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PPC SELECTS SCOTT SIMMS AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PORTLAND, OREGON – The Executive Committee of the Public Power Council (PPC) announced today that Scott Simms has been selected as Executive Director, effective August 12. Simms will be the ninth Executive Director in the 53-year history of PPC.

“We are fortunate to have Scott as the next leader of PPC, an organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities and their ratepayers,” said Debra Smith, PPC Executive Committee Chairwoman, and CEO and General Manager of Seattle City Light. “PPC is critical to ensuring that consumer-owned utilities can continue to deliver reliable, affordable, and carbon-free power to thousands of businesses and millions of residents every day,” said Smith.



“Scott has two decades of experience working in various capacities on Northwest power issues and will bring his expertise and enthusiasm to this new position,” said Chairwoman Smith. “With Scott at the helm, we look forward to building on PPC’s successes as public power continues to conquer the challenges and seize the opportunities of the next decade.”

Simms is currently the Communications Director at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). In that role, he has touched nearly every part of the agency’s internal and external operations. Simms leveraged his expertise to promote a robust communications program and create collaborative relationships with customers and stakeholders. His time at BPA has resulted in successes such as the nationally-recognized “Hydropower Flows Here” campaign. Simms also held other leadership positions within BPA, including Manager of Long-Term Power Planning and Secretary to the U.S. Entity for the Columbia River Treaty negotiation process. Prior to joining BPA in 2006, Simms held senior communications positions at Portland General Electric.

“It’s an honor to be selected by Northwest public power leaders to serve as PPC’s Executive Director,” said Simms. “I was born here in the Northwest and I have spent my whole life and career here, so supporting the region’s public power interests in this capacity is a tremendous opportunity.”

“Public power is the backbone of both rural and urban parts of the Northwest economy, and it also provides far-reaching benefits to our region’s people and environment,” Simms said. “We have a lot of work and challenges ahead of us, but also incredible opportunities – and PPC members have a long-standing track record of accomplishing large tasks when they tackle them as a collective.”

A Northwest native, Simms hails from Snoqualmie, Washington. He studied Public Relations and Political Science at Washington State University in Pullman, graduating with distinction. Simms lives with his wife and daughter in Portland.

“I am humbled to work alongside PPC’s dedicated members, visionary Executive Committee, and talented staff in service to Northwest public power,” said Simms.

PPC ran a rigorous selection process. “I want to thank all the candidates who expressed interest in leading PPC,” said Annette Creekpaum, Vice Chair of PPC’s Administration and Budget Committee, and General Manager of Mason County PUD No. 3. “The strong level of interest we received from top-notch candidates is a testament to the vital role PPC plays in the region,” said Creekpaum. “I want to also thank the members of PPC’s Administration and Budget Committee for their diligence during the selection process and their commitment to ensuring that PPC remains a passionate, devoted and powerful advocate for public power.”

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About the Public Power Council

The Public Power Council, established in 1966, is an association that represents over 100 consumer-owned electric utilities in the Pacific Northwest. PPC’s mission is to preserve and protect the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities. PPC is a key forum to identify, discuss and build consensus around energy and utility issues. For more information, please visit us on the web at www.ppcpx.org.