entire jetty system. Years of wave action at the jetties have worn the jetties down, and annual repairs were no longer sufficient to keep up with the damage. Thanks to the support of Senator Murray and our Northwest Congressional delegation, this project has received \$46.5M in funding over the past four years and is proposed to receive \$22M in FY2018 to continue work on the North Jetty.

To learn more about the Columbia River Jetties, check out [PNWA's fact sheet](#), or head to the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' webpage](#) devoted to this project.

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## PNWA and Tidewater host river tour in Pasco



On August 9th, PNWA and Tidewater hosted a barge tour of the Columbia and Snake Rivers for Congressional staff. Ten staff from five

Northwest Congressional offices joined PNWA and several industry representatives to hear about the importance of the locks and dams on the river system to the economy of the Pacific Northwest. Tidewater provided one of their new tugs, the Granite Point, to provide a waterside look at barge transport on the river system. The group viewed Tri-Cities Grain and other facilities from the water, then observed the Ice Harbor navigation lock approach.

Before boarding the tug, staff toured the Tidewater fuel facility in Pasco and heard from Dave Konz about the inland navigation system, last winter's extended closure, and fuel transport on the river system. Attendees also heard from Ashley Helenberg (Port of Longview) about the system's deep draft infrastructure, Nicole Berg (Washington wheat grower) on this season's wheat outlook, Tom Kammerzell (Port of Whitman) on the FCRPS/CRSO BiOp and Heather Stebbings (PNWA) on the Columbia River Treaty. PNWA members Randy Hayden from Port of Pasco, Diahann Howard from Port of Benton and Charlie Costanzo from the American Waterways Operators were also on hand to provide additional background on navigation and our region.

PNWA would like to thank all Congressional staff who were able to join us, as well as Tidewater and our PNWA members who contributed their time and expertise for a great event!

## Columbia River System Operations BiOp EIS update

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration have sent out a joint status update on the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) Biological Opinion Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The [update](#) provides background on the NEPA process and an explanation of what is required under the law. The federal agencies expect to release a Scoping Summary Report this fall which will provide a summary of the issues identified during the public scoping process late last year. They are also finalizing outreach plans for 25 cooperating agencies to assist with various aspects of the EIS and a schedule for public input.

To be added to the agencies' e-mail list and receive future updates, interested members of the public can send an email to [info@crso.info](mailto:info@crso.info).

## HME Construction, Inc. joins PNWA

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HME Construction, Inc. (HME) is a marine construction contractor with over 35 years' experience in the business. HME has completed many marine dock maintenance and dredging contracts for federal, state, local and private entities on the Columbia, Willamette and Snake Rivers as well as the Oregon and Washington coasts. Projects have ranged in scope from simple timber, handrail, and bull rail replacement to full scale pile removal/replacement and dock reconstruction. Dredging projects have ranged from clean sediment mining, maintenance dredging and new construction dredging to complex environmental remediation projects with varying levels of contamination. Disposal options have ranged from in-water disposal utilizing split hull dump scows and upland disposal utilizing pumps, conveyors or crane transfer to disposal sites or transfer facilities for final disposal.

HME Construction, Inc. has the management team, experienced and well-trained personnel and equipment to perform your project with knowledge, skill and quality. If you should require further information or have any questions please call (360) 695-4553 or visit their web site at [www.hmeconst.com](http://www.hmeconst.com).

Within PNWA, HME is being represented by Greg Speyer, Vice President. Greg can be reached by email at [greg.speyer@hmeconst.com](mailto:greg.speyer@hmeconst.com).

## PNWA Member Spotlight: Columbia Basin Development League and Apollo Inc.

Development League works with members like the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District to protect water rights in the Columbia Basin and to help improve water use efficiency for irrigated agriculture. the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District (SCBID) is mid-way through construction of the PPL1.6 Pumping Plant, which will capture and pump return flow water out of the Esquatzel Diversion Canal into the Pasco Pump Lateral. This is one example of how the Columbia Basin Project (Project) recaptures return flow water in large quantities and reuses it, contributing to the overall efficiency of the Project.

The PPL1.6 Pumping Plant's water supply will be return flow water that was originally pumped at Grand Coulee and would otherwise be returning to the river. This return flow water has already been used at least once and probably multiple times before it gets to the PPL1.6 Pumping Plant. The water will amount to approximately 30,000 acre feet per year of savings to SCBID. Numerous operational benefits will be realized, in particular water supply reliability to Block 1 and freeing



up capacity upstream in the Potholes Canal system. SCBID secured a \$1.5 million incentive payment from the Bonneville Power Administration to lower the cost to the District.

To date, construction progress is ahead of schedule. The plant will come online and be put into service beginning with the 2018 irrigation season. PNWA member Apollo Inc. of Kennewick is the general contractor and RH2 Engineering, Richland, is responsible for the engineering design and project management. The SCBID is part of the Columbia

PNWA member, the Columbia Basin  
Basin Development League.

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