



The 1970's, Moving from Timber to Tech

Oregon had been the hub of timber production up through the mid nineteenth century. But with the stock market plunge in 1970, Oregon entered a deep 16-month recession. This was the point when the economic engine began to shift from timber production to technology.

In 1974, Intel commenced two years of construction on its Fab 4 computer chip factory in Aloha. This would prove to be just the first of seven such semiconductor research and fabrication campuses in Washington County by 2012. Thousands of NECA/IBEW Local 48 contractors and electricians would benefit from Intel's 40-year, \$20 billion investment in Oregon. More than 2,000 NECA/IBEW electricians have worked to construct Intel's development fabrication facility, D1X. Today, Intel employs approximately 18,600, making it the state's largest private employer. The company's capital investments in Oregon have surpassed \$25 billion, and are expected to increase with more additions and new facilities.

In 1974, the Bonneville Power Administration energized the central computer complex, the power system control circuits and terminals; Dittmer Control Venter in Vancouver. This was nicknamed the "O'Hare Airport" or the electric grid, in the Pacific Northwest. (because...)

In 1970, the Trojan Nuclear Plant began construction just north of St. Helens, Oregon. The plant was in operation for almost 17 years, from 1976 to 1993 when it was decommissioned. Retired business manager of IBEW Local 48, Edward L. Barnes, had this to say about the project:

Perhaps one of the... biggest challenges which Local 48 members undertook was the Trojan Nuclear Plant (1970-1975). Union members faced unusual first-time problems, traveled some un-tread paths, and set new precedents... Yet Trojan proved to be the cheapest-built nuclear power plant in the U.S., and the longest-running plant without breakdowns.

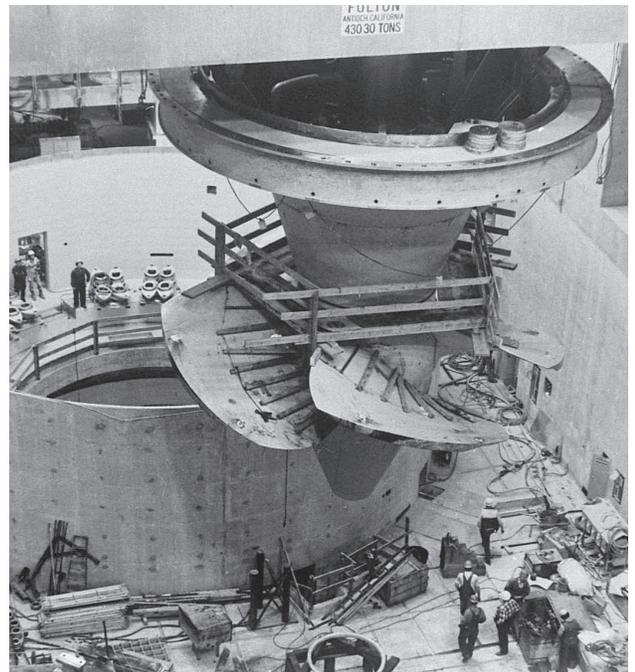
As the Portland metro area continues to grow and welcome in big projects, NECA/IBEW Local 48 electricians and contractors will be there to take on the job, to help our community prosper.



Intel building Washington Co. 1974



Trojan Nuclear Power Plant Completed, 1975.



Bonneville Dam's second powerhouse, constructed between 1974 and 1981.



Training Center – Then and Now

By 1975, IBEW Local 48 membership was approaching 2,000 and the Metro JATC apprenticeship increased 60%, to 300 students, outgrowing Benson High School.



Benson High School.

In 1977, NECA contractor Hugh D. “Buzzy” Allison helped convince the NECA/IBEW Training Center Committee to purchase their own train facility. The Metro JATC and its Trust committee members relocated the school from Benson High School to a 15,000 square foot vacant Safeway store building at NE 42nd and Killingsworth.

Although the NECA/IBEW Local 48 training center has since moved to its current location on Airport Way, the reality is that there are many electricians still working in the industry that received their training at either Benson or the old Safeway.

The NECA/IBEW Local 48 Electrical Apprenticeship Training Program offers apprentices the most-respected and experienced instructors. With such a technologically advanced facility, the result is highly skilled and productive electricians.



Old Safeway training center.

Spotlight: Intel

Since Intel first broke ground on Feb. 4 in 1974, the company has maintained a long history with NECA/IBEW Local 48 and other community trades organizations.

NECA/IBEW Local 48 members and contractors have been critical to Intel carrying out their expansion plans in Washington County. At the Oregon Building Trades Council 75th Anniversary, Matt Shipley, Oregon Manager of Construction at Intel, spoke to the relationship Intel has developed with tradesmen and women in the Portland area. He said that Oregon trades have “been able to meet [Intel’s] sometimes unrealistic needs for skilled trades at what seems like a moment’s notice.”

Shipley also praised Oregon labor and their capabilities to take on large construction projects. He said “I recently had the opportunity to meet with a company that was looking to do a major construction project in the state... I was able to assure them that Oregon labor would be more than able to meet their needs.”

As the technology market evolves and changes, Intel must change, too. Not only change their products to fit new technology trends, but also change relationships and



New Intel building being constructed.

collaborate more with contractors. Shipley spoke to improving collaboration within the construction industry, and “it is the health and depth of those relationships that will make a difference here” Intel is moving into a new era in which they will focus on “incentivizing the right behavior and making the tradesmen and women the center of our construction universe... to allow your skill and passion to flourish.”

With trained electricians that are highly skilled, motivated, productive and motivated, NECA/IBEW Local 48 is an industry leader ready to take on new challenges and collaborate with customers in new, innovative ways.