

LAST CHANCE TO EARN FIVE BUCKS ■ BY GOING ■ PAPERLESS!



Customers who sign up through e-pay by September 30th to receive their statements via email instead of in paper format will receive a \$5 credit on their October billing statement. You must stay paperless for one year to keep the credit to your account. Existing paperless customers will also receive the \$5 credit.

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.mason-pud1.org.

MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

DISTRICT 1

Karl Denison(360) 898-2618

DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold(360) 426-9540

DISTRICT 3

Jack Janda(360) 877-5867

GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor(360) 877-5249

CELEBRATING PUBLIC POWER WEEK &

79 Years

OF PUBLIC POWER AT PUD 1



PUBLIC POWER

AN AMERICAN TRADITION THAT WORKS

Public Power Week • October 5-11, 2014

THE
CONNECTOR
FALL 2014



www.mason-pud1.org

Find us on

Follow us on

PUD 1 TO HOLD PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON future energy policy

PUD 1 is launching a public process focused on shaping the PUD's clean energy future. We are meeting with community organizations to share how existing policies related to renewable energy, conservation and energy efficiency impact utilities and discuss a new policy direction to address clean energy laws and regulations.

Clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction is in the spotlight right now. Replacing coal with additional wind, biomass, rooftop solar, greenhouse gas storage technologies, energy efficiency and conservation measures will have significant cost implications for ratepayers.

First, let me assure you—we are not the problem. Over 95 % of our power is already clean renewable hydropower and a small amount of nuclear; no green house gases. We want to work with community members to develop a policy approach that makes both economic and environmental sense for you, the ratepayer. We don't need to make the same mistakes of Spain, Germany or the UK where utility rates have skyrocketed, creating energy poverty and job losses.

The PUD is evaluating a policy direction for its work with the legislature that would slightly modify I-937, now known as the Energy Independence Act (EIA). The EIA, passed by voters in 2006, requires utilities with 25,000 or more customers to provide a certain percentage of the electricity needed to serve customers from renewable resources listed as "eligible" in the Act. Hydropower is not considered "eligible" under the Act because it was already an existing energy source. PUD 1 has less than 25,000 customers and is not currently required to comply with the Act, but the Act does impact our energy resources and the cost of that energy that we purchase from Bonneville Power Administration. There also is no guarantee that the 25,000 threshold won't be eliminated to encompass ALL utilities in the future, driving up rates even more for smaller utilities like ours.

With minimal load growth projected over the next decade and increasing requirements for new "eligible" renewable resources, the potential for over-investment by Washington ratepayers is as high as \$4.5 billion in 2020 and beyond. Instead of building before need and

**OVER
95%
OF OUR POWER IS
ALREADY CLEAN
RENEWABLE
HYDROPOWER**

paying for unused and less reliable resources solely for compliance, our proposed modification to the Act would allow utilities that are not projecting an increase in demand for electricity over a two-year period to spend 1% of their revenue requirement on any combination of the following: renewable resources, distributed generation (rooftop

solar programs for customers), renewable energy credits, energy storage and increased conservation and energy efficiency for customer homes and businesses. This will give utilities the flexibility to spend where it will benefit most.

We look forward to having a discussion with our customer-owners before deciding to pass a resolution on this issue at our October 28th board meeting. Please contact your commissioners or the PUD and let us know if you support this issue or have strong feelings otherwise. This will give us an opportunity to thoroughly evaluate a policy approach and determine if it will benefit the community we serve.

