



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #835 | November 4, 2022

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Congressional Updates: Status of FY23 Appropriations and WRDA



With less than three months to the end of the 117th Congress, there is limited time to pass legislation, such as the annual appropriations bills and the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). Any bills introduced that have not been enacted into law will die at the end of the year and need to be reintroduced as new bills in the next Congress.

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution to December 16th to prevent a government shutdown through the elections. However, Congress is scheduled to come back shortly after the elections for a busy lame-duck session to take up the FY23 appropriations bills and the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Congress will also consider Hurricane Ian supplemental aid and possibly permit streamlining for energy projects.

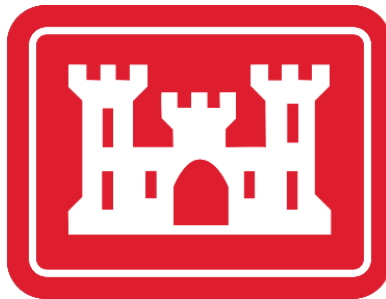
The priorities and politics can change depending on the outcome of the midterm elections. If the Democrats lose the Senate, there will be pressure to shift the focus to the confirmation of presidential nominees. If the Republicans take the majority of the

House, they may try to clear the decks of as much business as possible to get a fresh start next year. Should the Republicans win the majority of both the House and Senate, then in that case, Congress could pass another Continuing Resolution into next year, allowing the Republicans to control FY2023 appropriations spending levels.

Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations: The fiscal year expired on September 30th and the new fiscal year started on October 1st. Congress was in session in September and worked on the FY23 appropriations, but due to ongoing disagreements on funding levels and policy, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government open and running until December 16th. Projects considered new starts and earmarks can only be awarded once the FY23 appropriations bills are passed.

WRDA: The House and Senate versions of the Water Resources Development Act passed earlier this year, and an informal conference began in July. House and Senate committee staff from the majority and minority met to start ironing out a compromise between the two different bills. It is anticipated that language will be available for a November vote. The Senate held a pre-election session to prepare for the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) bill, which currently includes a WRDA placeholder. The NDAA is one of the first items of business the Senate is anticipated to take up after the midterm elections. The potential inclusion of Senator Manchin's permit streamlining provisions for energy projects and discussions of labor and Jones Act provisions for offshore wind projects may complicate and drag out the timeline for passage of the NDAA.

Updated Information: Columbia Snake River Maintenance and Extended Closure Schedule



Each year in the early spring, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District and Walla Walla District perform routine maintenance on the inland Columbia Snake River System locks and dams. They coordinate a short-term closure to perform this work, and have announced dates below. At PNWA's Annual Convention, the Corps also announced the dates for the 2024 extended lock maintenance closure. There was a typo in the presentation slide, so the information below is different from what was previously announced. PNWA wanted to communicate the dates and times as early as possible to assist members with advance planning and serving the needs of customers.

Spring 2023 Maintenance Closure

The Portland and Walla Walla Districts anticipate Spring maintenance lock closure to begin on March 4, 2023. All locks on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers are scheduled to close at 6:00AM.

Re-opening:

The locks are scheduled to reopen as follows:

- March 18, 2023 - Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, and Lower Monumental will reopen at 11:59PM
- March 25, 2023 – Ice Harbor, Little Goose and Lower Granite will reopen at 11:59PM

2024 Extended Lock Maintenance Closure

The Portland and Walla Walla Districts anticipate an extended lock closure in 2024 to perform much needed maintenance on larger components. As a result, the system will need to be down for an extended period of time to perform the work safely.

The 2024 Extended Lock Closure is anticipated to run from January 14, 2024 to March 29, 2024. (It had previously been announced that the closure extended to March 30, 2024).

PNWA greatly appreciates the coordination between the two districts to ensure advanced communications to the river system users and operators so they can begin preparations for the extended closure. This coordinated maintenance effort ensures the locks are maintained to prevent unplanned outages and that the system stays as efficient as possible.

For additional information, please contact [Dena Horton](#).

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Port Infrastructure Development Program Award Funding



Last week, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced more than \$703 million in Maritime Administration Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) funding for 41 projects throughout the US. This program supports efforts by ports and industry stakeholders to improve port and related freight infrastructure to continue to meet the nation’s freight transportation needs and ensure our ports can meet anticipated growth and volumes.

