

# PNGC Power Pulse

March 2018

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## A Community of Conservation

PNGC Power has a long commitment to conservation and energy efficiency. Beginning with its founding in 1975, PNGC cooperatives have led the way of conservation at the local level in communities all around our region.

On March 15, the Conservation Committee (the committee comprised of conservation and energy efficiency experts from PNGC’s 15 cooperatives) met at the PNGC office for a quarterly meeting. “Meeting in person a few times throughout the year is really helpful to our members,” said Brandy Neff, PNGC’s Conservation Services Coordinator. “It gives us the opportunity to bring vendors and BPA representatives to one place and creates a space for an open dialogue among them and our Committee members about whatever topic we’re covering.”

The Committee invited General Pacific and Lights There to present on new commercial lighting endeavors that could cost no money to our members up front, and could possibly present major savings over time. These included “Lighting as a Service” or leasing to own over 5, 6, or 7 year contracts. For PNGC members who have commercial accounts that may not have the upfront capital needed for a lighting upgrade, this may be an option to use going forward.

Margaret Lewis, PNGC Power’s Energy Efficiency Representative at BPA, also joined the meeting for various topics. She participated with the Committee as they joined BPA’s brownbag conference call on the results of BPA’s conservation potential assessment. While the CPA is not quite yet finished, it still gave Committee members an idea of what BPA might be expecting from the region in the years to come. “It’s so helpful to have direct access to BPA, especially as they are looking at the future of conservation in the Pacific Northwest. We see PNGC Power’s role as helping to shape the conversation around conservation in the region, as well as helping to facilitate real energy efficiency for our members,” said Neff.



*Conservation is a collaborative effort.*

Program Marketing Lead for Energy Efficiency at BPA, Nic Lane, and BPA contractor Drea Weathers, met with the Committee to get a sense of their use of the marketing material available to members through BPA. Cori Million of Coos-Curry Electric said she used the materials to update her marketing to members this past year, and Ryan Davies of Central Electric expressed a desire for more Spanish language material, since his cooperative is planning to provide all their materials in both English and Spanish moving forward. In general, the Committee stressed ease of use, as well as pictures that reflect the cultural, geological, and agricultural diversity throughout the region.

After BPA left, the Committee also discussed two different campaigns going on in the Northwest designed by BPA and the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) respectively. BPA has developed content for social media that touts the benefits of the hydropower system in our region under the “Hydro Flows Here” hashtag. Likewise, NWPPA has created content for utilities to use aimed at highlighting the importance of public power under the heading of “More Powerful Together.” Each of these campaigns offers ready-made or easily adjustable content for utilities to use to have the biggest impact in their home communities.



The meeting ended with roundtable discussions about what is happening with energy efficiency back home at individual cooperatives. Next up is the Energy Exchange, ran by BPA, which will be held in Tacoma, Washington May 15-17. Committee members will attend the conference, and also have a chance to meet as a group at that time.

## Legislative Look: H.R. 3144

Nearly 20 years of costly litigation might possibly culminate in forced, court-ordered spill at the Columbia River dams this spring. Not only is it a costly prospect to ratepayers who are already subsidizing the largest fish and wildlife mitigation program in the country at a price tag of \$621.5 million in Fiscal Year 2016 alone, it's also bad for fish.

In fact, the most recent federal science indicates that the costly “spill experiment” that the Court has ordered is unlikely to show significant survival benefits for juvenile fish. The Biological Opinion/federal fish plan currently in place was developed over two consecutive Administrations (George W. Bush and Obama) and relies on the best available, peer-reviewed science to direct river operations for Endangered Species Act-listed fish. It provides an operational framework for the healthiest river system we could create, and returning fish numbers prove it can work.

Unfortunately, special interest groups have routinely called into question the validity of this Biological Opinion, and countless lawsuits have dragged out over the years, with the effect of driving down the value of the dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. PNGC Power opposes such an action because we believe that salmon and dams can coexist. Furthermore, consistent with our commitment to environmental stewardship, we see the immense benefit of running a dependable electrical grid in the Northwest that is supported by clean, reliable, carbon-free hydropower.

