Gas-Electric Coordination

A joint initiative

Dan Kirschner & Kelly Fukai
Northwest Gas Association

Crystal Ball
Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee

Key Messages

- The region is dangerously close to experiencing significant energy supply disruption.
- Gas and electric interdependence is increasing and demands greater awareness and enhanced coordination to mitigate risks to the region's energy system.
- Demand for energy in the Pacific Northwest is increasing.
- Resource additions are at risk of not being deployed.
- A reliable, affordable and sustainable energy future will require collaboration on actionable solutions, including support for energy infrastructure.

Winter Readiness Coordination

PNUCC and NWGA facilitate seasonal readiness meetings to bring gas and electric system operators together ahead of and after the winter season.

Participants share preparations, review emergency procedures, practice tabletop exercises and—perhaps most importantly—build relationships.

These connections underscore and strengthen the critical role of collaboration in maintaining a reliable, affordable and resilient energy future, especially during periods of peak demand.

NWGA/PNUCC Review of Reports

Guidehouse reviewed 19 reports published between 2018 – 2024, 16 of which were published between 2023 – 2024, to gain a holistic understanding of the region's energy landscape

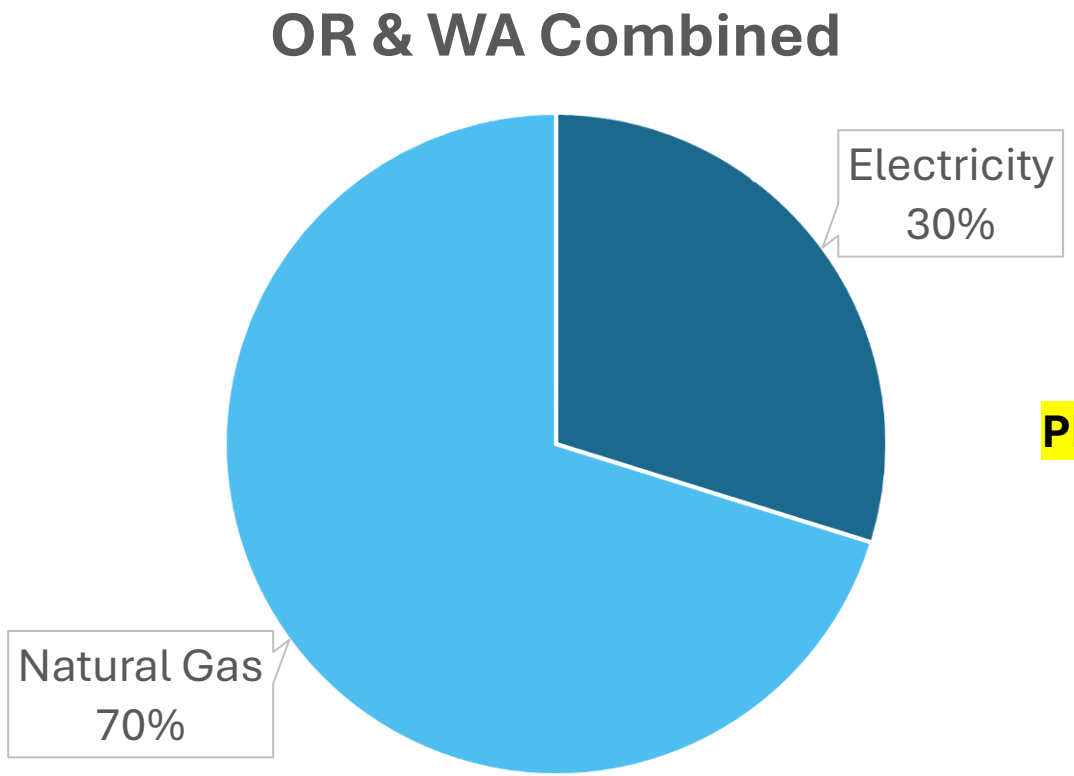
- **Energy Pathways**
- **January 2024 Cold Snap**
- **Resource Adequacy Assessments**
- **Load Forecasts**

What Was Common?

