



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #802 February 17, 2022

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### Executive Director transition

*Welcome back, Heather, and thank you, Kristin.*



*Kristin Meira, outgoing PNWA Executive Director.*



*Heather Stebbings, incoming PNWA Executive Director.*

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This week marks the transition of PNWA Executive Director as Kristin Meira departs and Heather Stebbings returns to take on the role.

“Heather is a proven, well-rounded leader with deep experience and relationships in our industry, across the Northwest, and in Washington, D.C.,” said Glen Squires, Washington Grain Commission CEO and PNWA Board President. “We are pleased to

welcome her back to the PNWA team and are enthusiastic about her leadership and the continued success of the association.

Kristin Meira, who served with PNWA for 20 years and as Executive Director for 10 years, has been integral to the association's growth and success. Meira has joined PNWA member American Cruise Lines as its Director of Government Affairs, Pacific Northwest. Meira's last day with PNWA is Feb. 17.

"Kristin has served this association faithfully for many years, growing our membership by 50%, expanding our connections, and steadily advocating for our members and communities," said Squires. "Her impact can be felt across PNWA and the Pacific Northwest. We are grateful for her leadership and wish her all the best, and we look forward to continuing to work with her as the PNWA contact for American Cruise Lines."

[For more information click here.](#)

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## **USDOT offers Regional Accelerators workshop Feb. 17**

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The U.S. Department of Transportation is offering an informational webinar about building a great Regional Accelerator funding application at 2 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, Feb. 17.

Build America Bureau's Regional Infrastructure Accelerators program funds Accelerators—or extensions of the Bureau in regions across the country—that are the bridge between the Bureau and local project sponsors. Accelerators open the door to billions of dollars available via the Bureau's long-term, low-interest loans for critical transportation infrastructure projects.

Working together with Bureau technical experts, Accelerators help agencies make projects viable for the Bureau's Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program and Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan program.

Learn more at about the Accelerators program and sign up for the Feb. 17 workshop [here](#).

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## **Update on The Dalles lock repairs**

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PNWA staff attended a Feb. 9 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) update on maintenance at The Dalles lock, hosted by David Tucker, Northwest Portland District project manager. The Dalles lock has been closed since Feb. 5 for downstream miter gate repairs. The lock is expected to reopen March 19.

This work is occurring during the regularly scheduled [annual outage](#) on the Columbia River. According to Tucker, repairs are going as planned. Contractors are working two shifts a day, seven days a week, to install a new torsion box, inspect for cracks, perform a 3-D survey and gate alignment, and demolish and replace the concrete gate sill to improve load distribution.



The USACE has scheduled additional dam and lock closures over the next four weeks. All times are in Pacific Time.

### **2022 Columbia River annual outage closures**

- Bonneville: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 12
- The Dalles: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 19
- John Day: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 5
- McNary: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 13
- Ice Harbor: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 12
- Lower Monumental: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 19 until 11:59 p.m. March 19
- Little Goose: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 13 until 11:59 p.m. March 12
- Lower Granite: Closed from 6 a.m. Feb. 25 until 11:59 p.m. March 19

The USACE continues to offer weekly update meetings at 2:30 p.m. Pacific Time each Wednesday, through March 16. You can attend via WebEx or phone.

- Meeting link: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/david.a.tucker>
- Meeting number: 1993 59 4598
- Join by phone: 1-669-234-1177
- Access code: 1993 59 4598

### **Questions?**

For Bonneville, The Dalles, or John Day locks and dams, contact Tom Conning in the Northwest Portland District Public Affairs Office: [Edward.T.Conning@usace.army.mil](mailto:Edward.T.Conning@usace.army.mil) or 503-808-4516.

For McNary, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, or Lower Granite, contact the Northwest Walla Walla District Public Affairs office at [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil) or 509-527-7020.

## **ODOE to Hold Public Meetings for Floating Offshore Wind Study**

*Deadline to Submit Initial Input is February 18*

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The Oregon Department of Energy is collecting input to inform the development of its [Floating Offshore Wind Study](#) and will hold two virtual public meetings to discuss stakeholder feedback on the barriers and opportunities associated with the development of up to 3 GW of floating offshore wind resources.

The March 10 and April 7 meetings will cover the input the agency has received through its [online portal](#) and will include time to hear additional input from participants. Both meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a half hour lunch break.

**The deadline to submit feedback via the online portal for discussion at the meetings is Friday, February 18, 2022.**



### Meeting Details

Public Meeting 1 – March 10, 2022 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Meeting Topics:

- Siting and Permitting
- Port Infrastructure & Sea Vessels
- Economic Development
- Equity
- Local Reliability & Resilience
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Public Meeting 2 – April 7, 2022 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Meeting Topics:

- 100% Clean Energy Targets
- Technologies
- Transmission Infrastructure
- Energy Markets
- State & Regional Reliability

Meeting log-in information, agendas, and additional meeting materials will be available on [ODOE's website](#) ahead of the meeting.

## **AAPA to recognize U.S. Senator Patty Murray at 2022 Legislative Summit**

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At this year's Legislative Summit: Now We Build!, March 29-31, in Washington D.C., AAPA will present Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) with the AAPA President's Award for Legislative Leadership, an inaugural designation for distinguished service. These awards highlight the outstanding policy work by these individuals and their persevering efforts, including their work toward the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which allocates historic investments in ports.

Visit [AAPA's Legislative Summit event page](#) to learn more.

## White House, federal agencies offer Bipartisan Infrastructure Law guidance

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The White House and federal agencies have published a [guidebook](#) for the new Bipartisan Infrastructure law and are coordinating several webinars early this year to help local governments navigate funding options and prepare applications.

The guidebook is available at [Build.gov](#). It is searchable and organized by topic, with one page per program to help increase readability.

Over the next six weeks, the White House is coordinating webinars about each guidebook chapter to highlight information and facilitate questions.

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## Thank you Mission Sponsors!

### Bronze Level



**COLUMBIA  
RIVER  
PILOTS**

The 2022 Mission is set for March 14–17, and it's virtual again this year due to circumstances beyond our control in Washington D.C. For more information and for member registration, visit [www.pnwa.net/2022-mission-to-washington-d-c/](http://www.pnwa.net/2022-mission-to-washington-d-c/)

Want to be a mission sponsor? [Click here to see how you can support PNWA and gain maximum exposure for your organization through event sponsorship!](#)

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