Currently, PNGC Power's Ashley Slater is pursuing a bipartisan legislative solution (H.R. 3144) that protects our members' access to renewable, clean, and reliable federal hydropower while mitigating hydropower impacts and protecting ESA listed salmon. From a practical standpoint, the legislation would temporarily halt the court-ordered spill and therefore negate the need for BPA to impose a rate increase in the form of a so-called "spill surcharge." Additionally, the legislation keeps in place the current Biological Opinion, which would allow the federal agencies to focus on continued environmental study and review without being distracted by litigation.

Stay tuned as we stay on top of this hotly debated topic.



Ashley Slater

## Employee Spotlight: Ashley Slater

Ashley Slater joined the PNGC Power team in 2016 as the Vice President of Government Affairs and Policy. In this role Slater advocates on behalf of PNGC Power, serving the common interests of its 15 member cooperatives, and engaging state, regional, and federal lawmakers on the issues that matter most.

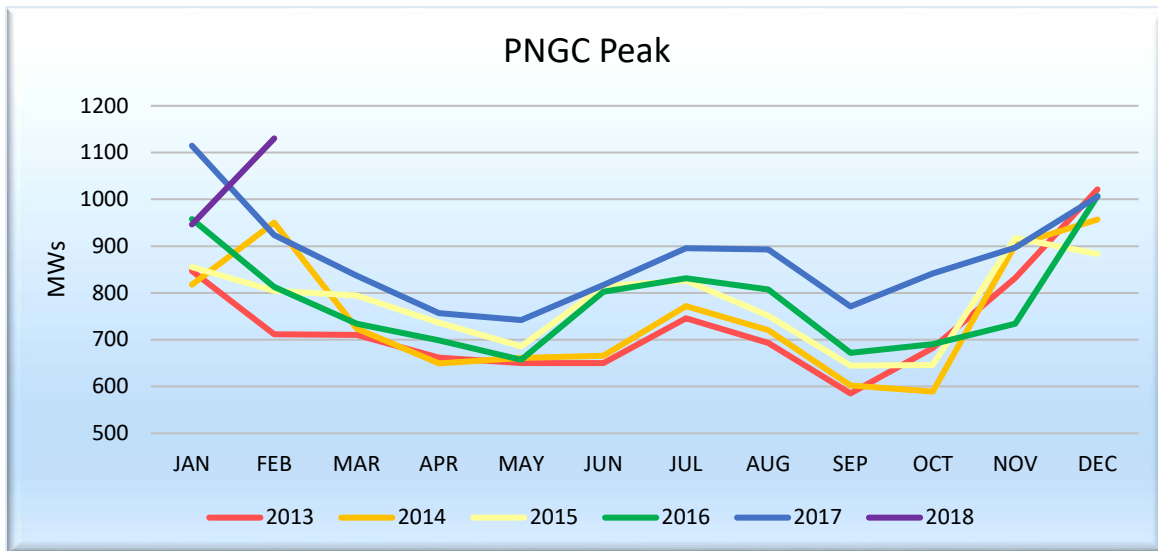
Slater is a tireless supporter of the federal hydropower system, working with Northwest RiverPartners and other key regional players to affect legislation that benefits the river operations at work. She is also PNGC Power's voice in negotiations with the Columbia River Treaty. And every quarter Slater goes to Washington, D.C. to engage congressional staff members on issues like BPA economic viability and Northwest specific energy topics, as well as keeping a pulse on what is happening in this current Administration and political environment.

Slater brought a wealth of experience in energy policy. Prior to PNGC, she worked for BPA in Washington, D.C. where she served as an agency liaison to policymakers within the Department of Energy and on Capitol Hill. She also served as the Associate Director of Legislative Affairs at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Her cooperative experience includes advocating on behalf of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) before the U.S. Congress.

