

GO PAPERLESS AND GET FIVE BUCKS BACK!

(THAT'S LIKE 500 PENNIES!)

Customers who sign up for paperless billing statements during our Go Paperless campaign (July 1 through September 30) will receive a \$5 credit on their October billing statement. Going paperless means that instead of receiving a mailed paper bill, we will send you a bill via email. You can sign up through our e-Bill Payment page on the PUD 1 website at www.mason-pud1.org.

From there, you can view your bill, make payments and manage your account all online, 24/7, with no paper or postage. This helps the PUD reduce its costs as well meet our conservation goals. You will also begin receiving a copy of *The Connector* newsletter via email along with outage updates and other important information, right to your inbox!

All customers who sign up to Go Paperless by September 30, 2014 will receive a \$5 credit on their October billing statement. Existing paperless customers will also receive the credit. You must remain paperless for one year to keep the credit to your account.

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





Have you signed up for the Email Notification List yet? Be the first to know about scheduled outages and other important PUD information by emailing kristinm@mason-pud1.org to join.

THE CONNECTOR SUMMER 2014



www.mason-pud1.org

Find us on 

Follow us on 

Time to dispel the myths about used nuclear fuel



On a recent tour of the Hanford Site with the Energy Northwest Executive Board, I was struck by the difference between the nuclear waste the Department of Energy is dealing with from our country's defense programs, and what some people call nuclear "waste" from the generation of electricity.

People tend to confuse nuclear defense waste with used fuel from commercially-operated nuclear energy facilities like the used fuel stored at Columbia Generating Station, the Northwest's only commercial nuclear energy facility. But there is a key difference.

Unlike high-level radioactive liquid waste at Hanford, used commercial reactor fuel is, and always remains, a solid ceramic pellet.

Used fuel at Columbia is safely and securely stored onsite in extremely robust structures. The dry storage containers are built of steel, steel-

reinforced concrete or steel-enclosed concrete, and cool the fuel using natural convection—without the need for moving parts. They also are designed to protect against severe natural events and sabotage.

Additionally, the dry storage casks occupy only a small area of land. I've visited the used nuclear fuel storage area at Columbia – 36 casks on two concrete pads. That's about half the used fuel from nearly 30 years of producing tremendous amounts of energy. If you took the solid used fuel, it would fit inside a typical convenience store. If this fuel were recycled, the amount needing to be stored long term would likely fit inside the soda cooler in the same convenience store.

Used fuel should not even be considered "waste." It's actually a valuable commodity. Nearly 95 percent of the used fuel stored at every commercial nuclear plant can be recycled and reused in reactors, dramatically reducing storage requirements.

Other countries successfully recycle their used fuel. France has been doing so for decades. If the U.S. followed suit, we would have a fuel source to last hundreds of years.

Columbia has produced safe, reliable, cost-effective power since 1984. While we wait for a national repository for all U.S. used nuclear fuel, the used fuel from Columbia will continue to be safely and securely stored onsite.



Jack Janda
Commissioner, District 3

Mason PUD No. 1 Commissioner Jack Janda is a member of the Energy Northwest Executive Board and the Energy Northwest Board of Directors.

TELLING OUR HYDRO AND RIVERS STORY

You may have noticed recent TV and print advertisements in your area that celebrate “CleanHydro,” an informational campaign that is raising awareness of the tremendous value of the Columbia and Snake River system. I am very proud that Mason County PUD No. 1 is a part of this effort—now in its second year—because the Northwest’s hydropower dams and rivers benefit all of us in so many ways.

We joined this campaign because hydropower isn’t capturing the same kind of attention as it once did. There are several reasons for this. Many people have moved to the Northwest from other parts of the country where hydropower wasn’t a daily part of their lives. Our young people haven’t been taught the value of the Columbia River dams, and post-9/11, citizens can’t tour many of our regions dams as we used to. Largely, it has been the energy industry itself that has put hydro in the background due to government-led efforts to encourage other types of renewable energy, such as wind. These alternative energy sources have dominated news

headlines and hydro has been left out of the conversation even though it is an abundant, carbon-free, inexpensive energy source.