- **Rapid load growth** driven by electrification and data centers
- **Resource adequacy** concerns across all reports
- Growing challenges with **system resilience and flexibility** underscore the need for more infrastructure
- Recognition of **increasing interdependence** of natural gas and electric systems
- Shared call for **better coordination** between gas and electric systems

Energy Use During Severe Weather Jan 14, 2024, 9-10am (OR/WA):

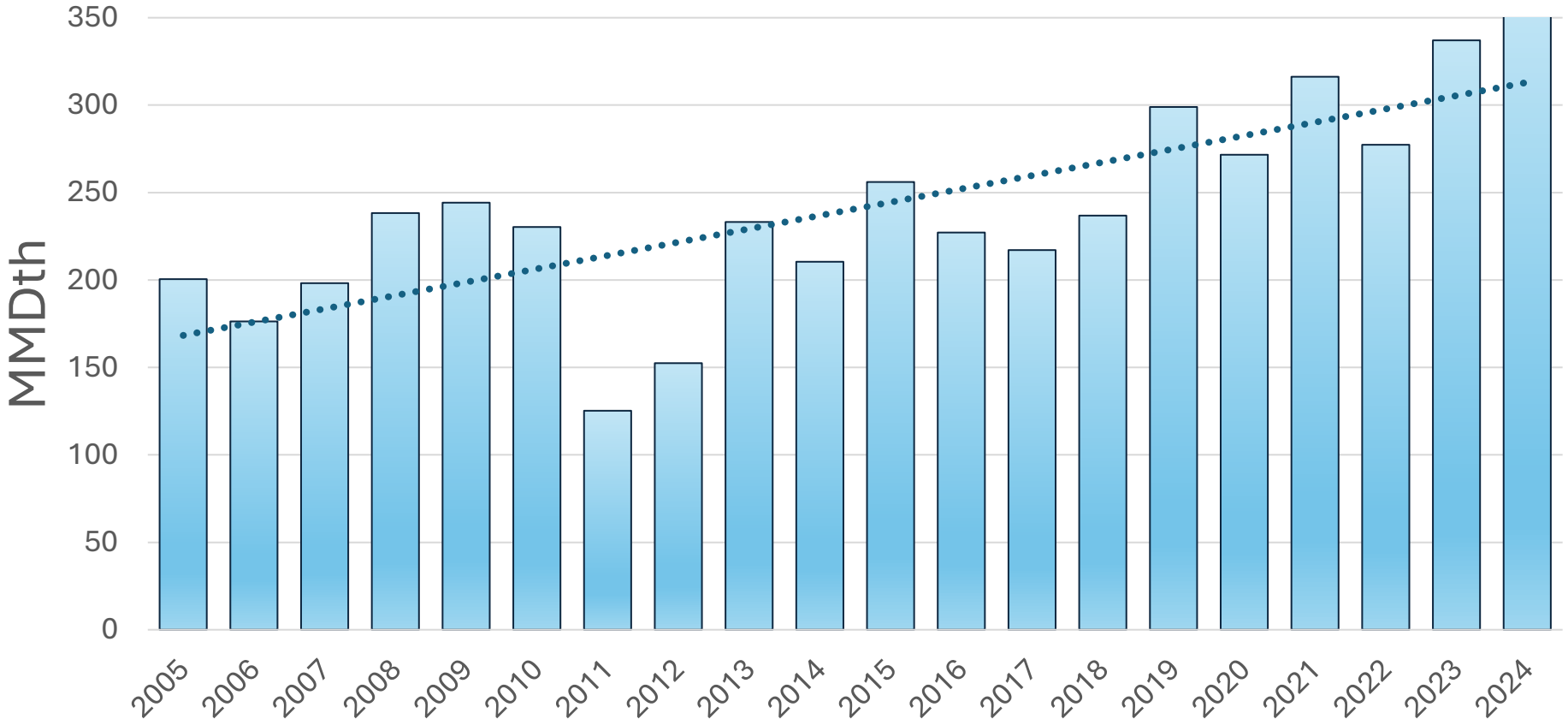
- 92,829 Dth delivered via electric system (27,206 MW)
- 218,546 Dth delivered via gas system (64,050 MW)



