



# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Former Commissioner Vera Claussen Dies in House Fire**

EPHRATA, WA - Early this morning public power lost a tireless champion. Former Grant County PUD Commissioner Vera Claussen died when fire broke out in her Soap Lake, Wash. home.

Claussen served six terms as Grant County PUD Commissioner beginning with her election in 1982 and ending with her retirement in 2006. At the end of 2006, she had completed 47 years of outstanding service to the hydropower and public power industry.

Vera was often referred to as “Mrs. Public Power” and “A Warrior in Pearls” in recognition of her achievements. She leaves her mark on local, regional and national public utility operations through years of selfless dedication to effectively advance public power principles.

“I am shocked and saddened to hear of the death of long time Commissioner and friend, Vera Claussen. Vera’s commitment and dedication to public power and to the people she served was evident in her service to the utility. She was a living legend and she will be truly missed by her friends at Grant PUD. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family,” said General Manager Tim Culbertson.

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Grant County Public Utility District is a Washington state municipal corporation that began electric service in 1942. Owned by the people it serves, Grant PUD generates and sells electricity to Grant County residents and millions of customers throughout Central Washington and the Pacific Northwest. The Priest Rapids Project, comprised of Priest Rapids and Wanapum Dams, produces nearly 2,000 megawatts of clean, renewable and reliable electricity – enough to supply a city the size of Seattle. A leader in science based technology; Grant PUD is committed to finding effective measures for the protection, mitigation and enhancement of salmon, steelhead and other natural and cultural resources.

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