

Media release

COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

For Immediate release — October 2, 2009

Contact: Dave Andrew — Cowlitz PUD, (360) 577-7502

Cowlitz PUD Manager Skeahan Joins Energy Secretary Chu, Senator Murray and CEQ Chair Sutley in Clean Energy Discussion

SEATTLE – As part of a discussion focused on green jobs in the state, Cowlitz PUD General Manager Brian Skeahan joined a state panel that met earlier today with Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Senator Patty Murray and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

Skeahan joined with representatives of Chelan PUD, Puget Sound Energy and Avista in a roundtable discussion to highlight the opportunities a clean energy sector can provide for the economy and the American people.

Cowlitz PUD is recognized as a regional leader among public utilities pursuing renewable energy resources, with its early entry into developing wind generation. The PUD is a partner in the White Creek Wind Project which was built in 2007 and the adjacent Harvest Wind Project, which will be completed and in commercial operation by the end of 2009.

“This was a great opportunity to share Cowlitz PUD’s perspective on developing renewable resources and the challenges we face to do so at a cost that will ultimately benefit our customers,” Skeahan said. “I welcomed the opportunity to take our message directly to Secretary Chu and Senator Murray.”

Cowlitz PUD’s long-term resource planning includes strong consideration of landfill gas and biomass technology. “We are considering several new opportunities for renewable projects, focusing on biomass and landfill gas at this time. There is always an upside and downside to any project, and I took the opportunity to share our concerns about technology risks with the panel,” Skeahan said.

Skeahan joined Cowlitz PUD in 2003 and was named General Manger in January 2005. He has served 21 years as a utility GM, including stints at the City of Wahoo, Nebraska and Klickitat County PUD in Goldendale, WA.

END