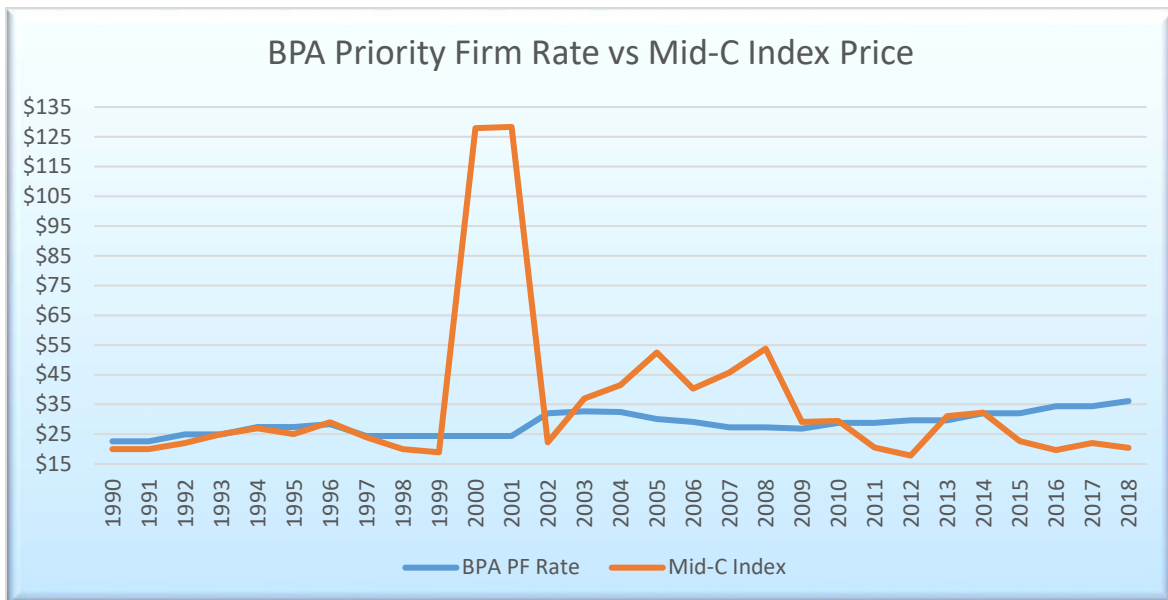
Slater grew up in Seattle, Washington. And prior to relocating back to the Pacific Northwest, Slater, her husband, and their two young sons lived in England.

## PNGC: By the Numbers

The graph below compares PNGC Power’s peak demand by month for the last 5 years.



The graph below compares BPA prices vs. Mid-C prices since 1990.



## BPA Happenings—April-May

### Comment Periods:

April 9

Sturgeon Lake Restoration Project Comments Due

### Event Calendar:

April 4

BPA Brown Bag: April 2018 Implementation Manual

April 5

CHaMP project review presentation by Wildland Hydrology

April 20

Leverage Policy Workshop

April 20

Financial Reserves Implementation Workshop

April 23

2018 PFGA-Tariff Customer Meeting

April 24

Distributed Energy Resources Utility Cross-share

May 15

Efficiency Exchange Northwest 2018

May 29

2018 PFGA-Tariff Customer Meeting

## March 2018 Board Agenda

Below was the agenda of the PNGC Board Meeting for March 6, 2018:

### Information Session:

- Open Floor
- External Power Supply Considerations, Part 1

### Staff Reports:

- Fiduciary Duties and Director Duties Policy
- Coffin Butte Testing Results and Action Plan
- Government Affairs Report
- FY20 & FY21 Market Purchase Update
- 2018 Strategic Planning Session
- CEO Report

## Upcoming Events

March 20	Raft River Annual Meeting
March 24	Lincoln Electric Annual Meeting
April 3	PNGC Board Meeting
April 7	Douglas Electric Annual Meeting
April 8-11	NRECA Legislative Conference
April 13	Central Electric Annual Meeting
April 16	Okanogan County Electric Annual Meeting
April 21	Blachly-Lane Annual Meeting
April 21	Umatilla Electric Annual Meeting
April 21	OPALCO Annual Meeting



711 NE Halsey St.  
 Portland, OR 97232  
 (503) 288-1234  
[www.pngcpower.com](http://www.pngcpower.com)