More than 60 percent of the awards will benefit ports in historically disadvantaged communities, and more than \$150 million in awards will go towards emissions reductions through port electrification. Also included is nearly \$100 million for port projects aiming to advance offshore wind deployment, following President Biden’s goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

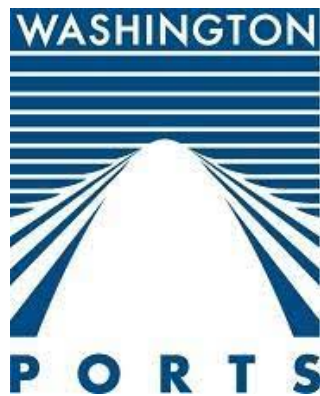
We wanted to take a moment to congratulate and announce the PNWA members who received a PIDP award:

- Port of Grays Harbor – Terminal 4 Expansion and Redevelopment Project
- Port of Olympia – Seaport Throughput Improvement Project
- Port of Portland – Terminal 6 Improvements Project
- Port of Seattle – Terminal 5 Export, Expansion, and Emissions Reduction Project

For more information on the USDOT’s PIDP program, you can visit this year’s press release [here](#), or to view a full list of award recipients, click [here](#).

PNWA was proud to provide letters of support for these projects. As a reminder, if your organization is seeking a federal grant, please contact us directly. We are always happy to support our members' efforts to bring federal funding to the Pacific Northwest.

Washington Public Ports Association Announces Staff Changes



PNWA offers our sincere congratulations to three key staffers for the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA). At the end of last month, WPPA announced Chris Herman’s promotion to Deputy Director, Tasha Cilurso’s increased role as Business Manager, and the addition of Mandy Lill as Member Development and Engagement Manager. Congratulations Chris, Mandy and Tasha – PNWA wishes you the best and looks forward to our continued partnership with all of you!



EPA: IRA Clean Ports Funding Listening Session



The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Ports Initiative is hosting a webinar on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA) and the \$3 billion provided to the EPA to fund zero-emission port equipment and technology and to help ports develop climate action plans to reduce air pollutants at U.S. ports. This new program builds on EPA's Port Initiative, the Agency established to help ensure our nation's ports help address public health and environmental impacts in their communities.

This session will include a brief overview of the legislation and program, followed by an interactive listening session. Both sessions will be in the same format, and participants are encouraged to attend one or both sessions. These sessions will be held:

November 9, 2022 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PT – to register, click [here](#).

December 6, 2022 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM PT – to register, click [here](#).

Some questions to think about providing feedback on are:

1. What types of zero-emission port technologies or related planning support do you see as most critical for delivering emissions reductions?
2. What do you see as the biggest hurdles to transitioning to zero-emission port equipment?
3. How do you see this program complementing other available funding programs (e.g., at EPA, other federal or state programs) that can support efforts to reduce emissions at ports?
4. How would you like to see funding for zero-emission port technology, related planning and permitting, and development of climate action plans work together? Should the funding opportunities be sequenced or combined?
5. How can we help ensure this program addresses concerns of near-port communities and advances environmental justice?

You can find information about the IRA Clean Ports funding listening sessions on the [EPA Ports Initiative website](#). For those unable to attend the meeting, you may also submit feedback about the program to cleanports@epa.gov.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Accepting Applications



The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (District) is currently accepting applications for a District Engineer.

As the largest irrigation District in Washington State, the District has authorization to deliver to 472,000 acres. Currently, the District delivers to approximately 170,000 acres. District headquarters are located in Othello, WA.

Working under the direction of the Assistant Manager for Technical Services, the District Engineer supervises the engineer team in an array of projects. They provide general engineering and planning support for operation and maintenance activities for irrigation and drainage facilities, District properties, buildings and pump equipment. Duties include but are not limited to design and construction management, engineering and construction surveys, processing survey data and assisting the secretary manager with budget information. Engineers at the District are encouraged to think creatively and independently to solve a wide range of technical problems.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Submission of a resume and ECBID application are required to apply. Applications and a full job description are available on the ECBID website, ecbid.org, or at the main office located at 55 N 8th, Othello, WA 99344. For more information please call (509) 488-9671.

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Seeking Nominations for Committee for Offshore Wind Energy and Fisheries



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is seeking nominations for a new standing committee through the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) concerning offshore wind energy and fisheries. This committee will serve as an independent, credible forum to discuss the state of science and pressing concerns related to the intersection of offshore wind with fisheries.

NASEM seeks nominations for individuals to serve on this committee by November 9th. The 15-member committee will be a diverse group of scientists and other

stakeholders related to offshore wind and fisheries broadly, such as commercial and recreational fisheries, non-governmental organizations, community representatives, and the offshore wind industry. Anyone can nominate any individual as a committee member.

Members of this committee will provide BOEM with ongoing assistance in developing offshore wind energy and its potential effects on fisheries. During these meetings, members will meet to:

- Engage in discussions and exchanges of information on key topics of interest to BOEM’s offshore wind and fisheries activities.
- Provide expert assessment of recent developments in selected fields of science and technology, including reviewing and providing general advice on gaps and priorities for research.
- Provide stakeholder understanding and insights on a diversity of issues pertinent to offshore wind and fisheries.

For more information, please visit [BOEM](#). Or, to apply by the deadline of Wednesday, November 9th, 2022 click [here](#).

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