

Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

W. Paul Schmechel, P.E.

Montana Professional License Number 1446E

- * United States Navy, 1945-1949 - Instructor in Aviation Electric School, Florida; Served on the carrier USS Philippine Sea
- * Graduate, Montana State (College) University
B.S. Degree, Electrical Engineering, 1953
Member: Phi Eta Sigma and American Institute of Electrical Engineers
- * Harvard Graduate School of Business, Program for Management Development, 1965
- * Montana Power Company - Engineer in Billings, Lewistown, Butte, Missoula, and Cut Bank, 1953-1961; Executive Assistant, 1961-1973; Vice President, 1973-1979; President, 1979-1983; Chief Executive Officer, 1983-1992; Chairman of the Board of Directors, 1984-1992
- * Oversaw the financing and development of Colstrip Electrical Generation Units 3 and 4; Formed the Independent Power Group to market power from Colstrip Unit 4; Oversaw the creation of Entech, a subsidiary involved with coal-mining, gold-mining, telecommunications, and automation equipment; Oversaw construction of the high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline between Cut Bank and Warm Springs, Montana
- * Western Energy Company - Vice President, 1966-1976 and President, 1976-1982; Oversaw the expansion of Western Energy into one of America's largest coal producers with operations in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and Texas
- * Active member and leader in: Northwest Electric Light and Power Association (NELPA); Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee; Western Regional Council; Montana Energy Research & Development Institute, Inc.; Montana Technology Companies, Inc.; Montana Tech Foundation; Montana Ambassadors; Montana International Trade Commission
- * Honorary Degree: Doctor of Engineering, Montana State University, 1992
- * Blue and Gold Award, Montana State University Alumni Association, 1978
Montana State University Society of Centennial Alumni, 1993
- * Montana State University Endowment and Research Foundation President, 1975-1977

Inducted November 14, 2003

Presented by the Montana Society of Engineers
A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

