Columbia REA

Columbia REA Wins Safety Award

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA), based in Vancouver, Washington announced the 2012 Safety Award winners at the Engineering & Operations Conference on April 12, 2012, held in Spokane, Washington.

Safety continues to be a top priority with member-owned utilities, as evidenced by the group's average incident rate. This year, the group of utilities' average incident rate again decreased, from 6.2 in 2010 to 5.5 in 2011. This average incident rate of 5.5 is also below the national average incident rate of 6.2 for 2011.

"We are safer than others in the industry, on average, and our safety performance is improving year over year," said Scott Lowry, NWPPA training and regulatory manager.

Over the last five years, NWPPA has continued to see increased participation every year for the annual safety contest; the number of participating NWPPA utilities has nearly doubled from 25 in 2008 to 44 in 2012.

Safety contest awards are based upon a review of each utility's safety contest form, the number of recordable injury/illness cases (the incident rate) in 2011, and the lost work days (the severity rate) in 2011.

*Columbia REA tied for 1st place with Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative in the **100,000-125,000 hours of exposure** category**.***

__About NWPPA:__ NWPPA is an international association representing and serving over 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves more than 280 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry. Visit the NWPPA website at www.nwppa.org for more information.

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Columbia REA is a member owned electric cooperative serving customers in Columbia & Walla Walla Counties in Washington and Umatilla County in Oregon. Visit our website at www.columbiarea.coop for more information.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative