

Reliable Service at the Lowest Cost is Our Number One Goal and Priority

The number one mission for our PUD is to keep the lights on and the water flowing. The PUD works very hard to keep the system reliable. To do this, we constantly try to improve the system. These days, trying to keep the lights on and water flowing is a challenge.

Mason County PUD No. 1 was the first operating public utility in the state of Washington. We started in 1935 by providing electrical service to our community. By being the first, and always trying to keep reliability along with the lowest possible rates, we sometimes do not do improvements to our systems until they are absolutely necessary. We have many challenges ahead of us. To maintain quality electrical services and to remain in compliance with state and federal agencies, we have several upgrades to make while trying to maintain a low cost for our ratepayers.

We always have a current work plan to keep up on these improvements. We try to do as much as we can without asking for rate increases, but in today's economic world this is challenging. The utility is constantly faced with rising energy costs and now with the need for system infrastructure improvements, the costs are adding up. One example is the Skokomish Valley Substation. This is on our work plan to be replaced and relocated out of the valley flood plain. The estimated cost for this upgrade and relocation is just over \$3 million; a necessary cost to maintain the reliability of electric service to our district. This is just one of several substation renovations that need to occur in the near future and we will be tackling this feat over a period of time by doing one substation at a time, starting with the one in the Skokomish Valley.

The challenges for the PUD commissioners and management are deciding how to pay for these necessary upgrades and still maintain the lowest possible cost for power. We constantly strive to be the number one utility in the state for our customers. We will keep you all informed as the projects progress.



Thank you,
Ron Gold, Board President

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the PUD 1 office in Potlatch. For more information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please visit www.masonpud1.org.

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THE
CONNECTOR
SUMMER 2011



www.masonpud1.org

PUD 1 Water Department wins "Grace Under Pressure" Award from the Department of Health

At the May 10, 2011 Board of Commissioners meeting, Jocelyne Gray, Director of Water Operations, and her team were presented with a special award for "Grace Under Pressure" by Denise Clifford from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH).

The water department was busy this past fall dealing with two contaminated wells. After the heavy rains in September and early October the well at Minerva Terrace and Well 4 at Canal Mutual both tested positive for E. coli bacteria and were put on boil water advisories October 13, 2010. The cause of contamination was not identified for either well so DOH required permanent chlorination to be installed at both wells. A chlorination tank was installed in the

well enclosure at Canal Mutual which chlorinates the well before the water enters the reservoir and distribution system. The boil water advisory was lifted November 18, 2010 at Canal Mutual.

PUD 1 was required to install over 100 feet of piping at the Minerva Terrace well site, but had to wait for DOH approval before beginning construction. The piping was installed in December and the boil water advisory was lifted December 22, 2010.

PUD 1 thanks its customers in these two water systems for the patience during the emergencies and also the water department staff for the dedication and hard work to meet the DOH requirements as quickly as possible and get the

boil water advisories rescinded. DOH recognized the efforts of the water department during the crises by awarding the District the "Grace Under Pressure" award as part of the State's Drinking Water Week celebration.

Front: Denise Clifford (DOH),
Jocelyne Gray, Brandy Milroy.
Back: Roy Munch, TJ Goos and
Barney Bruff.



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Sign up for Online Bill Pay today and you can begin paying your PUD bill automatically from your bank account or credit/debit card each month and view your statement online.

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If you are interested in Online Bill Pay, contact our customer service department at (360) 877-5249 or 1-800-544-4223 or e-mail customerservice@masonpud1.org.



Knipschield Retires after 30 years of Service!



ON FRIDAY, MAY 6TH, PUD 1 said "goodbye and good luck" to a long time friend and co-worker. Debbie Knipschield began her career at PUD 1 in February of 1981 and served in many different capacities for the district over the last three decades including Human Resources Manager, Assistant Manager, Director of Administrative Services, and she even stepped in for a period as interim General Manager. Debbie was recognized at a recent Board of Commissioners meeting for her service and dedication to the success of the commissioners and the utility district. Co-workers from the past and present, family and friends attended her retirement party on her last working day. The district would like to thank Debbie for her many contributions to our PUD and wish her a long and happy retirement.

LETTER FROM THE MANAGER

In April of this year many of us saw our electric bill higher than we could ever recall. “This must be the PUD’s problem!” was most likely the first thing most of us thought when we got our bill in May. The fact is that April was the coldest one on record according to the National Weather Service in Seattle. “This April’s average high temperature, 56 degrees, was the coldest since records began in the city. The highest high was 66 degrees on April 23 and the lowest low was 33 degrees on April 7,” said NWS Meteorologist Ni Cushmeer. April was also the seventh wettest April in Seattle history (since 1891). This was the reason many of us experienced a higher than typical April electric bill.

If you were to make a chart of the electricity-consuming devices in a typical home and rank them in order of their hunger for power, the list might look something like this:

Device	Typical consumption	Cost per hour
Heat pump or central air	15,000 watts	\$1.50
Water heater or clothes dryer	4,000 watts	40 cents
Water pump	3,000 watts	30 cents
Space heater	1,500 watts	15 cents
Hair drier	1,200 watts	12 cents
Electric range burner	1,000 watts	10 cents
Refrigerator	1,000 watts	10 cents
Computer and monitor	400 watts	.04 cents
Light bulb	60 watts	.06 cents

This table assumes that a kilowatt-hour of electricity costs is 10 cents, which is an average rate depending on your location. Our rates are lower than the average. Our residential rate is just 6.65 cents per kWh.

