

Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award



NOMINEE'S INFORMATION

Nominee's Name: Jan Lee

Contact Information:

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PROPOSER INFORMATION

Proposed By: Bruce Meaker **Supported by:** Lewis Wardle

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The Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award is presented to an individual within the regional hydro industry who:

- Exemplifies the mission of NWAHA:

“NWAHA is dedicated to the promotion of the region’s waterpower as clean, efficient renewable energy while protecting the fisheries and environmental quality which characterize our Northwest region;”

- Approaches each project with a strong commitment to the balance between resource protection and resource development;
- Demonstrates a true appreciation for the views and responsibilities of everyone involved;
- Demands the best work, always, from themselves and others; and
- Encourages others’ professional development as mentor and colleague.

RECOMMENDATION

Summary of Nominee's career / actions exemplifying the criteria standards:

It is my honor to submit the nomination of Jan Lee for consideration by the Pamela E. Klatt Award Committee.

Jan has a long and distinguished career in direct support of the hydropower industry. Many know her as the Executive Director for the Northwest Hydroelectric Association, a position she has held since 1983. I believe her several decades long dedication to developing and promoting the hydro industry in the Pacific Northwest exemplifies qualities that deserve recognition through the Pamela E. Klatt Award.

Jan has been actively promoting hydro as an economical and renewable resource since the early 1980's. As an employee of a Bend Oregon irrigation district, she began licensing two projects (3 and 7 MW) on existing irrigation diversions in response to the rising cost of regional power when the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) began cutting back customers in the face of the perceived limits to its supply capabilities. In 1981, to address a need for organized support for small hydro developers, she was one of 11 developers who incorporated the "Northwest Small Hydroelectric Association" (NWSHA) as an Oregon corporation. NWSHA's purpose was to serve the interests of small hydro producers in the four Northwest states within the BPA service territory.

By 1983, Jan was appointed the Executive Director of NWSHA in recognition of her leadership and administrative skills. She has ably served in that capacity for 27 years as the association has evolved from service to the "hydro gold rush" ushered in by the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act to become the Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWSHA), a forum for regional discussion of relicensing, regulation and technical issues.

While she has been effectively administering to the many NWSHA Boards of Directors over the years, Jan was an active lobbyist for 10 years for legislative changes necessary to promote hydropower in the State of Oregon as a renewable resource. Then in 2001, she was elected as a House member of the Oregon legislature and became a member of the Land and Water Use Committee and Vice Chair of the House Species Recovery and Streamflow Restoration Committee. In this role, she promoted legislation that provided more stability for hydropower projects such as Oregon's "reauthorization" (relicensing) bill that provided a better process for utility project water rights. Major legislation on fish screens and fish passage was also developed out of these legislative committees on which she served for two years.

In recognition of her regulatory knowledge and construction management experience, an irrigation district in Bend Oregon contracted Jan in 2003 to develop a small hydro project. This project, with a 5 mile pipeline and 1 megawatt capacity, was completed in 2008.

Throughout her 28 year career in hydropower, she has served on the advisory committees to Governors and state agencies of Oregon, relative to hydropower, irrigation, and fish passage. She has also served on regional subcommittees of the US Forest Service and the Northwest Power and Conservation Planning Council. Her service in these capacities was sought because of her experience with overseeing engineering and construction contracts and negotiation of power sales contracts. She has written grants on behalf of NWSHA including a 1986 grant with BPA identifying economically viable hydro sites.

In 1994 she helped develop the Foundation for Water and Energy Education (FWEE); a public sub-corporation of NWSHA for education and promotion of hydropower. While several years later it became a separate tax exempt non-profit corporation, FWEE had its genesis as a part of NWSHA under Jan's administration.

RECOMMENDATION (CONTINUED)

Throughout her long career in service to the Northwest hydroelectric industry, Jan has also provided service to the community through participation in related organizations. A list of these includes:

- Former Vice-Chair of the Deschutes Basin Watershed Council
- Former Executive Director (16 years) of the Oregon Water Resources Congress
- Former Chair of the Clackamas River Basin Watershed Council
- Former Vice-Chair of the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)
- Former Board Member of the National Water Resources Association (NWRA)

Hydropower in the Northwest is a major component of the national hydro industry, and the Northwest Hydroelectric Association annual conferences have evolved to be a respected forum for the industry to meet and discuss issues of current and evolving interest. For many years it was the only such regional forum to serve the industry. As member of the NWhA Board of Directors for the last twelve years (having served as President for two of them), I can say that Jan's stabilizing dedication and support of the Board has been instrumental to keeping the Association viable over its long history. Through the connection to NWhA many northwest hydro professionals have provided leadership to the Association and subsequently, gone on to leadership service through the National Hydropower Association. Jan Lee was instrumental in fostering a regional association to support that leadership development.

In light of the above and to address the criteria for nominations,

- Jan Lee has shown a consistent and prominent long term dedication to the hydro industry since 1981. She has been consistent as the Executive Director for 27 years in supporting the Northwest Hydroelectric Association as it has evolved from an organization of small hydro developers into a regional forum for discussion and education about hydropower issues for the broader hydropower community. She continues to be a rock of stability for the many NWhA Boards of Directors who are attracted to serve the industry because of her support and administrative leadership of the association.
- She has for many years provided service to her community and the hydro industry through her participation and leadership on several state and regional water resource organizations.
- She has experience developing hydropower projects for irrigation districts in Oregon State. This experience highlights her ability to integrate the engineering, environmental mitigation, and economics required to bring a project on line. She has served the industry by promoting constructive change as a lobbyist and as a member of the Oregon legislature.

It is with this perspective that I nominate Jan Lee for consideration as the 2010 recipient of the Northwest Hydroelectric Association's - Pamela E. Klatt Award.