

Snowmageddon is no match for our crews

With snow piling up and power out throughout Nevada County, our maintenance and operations crews treated the recent snowstorm like regular workdays and used their skills to make sure our water system was operating as it should.

Thank you for the incredible post-storm response. Or as one Facebook commenter posted, “Boy, nice work NID.”

This from Operations Manager Chip Close: “NID weathered through one of the most severe snowstorms in recent memory. Through the dedication and hard work of the Operations and Maintenance Crews, water service remained constant. This took working through inclement weather, cutting through many downed trees to access facilities, and continual manning



Utility Worker Charlie Schlitzer and Equipment Operator Eric Lauer work on the Sargent Jacob Canal.

and refueling backup emergency generation equipment. People take water for granted, however, when they turn the tap on, it is available due to the efforts of the dedicated staff at NID.”

From Water Superintendent Nathan Wasley: “I would like to bring up the fact that the WDO’s that were scheduled to work showed up on Monday the 27th and covered every route. They kept the water flowing while driving in harsh/hazardous conditions. We responded to all customer calls and even covered night call duties as WDO’s got the calls for no water and/or leaks.”

Here’s the call with photos from Maintenance Superintendent-Treated Water Cameron Price:



On Monday morning, the first day of the snow, this is what the E. George Treatment Plant looked like. A crew scrambled to clear the scene so the plant could function.

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January Anniversaries

- Brian Beahm**, Vegetation Control Worker II, 10 yrs. Jan. 9
- Samuel Beaver**, Water Distribution Supervisor, 19 yrs. Jan. 6
- Steven Beebe**, Water Treatment Operator III, 7 yrs. Jan. 5
- Don Bird**, Safety Analyst, 11 yrs. Jan. 3
- Curtis Campbell**, Utility Worker I, 2 yrs.
- Shad Chittock**, Water Treatment Supervisor, 19 yrs. Jan. 21
- Chip Close**, Water Operations Manager, 28 yrs. Jan. 10
- Fallyn Foster**, Customer Service Technician II, 4 yrs., Jan. 5
- Gerry Gnech**, Equipment Operator, 20 yrs. Jan. 2
- Philip Goguen**, Electrical Systems Superintendent, 16 yrs. Jan. 3
- Robert Graham**, Cross Connection Control Technician II, 11 yrs. Jan. 10
- Nicholas Green**, Utility Worker I, 2 yrs.
- Greg Jones**, Assistant General Manager, 5 yrs., Jan. 3
- Michael McCluskey**, Equipment Service Worker, 1 year
- Rod McGhee**, IT Technician, 7 yrs. Jan. 5
- Jennifer Murtha**, Office Assistant I, 1 year
- Joseph Pitts**, Water Distribution Supervisor, 25 yrs. Jan. 5
- Timothy Rowe**, Maintenance Supervisor, 14 yrs. Jan. 7
- Trevor Sterrett**, Engineering Technician II, 3 yrs. Jan. 22
- Jennifer Vendley**, Management Assistant, 13 yrs.



Brian Beahm, 10 years



Joe Pitts, 25 years

Promotions & Transfers



Dennis Flower
Senior Store-keeper effective
12/20/2021



Greg Jones, 5 years



Gerry Gnech, 20 years

HR Reminders, Deadlines, Future meetings, etc.

Paychecks will get a boost in January

Employees will see an increase in pay as a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) goes into effect on the January 21, 2022 paycheck.

Please refer to the updated wage schedule on the Human Resources webpage for more information. Click [here](#) to go to the webpage, or go directly to the wage schedule (PDF file) [here](#).

Service Awards

Five employees were honored for their long service during the Board of Directors meeting on January 12. Congratulations, and thank you for all that you do!

25 years



Craig Harkey
Equipment Operator
09/03/1996

20 years



Paul Hopper
Water Distribution Operator II
12/17/2001

10 years



Lance Adams
Welder I
09/19/2011



Chris Dunn
Utility Worker I
09/19/2011



Wayne Giles
Water Treatment Operator III
09/19/2011

Retiree Bob Carr proudly keeps NID in mind

A long-time NID family member just sent a reminder that the blue we all wear doesn't go away. Bob Carr, the District's oldest retiree, sent in a photo of himself sporting his new NID headgear, a 100-year anniversary hat he received for Christmas.

Bob served as the Project Manager on the Yuba-Bear Hydroelectric Project. As the August 1980 Pipeline noted: "The crew monitors 22 dams at reservoirs, forebays and afterbays, maintains 15 miles of flumes and canals, seven and a half miles of tunnels and another 16 miles of access roads in addition to operating the three power plants. They also handle their own purchasing, record-keeping and vehicle maintenance."

"An important part of the Yuba-Bear crew's mission is the continued maintenance of waterways so water will flow uninterrupted through the power facilities," Carr told Pipeline at the time.

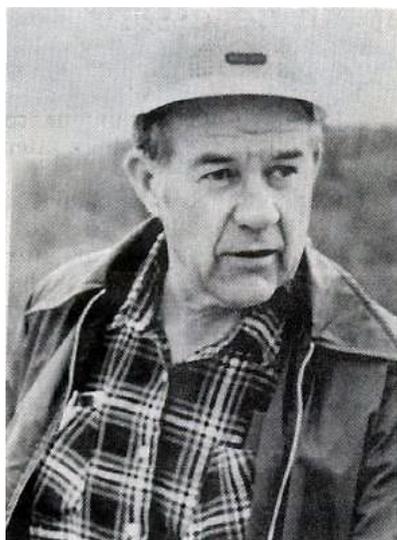
"Yuba-Bear workers can often be found patrolling high mountain lakes and rivers checking for leaks or obstructions that would impede water flow through the system."

The Yuba-Bear Project was started in 1963 and went into operation in 1966.

Carr worked at NID for 17 years. He joined the Yuba-Bear Project in February 1968 as a power plant operator. He became the project hydroelectric technician in 1970 and was named maintenance supervisor in 1973. In June, 1977, Carr was appointed Yuba-Bear Project Manager by the NID Board of Directors. He retired in 1985.

The June 1985 Pipeline noted he is "a retired naval officer and a member of a select group of naval aviators who piloted lighter-than-air aircraft, commonly known as blimps. He is a veteran of WWII."

At the time of his retirement Carr said in WaterWays customer newsletter, "I've come to realize that when



you open your water faucet or flip an electrical switch there is a lot of work, under all kinds of adverse conditions, to provide you with that service. These things don't just happen automatically."

((Right) The Yuba-Bear team: Bob Carr is in the upper row, third man from the left.



Snowmageddon no match for our crews (continued from p1)



This was our start to the storm Monday morning at 5:30 a.m. with about a foot of snow at the NID buildings in Grass Valley. To get the main yard open for business, our maintenance crew got the front lot cleared before opening hours. Then they worked to get the rest of the lot open. It took two days to clear snow in the main corporation yard.

(Right) The Upper Bench Cascade Pipe access road leads to where our water supply starts below the Deer Creek powerhouse. The road needs to be clear for manual delivery adjustments, and it provides access to lower feed canals and the Loma Rica Treatment Plant.

The snow was more than a waist deep when crews got there. This road took about seven days to get open to the head. It took two tractors and lots of chainsaw work. At times there were trees down every 20 feet. These had to be cut so that the tractors could continue.



(Left) The old Snow Mountain Treatment Plant is now a pump station and has treated water storage tanks. Our crew made sure there was access to the facility.



(Right) Newtown Canal: two downed trees threatened the canal, but our crew was up to the task.