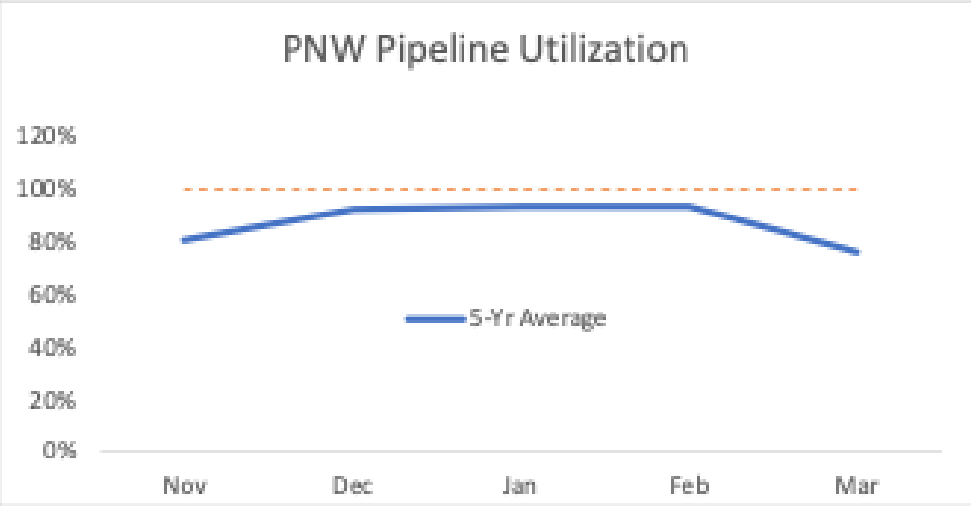
PLUS: 34,823 Dth of gas

Generation Demand for Natural Gas

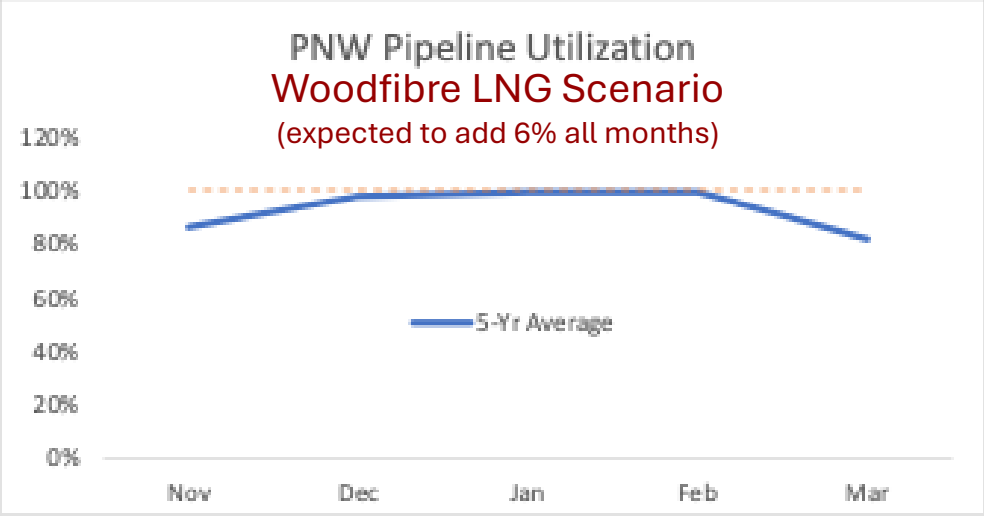
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration; Statistics Canada



