

January 14, 2012

Attn: Heidi A. Wahto
NWA Annual Award Committee
6 Nickerson Street Suite 101
Seattle, WA 98109

Reference: Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award Nomination – John “Jack” Snyder, PE

Ms. Wahto & Committee:

On behalf of the McMillen Family, it is our pleasure to nominate Mr. John “Jack” Snyder for the Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award.

Nominee’s Information

John “Jack” Snyder, PE
(425) 327-1227 | jack.snyder@mcmillen-llc.com

Proposer Information

Mara & Mort McMillen
(208) 342-4214 | mara.mcmillen@mcmillen-llc.com

Recommendation Meeting Criteria For Nomination

John “Jack” Snyder has been in the hydroelectric industry for over 35 years bringing a broad background that is critically important in negotiating the regulatory process, and then designing, building and starting up a project. He has been responsible for project planning, licensing and permitting, design, contract preparation and execution, construction management, start-ups and plant operation on multiple projects. Jack has served as on-site construction manager on several projects and has personally started up seven hydroelectric projects for the first time. He has managed large multi-disciplinary teams on complex design and regulatory projects, including management of schedules and budgets for in-house staff while setting up and administering multiple subcontracts under teaming arrangements. Jack has assisted in public outreach programs and education, has conducted many public hearings and has been involved in reaching complex settlement agreements for hydropower projects involving the public, government agencies, NGO’s, Indian Tribes, and private citizens.

Jack has also been an advocate for the sustainable development and “green energy” aspects of hydropower and has prepared “green certification” applications for several projects and developments. Most recently Jack worked closely with his client, Rudolf Jacobs, to submit the Choloma Project for certification by the ***United Nations under their Clean Development Mechanism as part of a program to reduce global warming.*** This project is significant to the country of Guatemala not only for the reducing of greenhouse gas emissions, but also because projects of this nature can stimulate the growth of clean energy manufacturing and help address regional problems such as an energy supply deficit, low rural electrification, and poverty. Within the last year projects that Jack has served as the Project Manager have been recognized on a national platform for their contribution to the engineering and global community. These include the following; Choloma Hydroelectric Project, Finca Trece Aguas, Guatemala - ***2012 National ACEC Award for Engineering Excellence*** (Energy Category) and Youngs Creek Hydroelectric Project - ***2012 Renewable Energy World Hydropower Project of the Year.***

In order to best demonstrate that Jack exemplifies the criteria for this award we have provided quotes from his clients, friends, and colleagues who have worked with him over the years on the following pages. These individuals can speak not only about his technical capabilities but his sense of humor and true passion for the development of efficient renewable energy.

Exemplifies the mission of NWA: “NWA 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;”

Jack exemplifies the NWA mission and has made a serious commitment to promoting hydropower while protecting the fisheries and environment equal. One of his most recent projects, presented below, is an example of this balance and commitment. It is the **Youngs Creek Hydroelectric Project** which was named 2012 Renewable Energy World Hydropower Project of the Year.

Northeast of Seattle along the edge of the Cascades runs Youngs Creek, a small tributary *prized for its scenic hikes, waterfalls and salmon runs*. Building a hydro project, no matter what size, has proved to be an almost insurmountable obstacle in Washington in recent years. In fact, the Youngs Creek Hydro Project, dedicated in October 2012, *became the first new hydroelectric project in state in nearly two decades*. But it hasn’t been for a lack of trying. Construction on the Youngs Creek project itself began in the mid-1990s and was halted for some time before developers finally flipped the switch in 2011. The 7.5 MW project cost \$29 million to complete, and *it answers some of the most pressing issues for hydropower*. Intake occurs above a waterfall, which provides a natural barrier to migrating fish, such as salmon. A channel of water is diverted rapidly through a three-mile underground pipeline that drops 920 feet in elevation to the powerhouse. The force of the falling water powers the turbines, and it is then returned to the creek downstream. *Migrating fish remain unaffected and the river does not change course*. According to the Snohomish County Public Utilities District, who developed the project, Youngs Creek gives the agency greater flexibility with its power supply because it’s a locally generated, reliable resource that provides energy at times of the year when it’s needed the most.

The following quote was provided by the Principle Engineer at the Snohomish PUD, who has worked with Jack over the last 20 years.

*“I have worked with Jack Snyder on several hydroelectric projects over the past 20+ years and have always found Jack to be very professional in his approach to all phases of a project. **Jack has shown how a balance between resource protection and resource development can be a win-win when project features are designed and presented in a positive way to all parties involved.** Jack’s knowledge of the mechanical aspects of hydroelectric projects is well known. What may not be well known is his knowledge and understanding of the civil and electrical features of a hydroelectric project; this extensive experience and knowledge not only makes his input to a project’s design critical, but leads to a successful resolution of construction and startup issues. **Jack has been a mentor to myself and others not only in the design phase of a recent project, but through the construction and start-up phases as well.** Turbine manufacturers who have supplied equipment to various projects Jack has been involved with know that if their equipment does not meet required specifications, Jack will relentlessly pursue equipment modifications until such time their equipment operates as required. When it comes to Hydroelectric matters, Jack definitely is the first person I would call.”*

Danny W. Miles, PE Principal Engineer, Youngs Creek Project Manager, Snohomish PUD

Approaches each project with a strong commitment to the balance between resource protection and resource development;

“I am the former GM at Pend Oreille and before that served as the Director of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs at Pend Oreille. While in both positions I worked extensively with Jack.

