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For Immediate Release

Snohomish Moves to Member Status in ColumbiaGrid

PORTLAND – ColumbiaGrid is another member strong. The transmission organization announced this week that Snohomish County PUD, headquartered in Everett, Washington, has completed the steps to become a member. With Snohomish, ColumbiaGrid has eight full-fledged members and two non-member participants.

“Snohomish PUD has been wholeheartedly involved since ColumbiaGrid was established in 2006,” according to ColumbiaGrid CEO Jon Kaake. The PUD is already an active participant in our planning and expansion, reliability, and OASIS agreements, and “membership gives the utility a more substantive role in the corporation,” he said. “New members also bring a broader perspective to ColumbiaGrid and signal growing regional support for our mission,” Kaake stated.

ColumbiaGrid members have a larger role than non-member participants in setting corporate direction. Members elect the board of directors, which guides policy, and approve new agreements for services.

“We welcome Snohomish PUD as a member,” Kaake stated. “It is a forward-looking utility and a major player in the region’s electric power industry,” he added. The utility serves over 315,000 customers in a 2,200-square-mile service territory north of Seattle.

The Snohomish PUD board of commissioners voted December 15, 2009 in favor of joining ColumbiaGrid. The following day, the members of ColumbiaGrid voted unanimously to grant membership and to amend the corporate bylaws as needed.

Visit our website at www.columbiagrid.org and the Snohomish County PUD website at www.snopud.com.

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ColumbiaGrid, a non-profit Washington membership 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, Snohomish County PUD and Tacoma Power. Cowlitz PUD and Douglas County PUD are non-member participants in ColumbiaGrid’s Planning and Expansion Functional Agreement (PEFA).