Natural Gas Pipeline Utilization

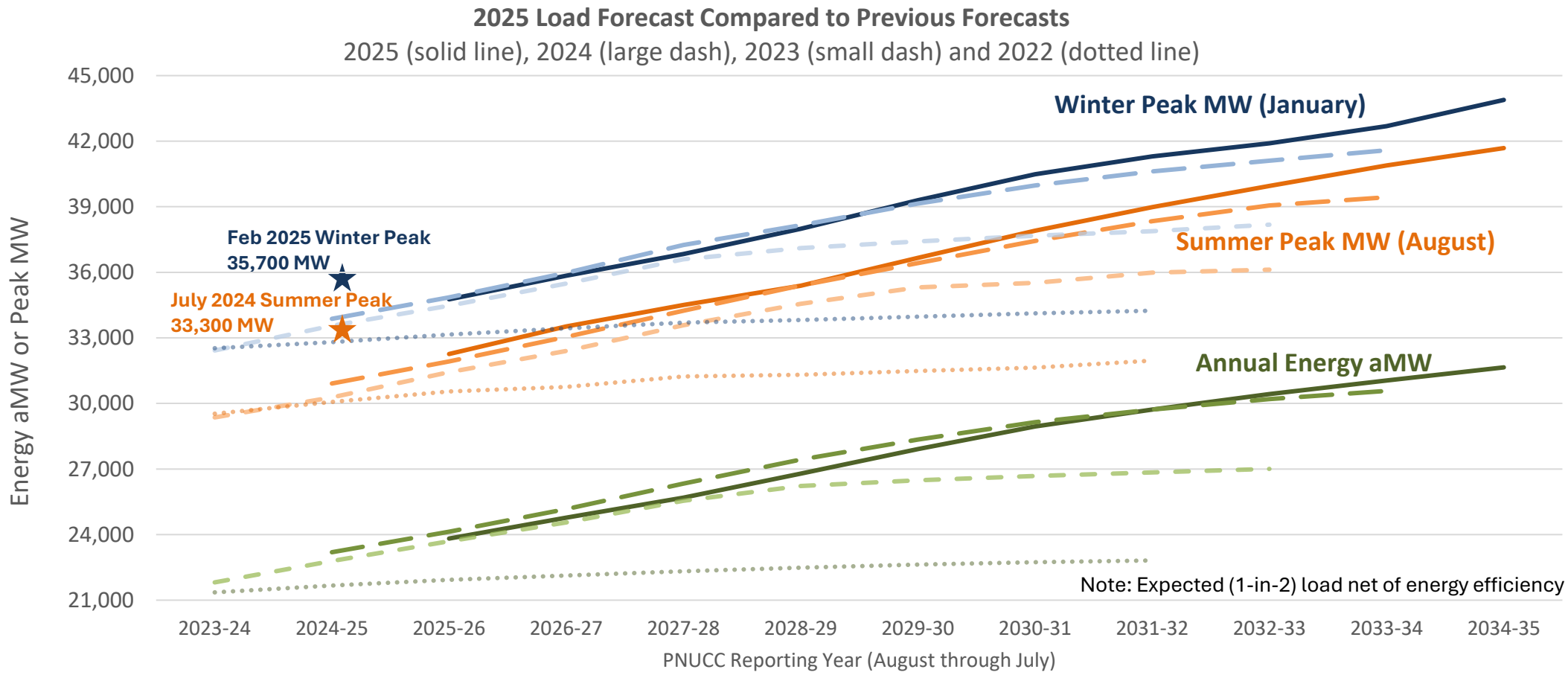


Historical	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2020/21 Winter	77%	90%	89%	95%	81%
2021/22 Winter	75%	93%	94%	88%	67%
2022/23 Winter	88%	101%	89%	93%	85%
2023/24 Winter	81%	86%	100%	93%	79%
2024/25 Winter	82%	90%	96%	99%	70%



Load Factor	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Max	88%	101%	100%	99%	85%
Min	75%	86%	89%	88%	67%
5-Yr Average Actual	80%	92%	93%	93%	76%