Sincerely,



Karl Denison, Commissioner,
District 1





This summer has again proven to be very productive for PUD 1. Temporary helpers have augmented our existing crews and maximized the amount of maintenance and construction work that we were able to accomplish with the good weather. Our in-house vegetation management crew ran all summer, while our contractor trimmed in the northern end along Highway 101. Our in-house crew focused on several high-outage residential areas that hadn’t been trimmed in quite some time. Hamma Hamma Rec Road, Ayock Beach, Stetston Beach, Forest Drive, Lon Web Road and Olympic Canal Tracts all were addressed this year along with multiple small spans throughout our system. Our crew trimmed for a 7-10 year cycle, meaning that the vegetation should stay out of the lines for 7-10 years before we need to revisit it. The result was startling for many folks who live in those areas since some of these areas hadn’t been trimmed for well over 10 years. We have focused on increased reliability through more aggressive trimming efforts over the last three years. We still have some nuisance outages with tree limbs, and we will inevitably continue to see that, however, the frequency of these outages has reduced considerably. We are seeing the return in our investment and will continue to do so through this fall and winter.

Another task we completed this summer was a pole audit. We hired PUD 1’s retired line superintendent to return for a few months to perform a comprehensive audit of each of the system’s utility poles. We identified numerous poles that need replacing and also some repair items. Additionally, we want to ensure that the telecommunications companies that attach their lines to our poles are properly compensating

(left) Kemp West trims debris out of the lines along Hwy. 101

the utility to help pay for the maintenance and replacement of the poles. This has been a very productive undertaking and our crews have already begun working on the maintenance list.

Our water department has been extremely busy this season. They are in the last stage to close out the Canal Mutual Water System Improvement Project and they have been working on maintenance projects throughout our 36 water systems, replacing pipe, fixing leaks, repairing telemetry, and keeping things running as smoothly as possible. Our water department has just three employees in addition to their director. Their hard work and long hours this season are greatly appreciated by both the District and numerous customers who have sent letters thanking them for their extra efforts.

Lastly, we have utilized some contractors to accomplish important projects. They are reroofing, repairing and repainting water system facilities to ensure that we are maximizing the lifespan of our structures. We also have contracted with a landscaping management firm to tend to the overgrowth of weeds and vegetation around our water systems, substations and District facilities.

Like I said, it’s been a busy and productive summer. As we move into strategic planning and budgeting this fall for 2015 we will be laying the roadmap for the next 12 months to ensure every dollar spent is getting the most value for our customers. Reliability, longevity and safety are our focus and we appreciate the comments, suggestions and requests from our customers that we have used to shape our annual work plan.



Steven Taylor,
General Manager

PHOTOGRAPHY contest

PUD 1 is looking for some great local photos of our service territory along Hood Canal. They can be images of our electric and water infrastructure, scenic photos of Hood Canal, and of any other PUD-related activities you capture. Photos will be featured in PUD 1 print and online media to help promote the District.

Contest entries are due by December 31, 2014. PUD 1 employees will choose their favorite photo and it will be featured in a 2015 newsletter! The photographer will also receive a PUD 1 gift bag. Photos must be high resolution digital photos and the owner of the photograph must sign a waiver allowing the PUD to use the images. The waiver can be found on the PUD website: www.mason-pud1.org under the PUD News section.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

Did you know that you can get outage information sent to your cell phone as a text message? Text the words “Follow@MasonCountyPUD1” to 40404 to sign up for texts through the PUD’s Twitter account. You don’t have to join Twitter to get the texts and you can stop them anytime by texting “UNFOLLOW @MasonCountyPUD1” to the same number. These texts alert you to water and power outages, office schedule changes and other important information. Follow us today!

Now that storm season is approaching, it’s important not only to have supplies on hand at your home in the case of a power and water outage, but also to make sure that you know where to go to get the latest outage updates and information.



SMARTPHONE USERS

Follow us on Twitter or Facebook



REGULAR CELL PHONES

If you can send/receive texts from your cell phone, sign up for the text messages from the PUD’s Twitter account.



EMAIL ACCOUNTS

You can sign up for email notifications by emailing kristinm@mason-pud1.org. Emails are sent out if there are planned outages or during the course of major outages. You also get the newsletter electronically 4 times a year.



KMAS NEWS

KMAS (104.1 FM) updates their Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly and they insert announcements throughout their broadcasts.