



Celebrating 10 Years Of Utility Self-Reliance

Ten years ago, on November 3, the McNary North Shore Fishway Hydro project began commercial operation.

The McNary Fishway project was a joint effort between Klickitat PUD (KPUD) and our neighbor across the river, Northern Wasco County PUD. The McNary Fishway project is on the Washington side of the dam, near Umatilla, Oregon.



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The project was only the beginning of KPUD's vision of a low-cost, locally controlled power supply.

KPUD and Northern Wasco PUD entered into an ownership agreement in 1995, kicking off the beginning of a long-term power partnership. This was KPUD's first jump into the "generation" age, as it was becoming obvious we needed to be more self-reliant and self-sufficient by reducing our dependence on the Bonneville Power Administration. Our board foresaw the day when having options for power resources would be imperative.

The McNary Fishway project generates 75 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity each year, while providing a safer passage for downstream migrating juvenile salmon. KPUD's half-ownership of the project supplies about 13 percent of our customer load.

During the 10-year period, McNary Fishway has generated 762 million kWh, enough to power all of the homes in Klickitat County for nearly seven years.

On October 15, 1997, after two years of construction, the plant came online, on time and on budget. The project was declared commercial on November 3. It remains an integral part of KPUD's ability to control rates, as we strive to be on the forefront of generation opportunities for the betterment of our county.

Tom D. Svendsen, General Manager

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