*He was always very responsive the needs of our utility and I often described him as a consultant who was as close to your own employee as you could get. **He cared about the needs of the local people** and the costs associated with that. But he was **always willing to try and work with the agencies and tribes to find solutions** that worked for all. He was always very cost conscious for the utility and truly understood how the costs affected our local ratepayers. He always met his budgets and timelines. Jack has a great sense of humor and that has served him and his clients well too. I could go on and on about the respect I have for him. He has served the industry well for many years!"*

Bob Geddes, General Manager, Lewis County PUD

Demonstrates a true appreciation for the views and responsibilities of everyone involved;

"I met Mr. Jack Snyder back in 1997-1998 when our company was in the process of finalizing the construction and commissioning our first hydroelectric plant, the 16.5 MW Secacao hydropower station located in Guatemala, Central America. Since then we build the 4.6 MW Candelaria and 9.7 MW Choloma hydroelectric stations (which came on line in 2006 and 2011, respectively). Jack's signature is all over these three plants, and his influence and passion for hydropower and engineering has educated, influenced and motivated many of us. He was the leading engineer for consulting firms we hired for various tasks for the three hydroplants mentioned, and he was the reason why those consulting firms were hired. We quickly established a strong bond with Jack, based on trust and friendship, and came to rely on his advice for several important and economically strategic decisions over the years.

*Our company owns and operates the three plants, all 3 of which are located on a property located in the northeastern region of Guatemala. The property contains a relatively **large area covered with pristine rainforest, several rivers run through it, and many indigenous communities neighbor it.** Many of our workers come from these communities. Our projects **have had to be built considering the social and environmental aspects specific to our locality, and Jack came to quickly understand and appreciate these issues, some of which directly impact technical decisions that are made in such projects.***

*Jack's professional advice and consulting services have covered many areas: Design of penstocks, powerhouses, switchyards, dams and reservoirs. Equipment selections and negotiations with suppliers. Determination of civil works concepts and general design criteria. Commissionings. Many and several problems and crises were endured and overcome with Jack's valued input during the construction and start-ups of these projects. **Many a late night discussion passing on his knowledge and telling wonderful stories to his listeners were enjoyed.** Today we are lucky to have many stories that have come from our own three projects that include Jack, and which make us reminisce and remember dearly.*

*Beyond the professionalism and true excellence Jack offers his clients, above all he has helped us conceptually create our projects in innovative and practical ways, helping us come up with creative solutions to standard issues, which has allowed us to build high quality and long-term projects at efficient costs. **And he is one of the few individuals who is able to do the above while truly enjoying the job, making it joyful and fun for others (including his clients), and with an openness and ability to educate and share experiences that have added much value to our business and to all of us as professionals and human beings."***

Rudolf Jacobs, Owner & Developer Hidroelectrica Choloma

Demands the best work, always, from themselves and others; and

*“For over 20 years, Jack Snyder has provided Pend Oreille PUD (District) with exemplary service. **Mr. Snyder always put his client first and demanded that of his subcontractors to do the same.** Even more impressive is his uncanny ability to remember important information and data from many years earlier and able to bring that information forward during critical times of negotiations and/or project development and by doing so, a balance between resource protection and development of a resource became more probable.*

*Mr. Snyder understands the notion of the ‘big picture’ when assisting clients who are faced with major decisions and challenges involving hydro-development. **When times get tough and things seem to be hopeless, he is always there with another idea and very good joke that breaks the tension and tends to get folks moving ahead again.** His knowledge seems to be vast on many subjects beyond that of just engineering.”*

Mark Cauchy, Director of Regulatory & Environmental Affairs, Pend Oreille PUD

Encourages others’ professional development as mentor and colleague.

*“I have known Jack since 1985, where I have worked with him on many hydroelectric projects since those early days. I can say without reservation that he meets the criteria of the award stated above. Jack has tirelessly promoted hydroelectric projects in the region since the 1980’s. He understands the needs to balance resource protection and development; as exemplified by his tireless work for his clients, such as the Pend Oreille Public Utility District. Jack spent a decade helping his client achieve a reasonable settlement and new FERC license for the Box Canyon Project. Jack understands that there are many stakeholders on these projects with diverse backgrounds and all need to have an opportunity to present their views and to be given respectful consideration. In my years working for Jack I can attest that he demands the best work, not only from his associates, but from himself. **Finally, Jack is a tremendous mentor and teacher, always taking the time to help others interested in learning about the design, permitting and construction of hydroelectric projects.**”*

Don Jarrett, Sr. Mechanical Engineer McMillen (and friend of Jacks for over 30 years)


In closing we are honored to submit this nomination and hope that you strongly consider Jack Snyder as a worthy candidate to receive the Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award. We believe that Jack is not only deserving of this award but that he would be flattered to receive it as he worked closely with Pamela, Pam as he called her, in the early days of the private development of hydroelectric projects.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Sincerely,



Mara McMillen
President



Morton D. McMillen
Chief Engineer