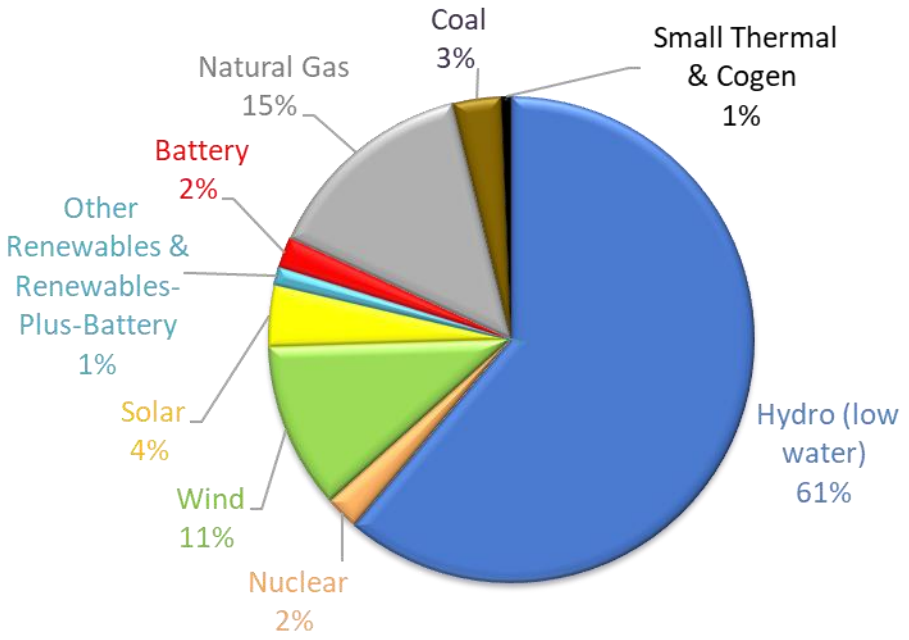
Regional Demand for Electricity



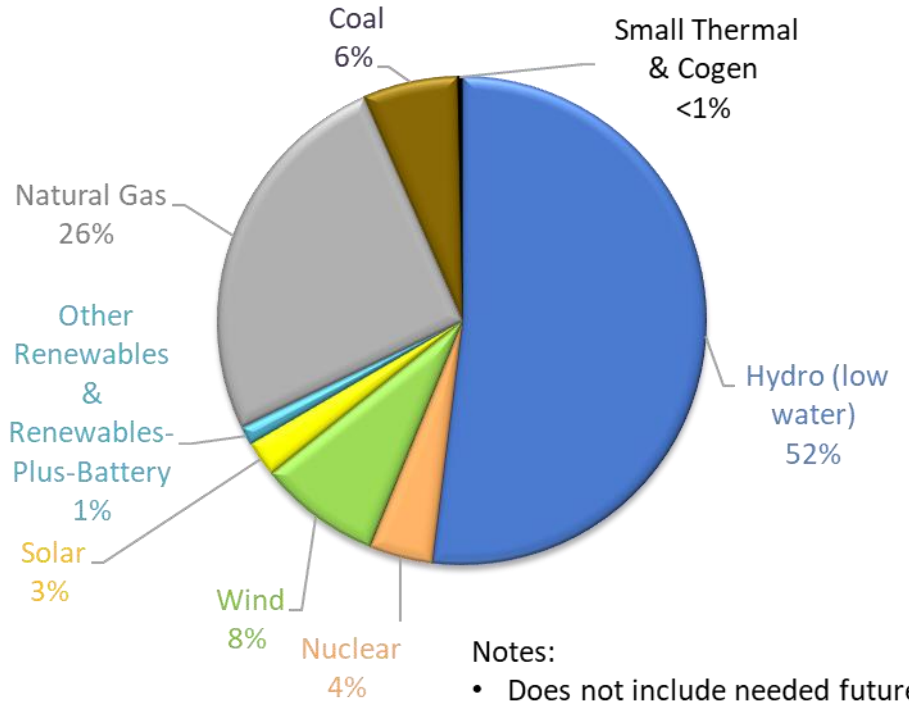
Sources: PNUCC 2025 Northwest Regional Forecast, Northwest Power & Conservation Council

Utility Generating Resources in 2026

Nameplate 55,000 MW



Annual Generation 23,600 aMW



Notes:

- Does not include needed future resources
- Reflects energy available from natural gas power plants, not dispatch for economic conditions or clean energy policies

Source: PNUCC 2025 Northwest Regional Forecast

Regional Energy Symposium

Hosted by: PNUCC, NWGA, Western Power Pool & Public Generating Pool

Convened, utility leaders, regulators, state policymakers, power producers and other energy stakeholders to:

- Understand the urgent reliability risks and planning challenges facing our region
- Identify barriers to progress
- Build consensus around key takeaways and priority actions

Covered a cohesive set of topics such as:

- Maintaining resource adequacy
- The growing need for coordinated natural gas and electric sector planning
- Aligning state strategies and timelines with realistic infrastructure development

Next Steps for the Region

Cross Sector Coordination

- Establish cross-sector coordination forums to align planning and share data.

Load Growth

- Jointly plan for load growth and peak mitigation, especially around hybrid systems.

Integrated Models & Metrics

- Develop integrated models and metrics to stress-test system resilience.

Regulatory Frameworks

- Align regulatory frameworks to support long-term, co-optimized planning.

Questions?

Dan Kirschner, NWGA
dkirschner@nwga.org

Kelly Fukai, NWGA
kfukai@nwga.org

Crystal Ball, PNUCC
crystal@pnucc.org