If your house has electric heat, then the middle of winter is a time when you are going to use a lot of power. A heat pump might run 10 to 15 hours a day. At \$1.50 an hour, that’s \$15 to \$22 per day. Over the course of a month, that’s

several hundred dollars worth of electricity. The same applies in the summer if you use the air conditioner often.

Water heating uses a good load of power as well. When you take a shower or run a load of clothes in the washer, the electric water heater might run for an hour reheating the water in the tank. That’s 40 cents. A typical household can burn several dollars a day heating water. Because we don’t normally think of it this way, it is funny to consider that every shower you take costs 40 cents! When you add in the cost of washing and drying the towels (every load of clothes that you run might cost \$1 to \$2 for washing and drying), plus the soap and shampoo, it can cost nearly a buck to take a shower!

Refrigeration is another big power drain because the refrigerator can easily run for 10 hours a day. That’s about \$1 per day to keep the milk cold. If you leave the computer or TV on all day, it can add up to \$1 per day as well.

Then we get to light bulbs. At 0.6 cents per hour, it doesn’t seem like much. However, many fixtures contain two or more bulbs, and it is easy to leave several fixtures on. If 10 bulbs are burning, that’s six cents an hour. If they burn for six hours a day, that’s 36 cents per day for lighting. Multiply that by 30 days in a month, and it’s \$10 per month for photons.

Using an electric blanket to heat our bed at night is probably the easiest way to save big on your power bill. But you must turn down the whole house. Saving hot water is the next easiest.

So the next time you receive a high power bill, take a look around and see what is on in your home.



Steven Taylor,
General Manager



A perfectly healthy yard needs only 1 inch of water a week. To figure out how long to leave your sprinkler on, place several empty cans in the spay pattern of the sprinkler. Turn on the sprinkler and check the time. When at least an inch of water has accumulated in most of the cans, check the time again to see how long it has been. That is how long it takes your sprinklers to apply an inch of water and that’s how long you should water for the entire week to water the area thoroughly.

PROJECT UPDATES

Next month we will be starting to reconductor a portion of Hwy. 106 to increase the quality of electric service to our ratepayers by increasing the size of the wire for high voltage. This project will start at the foot of McReavey and Hwy. 106 to Dalby Rd. and Hwy. 106.



Starting in May, we have begun working on a project to convert overhead lines to underground from the Lilliwaup Bridge to 1,500 feet north due to tree issues. This should help increase the reliability of the electric services.

Thank you for your years of service with PUD 1!

The following employees reached service milestones from January to June 2011.

Cindi Carow.....25 years
Mike Ferrier25 years
Joyce Gray.....20 years
Cheryl Wagner20 years

Roy Munch.....15 years
Darin Hall15 years
Jack Janda10 years



WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE BURNED OUT OR BROKEN CFL LIGHT BULBS? RECYCLE THEM!!!

After your bulbs have done their job of saving you valuable dollars in energy costs, it is important to recycle them to prevent the mercury from contaminating our soil through disposal in dumpsters and landfills. Also, nearly all components of the light bulbs are able to be re-used to make new lights!

Any Mason County resident can recycle their CFL bulbs at PUD 3 in downtown Shelton. Lowes and Home Depot also participate in this recycling effort.

ON THE SUBJECT OF RECYCLING...

If you have old batteries, ranging from one-use batteries to car batteries, there are two recycling stations in your area that will accept these for you and avoid sending hazardous materials to the landfill.

Union Recycling Station

on E. McReavy Road
Call for hours of operation (360) 898-3037

Hoodsport Recycling Station

on Foothills Park Drive
Call for hours of operation (360) 877-9525

USE DROID AND iPhone APPS LIKE iRECYCLE TO FIND RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS NEAR YOU. ▶



PUD 1 Welcomes New Staff Member

On April 25th, Kristin Masteller joined the staff at PUD 1 as the new Executive Assistant, Human Resources Manager and Communications Officer. Kristin came to PUD 1 from Mark Reed Health Care District in Grays Harbor County where she served as the district's Marketing and Public Relations Manager and



the Executive Director of their hospital foundation, which provided her with an extensive background in marketing, community relations, and organizational development. She stated, "I'm used to wearing multiple hats for a small organization so I know this new job is going to be really challenging and fun". A 1998 graduate of Mary M. Knight High School, Kristin earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from Saint Martin's University in Lacey and is also completing her Master of Public Administration degree at The Evergreen State College in Olympia.

"I am very excited to join the PUD 1 team and to tackle some new projects to help expand and promote the public image and internal development of the utility. I really enjoy working in the public sector. Coming from a completely different public industry, I have a lot to learn about the utility world and I am looking forward to the new opportunities ahead" she stated. Kristin and her husband live in Shelton so the move to PUD 1 brought her back to Mason County and closer to home. "So far the transition to PUD 1 has been very welcoming and comfortable. Many of the employees have worked for the district for a very long time and they are very good at what they do. That makes the whole work environment flow very nicely and efficiently." Kristin took over the position from Debbie Knipschild, who retired in May after 30 years with the utility district.