

## Media release

# COWLITZ COUNTY PUD

For Immediate release – August 28, 2008

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## **Cowlitz PUD and three utility partners move forward with White Creek expansion**

The Cowlitz PUD Board of commissioners voted Tuesday to participate in the next phase of the White Creek Wind project.

The new phase, known as Harvest Wind Project, is expected to be an 80 megawatt (MW) project, 25 percent of which would belong to Cowlitz PUD. The other prospective partners are consumer-owned utilities Eugene (OR) Water & Electric Board, Peninsula Light (Gig Harbor, WA) and Lakeview Power and Light (Lakewood, WA).

Cowlitz PUD receives 46 percent of the electricity from the 205 MW White Creek Wind Project, which was completed in November 2007. The Harvest Wind Project will be built adjacent to the White Creek project in the Columbia River Gorge in Klickitat County, WA. It would feature 35-40 wind turbines and would most likely be built between 2009 and 2011.

The utility partners are currently considering turbine bids from five manufacturers and prospective means of financing the project.

Cowlitz PUD's interest in the project is primarily to obtain more renewable electricity to help it meet the requirements of State Initiative 937, passed by voters in 2006. The new law sets renewable portfolio standards for Washington utilities with 25,000 or more customers. It requires that three percent of power resources come from non-hydro renewables by 2012, nine percent by 2016 and 15 percent by 2020.

The combined output of White Creek Wind and Harvest Wind that is available to Cowlitz PUD would help it achieve most of its 2016 renewables' requirements. Based on the electric usage of an average Cowlitz PUD residential customer, the two projects produce enough electricity to light about 50,000 homes.

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