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Press Release  
For Immediate Release

## **Cowlitz Joins ColumbiaGrid Planning Agreement**

PORTLAND—ColumbiaGrid announced today that Cowlitz County PUD, headquartered in Longview, Washington, has joined in an agreement to plan for improving the region's transmission system. In signing ColumbiaGrid's planning and expansion pact, Cowlitz PUD teams up with seven other Northwest utilities and the Bonneville Power Administration in a joint effort to solve problems on the transmission grid and to get needed projects off the ground.

"We are very pleased to welcome Cowlitz PUD as a planning partner," Jon Kaake, ColumbiaGrid president and CEO stated. "When ColumbiaGrid was formed, we envisioned a larger footprint and more participation over time. The more participants we attract, the more data and resources we have available and the higher the quality of our planning products," he said.

ColumbiaGrid's planning and expansion functional agreement, which took effect in April 2007, is the basis for the organization's planning program. The goal of the program is to provide independent single-utility planning that answers three key questions: what should be built, who should build it and who should pay. Under terms of the agreement, ColumbiaGrid is currently working on a biennial transmission plan for its members that identifies projects, analyzes the impacts and sets priorities for improvements.

Cowlitz PUD signed the participation agreement with ColumbiaGrid January 22. The utility serves over 48,000 customers in southwest Washington and owns a hydroelectric project on the North Fork Lewis River.

"We view Cowlitz's decision to join our planning effort as a sign that utilities are seeing the value of what we're doing and are willing to give us their support," Kaake stated.

For further information, contact Jon Kaake at (503) 943-4931. Visit our website at [www.columbiagrid.org](http://www.columbiagrid.org).

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ColumbiaGrid, a non-profit membership Washington corporation, was formed in 2006 to improve the operational efficiency, reliability and planned expansion of the Northwest transmission grid. The members of ColumbiaGrid are Avista Corp., Bonneville Power Administration, Chelan County PUD, Grant County PUD, Puget Sound Energy, Seattle City Light and Tacoma Power. Snohomish County PUD has signed ColumbiaGrid's planning and expansion and reliability agreements.

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