



Pamela E. Klatt Annual Award

Introduction

The Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWA) is pleased to announce the establishment of an annual award to honor the professional contributions of our long-time friend and colleague, Pamela E. Klatt. Pam passed away at her home in Kenmore, Washington on August 31, 2009, after a courageous battle with lung cancer.

Pamela E. Klatt Biography

Pam was a native of the Pacific Northwest. Following her studies at the University of Washington, Pam lived in and explored the far reaches of southeast Alaska for many years before returning to Seattle in the mid-1980s, where she took her first job in the hydroelectric industry with the Hydro West Group. Pam went on to specialize in environmental permitting and the FERC regulatory process in her positions with Hosey and Associates, Harza Engineering, and Meridian Management before founding Meridian Environmental, Inc. in 2001.

For 25 years, Pam managed the licensing of water resource projects. She possessed a thorough understanding of FERC's evolving regulatory processes and a broad knowledge of hydropower issues, from project operations to fish passage to cultural resources to energy markets. With this background – and a great sense of humor – she transformed diverse groups of resource specialists into cohesive project teams, and developed effective working relationships with many of the staff at FERC, other agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Pam assisted her clients with internal strategy, public involvement programs, identification and oversight of technical studies, and preparation of licensing and NEPA documents. As a member of the team contracted to FERC for NEPA consulting services, Pam served as Principal Deputy Project Manager for projects in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, Wisconsin, and Missouri.

In addition to her long and distinguished career as consultant to the hydroelectric industry, Pam was a strong advocate in promoting hydro as a renewable energy resource. She was a long-standing member of the NWA and served as a member of the Board of Directors from 1996 to 2005, including one year as Treasurer.

Pam's leadership and professional capabilities were instrumental in the licensing of many small run-of-river projects and the relicensing of several of the largest and most controversial hydropower projects in the Northwest, but Pam would be the first to acknowledge that success in this industry depends on more than leadership and capability. For this reason, the award in her name is to be given to those who approach each project with a strong commitment to the balance between resource protection and resource development; who demonstrate a true appreciation for the views and responsibilities of everyone involved; and who demand the best work, always, from themselves and others.

This award also honors Pam's remarkable qualities as a mentor. Many of the people who spoke at her memorial and many who later wrote about Pam described the positive impact she had on their careers, because she was not only a friend and colleague, but also a coach and critic. She listened objectively, offered advice and encouragement, and shared her composure, energy, and optimism in meeting even the most daunting challenges. The Pamela E. Klatt Award will honor these lasting contributions to the hydropower industry.