



Media Release

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Mason County PUD 1 Director Announces Retirement

Potlatch, Washington-



After serving 10 years with Mason County PUD No. 1, and an impressive career in the utility industry spanning over 40 years, PUD 1 director of electric operations Tracy Colard has announced his impending retirement. Colard's career began at Grays Harbor PUD where he worked for 27 years in several different capacities from lineman to superintendent. He came to PUD 1 from the City of Ellensburg where he served as the electrical supervisor, and oversaw several other departments for the municipality. In addition to his utility experience, he also worked for the International Brotherhood of Electric Workers Local Union No. 77, as a union representative and as a lobbyist, working capital hills in both Washington State and Washington, D.C.

Since joining Mason PUD 1 in 2003, Colard has been credited with updating and modernizing the utility's operational processes and developing comprehensive work plans to replace aging infrastructure. He initially oversaw both the water and electric operations for nearly seven years before the departments were divided.

"Tracy has been an intricate and invaluable part of PUD 1's progress over the last decade" stated general manager Steven Taylor. "He came to our utility with a wealth of experience in multiple areas of utility service, union and labor relations, and a vast knowledge of electrical systems. Without him, we would not be where we are today in regard to substation replacement and infrastructure developments."

Colard has directly overseen the construction of the new t3ba'das Substation (pronounced Tah-bah-das) located above the Skokomish Indian Nation's t3ba'das Tribal Housing Project just off of Highway 101 in Potlatch. This substation will replace the soon to be decommissioned Skokomish Valley substation later this year. He also has helped develop plans for two new future substation sites to help replace the aging electric system, some of which is over 40 years old. "We really appreciate his service with PUD 1 and wish him a long and happy retirement. He will be sorely missed but we are all confident that we have found a strong successor to follow in his footsteps", stated Taylor.

PUD 1 lineman Darin Hall has accepted the position of electric superintendent and will begin transitioning into his new role starting August 1st. Colard's last day as operations director will be October 11, 2013.

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Founded in 1935, Mason County PUD No. 1 was the first public utility district formed in Washington State. PUD 1 provides non-for-profit water, sewer and electric services to approximately 7,000 customers in both Mason and Jefferson counties. The District's mission is to provide customers with safe, reliable and locally-controlled utility services with the highest possible value at the lowest possible cost.