

Eastern Oregon Utility Safety Committee  
Oregon Trail Electric Co-Op  
Baker City, Oregon  
December 15, 2011  
Minutes

Attendees

Don Kellogg	Avista	Chuck Woodings	Bottomline Safety Services
Chris Bossard	Cascade Natural Gas	Gary Putnam	OR-PUC
Jim Duke	Idaho Power Company	Alvin Dockweiler	OTECC
Nick Oliver	Idaho Power Company	Ned Ratterman	OTECC
Vance T.Poe	Idaho Power Company	Todd Lenseigne	Pacific Power
Heath Schab	Idaho Power Company		

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.
- 2. Accidents Report:**

There were two reportable and none non-reportable electric incidents; one gas reportable and one gas non-reportable incidents. For more information on these incidents, click on "November 18, 2011," at <http://www.puc.state.or.us/PUC/safety/accident/111811.pdf>
- 3. Report on Western Oregon Utility Safety Committee Meeting:**
- 4. Old Business:**

Meeting dates will remain the third Thursday of every even month and the December meeting will be the second Thursday.
- 5. New Business:**
  - Federal Motor Carrier has changed the law regarding cell phones and hand held devices. Starting January 2, 2012 no one with a Commercial Drivers License will be able to use a cell phone, hands free device, I-pods or other electronic devices while operating a vehicle.
  - In Oregon everyone with a Commercial Drivers License will be required to send a copy of their medical card to the State. The State will need this information for input into their new data base that's being built.

The FCC has required Utility Companies to switch to a narrow band frequency for their two-way radios.
  - Discussion on vehicle accident – Pacific Power lineman stopped to assist at a vehicle accident caused by very slick road conditions was struck and killed by another out of control vehicle in Idaho.

- A driver, who was charged with DUI, ran over a regulator and valve on a high pressure gas line in a customer's yard causing gas to be discharged near Nyssa. Cascade Natural Gas crews responded quickly and shut the gas off. The driver was running from the scene when the fire department stopped her and she was turned over to the police.
- Pacific Power shared some photos of a pole that was almost burnt completely through at the neutral level, which caused a very hazardous situation.
- OTEC discussed a near miss where a crew was installing a field reclosure on a pole. When the crew disconnected the wench line from the reclosure it fell off the pole. The accident is under investigation.
- Pacific Power has discovered that some of the material handling buckets are not lifting loads that they are rated for. After their mechanics readjust the hydraulic valves they will lift the loads that they are rated for.
- 2012 officers were elected: Stuart Rice from Umatilla Electric will become 2012 President and Chris Bossard of Cascade Natural Gas will become the new Secretary for 2012.

**6. Program:**

Safety Meeting Presentation by Don Kellogg

Topic: Safety Boots

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next EOUSC meeting is February 16, 2012.

Minutes provided by Don Kellogg.