

# Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award 2016 Nomination Form



## NOMINEE'S INFORMATION

**Nominee's Name:** John Esler

**Contact Information:** Portland General Electric, 121 SW Salmon St, Portland, OR  
503-464-8563; john.esler@pgn.com

## PROPOSER INFORMATION

**Proposed By:** Tim Brush

**Contact Information:** Normandeau Associates; 917 Rt 12, Westmoreland, NH 03608; 603-757-4000; tbrush@normandeau.com

## CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

**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:**

John Esler is very well known throughout the Pacific Northwest for his achievements, experience, intellect, and candid approach to hydropower projects regulation and development. He is a true champion of hydropower and of the natural world that supports hydropower production. John has both a strong power generation and support services technical background and a strong biology background. As part of the well known PGE Hydro Licensing and Water Rights team for many years, John has led the high profile Clackamas River Project relicensing and been an integral member of the teams for the Willamette Falls, Pelton Round Butte, and Bull Run processes.

One of the many things about John that fascinated me as I was getting to know him well was how he was able to manage and accommodate being a senior member of Julie Keil's Hydro Licensing Team and PM of the Clackamas relicensing while also serving on the ODFW Commission, including Chair of the Commission! I believe his stint on the ODFW Commission was at the invitation of the Governor. This is another example of John's accomplishments and that he is highly respected in the region.

Having had the privilege of working closely with the PGE Hydro Licensing Team over many years, John (and all of them) has the mentality that all stakeholders have valid points of view. John genuinely encourages input from stakeholders and seriously considers their input. Over more than 30 years I've not worked with a client that is more generous and thoughtful about environmental issues encountered in their relicensing processes. Their generosity toward stakeholders is not a handout but based on serious and in depth consideration of the merit of requests and how PGE may be able to accommodate them, while still supporting a viable generating project. He is firm and demanding when needed, and generous when appropriate. John is very innovative in his approach to such tasks and revels in the art of negotiating a win-win solution.

From a technical perspective, John is extremely knowledgeable in his own right, and he has always expected the highest quality work from those around him (including our work). His philosophy with respect to environmental studies is that the science must be defensible to have any credibility with regulators. Because of John's (and PGE's) focus on high quality science, done right from the beginning without cutting corners, the technical work that we conducted over years was very rewarding. The improvements that are part of the new Clackamas River Project are innovative, extensive, and will be a showcase for the region for some years to come.

As you all know, John has been very generous with his time to NWAHA, having served as president and a long time board member, as well as to other organizations. He is always willing to engage in meaningful debates on issues, whether industry related or organizational oversight related. He will always make time to convey his opinions and the rationale behind them, and he will always listen to the opinions of others. This willingness to engage parlays into passing his knowledge and experience on to younger less experienced professionals.

John works very hard but also plays hard. His fishing, hunting, crabbing, birding, and other junkets generate many great stories and photos. He's very fortunate that his wife, Jeanne, also enjoys many of his outdoor endeavors. In fact she is always quick to let me know when she catches the biggest walleye of the trip. He often invites colleagues, professional acquaintances, maybe even that occasional person 'on the other side of the fence' in a particular issue or negotiation to join him/them on the river. I've had the great pleasure of fishing, birding, going to various concerts, and vacationing with the Eslers. You can always be assured that the day or trip will be memorable. I can think of no person more deserving of the prestigious Pamela Klatt Award than John Esler. I hope that you will agree with me. Sincerely,  
Tim Brush

**RECOMMENDATION (CONTINUED)**

Empty box for recommendation text.