

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2010

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## CENTRAL ELECTRIC EXPANDS PEAK PROJECT TO CAMP SHERMAN

Central Electric Cooperative (CEC) announced today that it is expanding the Peak Project energy efficiency pilot program to Camp Sherman.

With major funding and project support by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), CEC mailed Camp Sherman area residents an invitation this week to join the Peak Project, said CEC Member Services Director Alan Guggenheim.

CEC will conduct a kick-off meeting for Camp Sherman residents interested in participating at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 23, in the Camp Sherman Community Hall, he said.

Participation by Camp Sherman residents in the Peak Project is voluntary. If a resident joins, Central Electric will arrange for free installation of a programmable Intermatic timer on their water heater by a licensed electrician. Installation takes about 45 minutes. The unit can be mounted on the water heater or the wall adjacent to it, said Guggenheim.

On the day of installation, a CEC representative will program the timer to turn off the hot water heater from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. (PST), daily, seven days a week, for the 18-month duration of the pilot project, but always subject to the homeowner's manual override of the unit at any time," said Guggenheim.

“Our purpose with the Peak Project is to see whether homeowners notice any difference in availability of hot water during the curtailment,” said CEC Chief Electrical Engineer Don Lang.

Lang said that, since February, 147 Tollgate homeowners have signed up to participate in the Peak Project, and that few, if any, have reported any inconvenience.

The Peak Project can (a) save CEC and its members money, (b) reduce the need for costly new “peaking power” generation plants, (c) give homeowners greater control over their energy use, (d) give us a new tool to help restore power during “cold load” outages, and (e) help prevent “brown outs,” said Guggenheim.

“A natural gas-fired, 50-megawatt peaking plant can cost \$44 million, not counting operating and fuel costs. BPA reports needing peak power generation for less than 200 hours a year. Avoiding construction of a ‘peaker’ to cover just 200 hours of demand saves everybody money and preserves our environment. It just makes good sense,” said Guggenheim.

“The beauty of the Peak Project is that most water heaters are well-insulated and can keep water hot for several showers, even when switched off, which makes them an efficient energy storage device,” said Lang.

“On most mornings, the timers are shifting between 300 kilowatts and 400 kilowatts from the peak demand period. That’s consistent with the timers we have installed in Tollgate,” said Lang.

“If another 150-200 residents in Camp Sherman and Tollgate sign up, we hope to control one megawatt of the load on that part of our system,” said Lang. “That would be a meaningful number to our electric system and could form the basis for further expansion of the program.”

“Of course, if you have guests for the weekend, you can override the timer with the easy push of a button. In fact, you can opt out of the program at any time,” said Lang. “It’s voluntary.”

For more information, or to sign up, Camp Sherman residents can call Central Electric at 541-548-2144.

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