There’s a growing misinformed anti-dam movement occurring right now in our country and their dialogue is centered on the notion that all dams are ran and managed the same way and they all are killing fish and wildlife. This simply isn’t true with our Northwest river systems. As public power ratepayers, about 30% of our power bill goes toward the protection of fish and wildlife, and its working. Fish protection technologies are installed at all eight of the dams. From 1938 until 1986, total adult salmon counts at Bonneville Dam never exceeded 1 million, yet over the last decade the dam has seen record and near-record salmon runs consistently. Fish survivals at the dam are high, averaging 97%.

That’s why we need to continue to actively tell the incredible story of our dams, hydropower and the Columbia and Snake Rivers through CleanHydro. Our work is far from over, which

is why it is so important for Mason County PUD No. 1 to be a part of this public education effort again this year and keep the value of hydro firmly planted in the public’s mind and in the forefront of conversations and debates about our state and nation’s energy future.

I hope you will also take a moment to visit the CleanHydro.com site and learn more about our region’s dams and river system that provide low cost, clean energy right here in our own backyard. Join us and help spread the word about this tremendous asset to our Northwest way of life.



Steven Taylor,
General Manager

WATER DEPARTMENT NEWS

CROSS CONNECTIONS AND YOUR WATER SUPPLY

Everyone wants safe drinking water. One way to protect the water the District supplies to you is to identify cross connections or potential cross connections. Cross connections are physical or potential physical connections that could allow liquid, solid or gas to flow into the District’s distribution system if the distribution system loss pressure or if the pressure on the customer’s side was greater than the distribution system pressure. Common potential residential cross connections include: irrigation systems, garden drip systems, swimming pools, decorative ponds, private wells, hose bibs, private booster pumps, and fire sprinklers. Cross connections can contaminate the water supply and make you and your neighbors ill and maybe even cause death.

IT’S THE LAW. Certain potential hazards (such as those previously listed) require a backflow assembly to be installed on your service then it is required to be tested annually. The District has been stepping up its efforts to enforce installation and testing of the assemblies. The Cross Connection Control Program is designed to protect you, your neighbors, and your drinking water. Help us keep the water clean by reporting potential cross connections and having your property inspected.

Jocelyne Gray, PE,
Director of Operations - Water

ELECTRIC NEWS

The overnight BPA outage last month that impacted most of our system went very well and most customers were back online earlier than anticipated. While BPA shut us down to perform maintenance on their Potlatch substation, we took the opportunity to perform system maintenance of our own. One of the major maintenance items was for the Union Substation. Just like with your vehicle, substations need oil changes and regular maintenance to operate correctly. A contractor replaced the oil in the Union Substation and made some smaller repairs, however another scheduled outage will be necessary to finish the rest of the maintenance and bring it back to tip top shape.

BPA has indicated that they will also require a future overnight outage for additional maintenance so PUD 1 plans to coordinate our Union Substation maintenance

with BPA’s so that way it minimizes the impact to our customers. We will notify customers when that overnight outage is scheduled through emails, bill inserts, newsletter and website, and through local print, cable and radio.

On another note, our temporary helpers came on board June 2nd to fill out our tree trimming crew again for a second season. Kemp West, Inc. will be trimming along the main Highway 101 up north by Jorsted Creek and our temp crew will work along the side roads in various areas. This hybrid approach of in-house and contracted trimming was tremendously successful last year and we noticed a big reduction in our small tree-caused outages this last fall and winter. Looking forward to another busy and productive summer!



Oh, the ways you can **save!**

Since last October, customers have really taken advantage of the energy rebates we offer through BPA and the home and business energy audits.

40 ductless heat pump rebates, 20 residential energy/insulation audits, 6 commercial audits, and even more rebates for light bulbs, refrigerators, freezers and clothes washers, totaling \$95,968 in just the LAST SIX MONTHS!

Contact Teresa today to find out how you can join in on the savings (360) 877-5249 or teresah@mason-pud1.org.