



Skamania County PUD's

News From the Wire

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**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

**PO Box 500
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Hwy.
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8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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**Board of
Commissioners**

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Monday 12/19/11

Tuesday 01/03/12
Monday 01/16/12

Monday 02/06/12
Tuesday 02/21/12

PUD Operations From the Inside to the Outside

Many times we talk about what is affecting our costs in a general way without showing what operations are attributed to these costs. With this newsletter perhaps I can give an inkling of the process of the Utility's operations both inside and outside.

Our rate payers know that ongoing maintenance and improvements are required for the continued reliability of our utility's assets. The many operations of the outside PUD staff are carried out by the Line crew, Mechanics, Tree Trimming crew, Meter Reader, and Water Operations staff. One aspect of the Electric Operations line crews is the repair and replacement of underground power lines.

As of October 31st, 2011, the crew had installed 32,730 feet or 6.2 miles of PVC conduit for underground lines. They are also in the process of pulling new primary cable. In addition, 31 defective poles and related pole hardware have been replaced and 1.2 miles of 3 phase overhead lines have been replaced (re-conducted). The crew has also been busy restoring electrical outages that have occurred throughout the county. As of October 31st, there had been 143 electrical outages so far this year.

The Carson and Underwood Water systems are maintained by a crew of just three. Their activities include installation of new and replacement of water lines to maintain the worn-out pipes, and installing larger sizes to meet fire flow requirements. They also monitor the water quality in accordance with Washington State Department of Health requirements and repair water leaks in the system.

Along with the maintenance of the electric utility and water utilities, the PUD fleet must be maintained at "Ready to Work" condition to provide needed equipment for safe working conditions in all weather and working environments.

Our two Fleet mechanics maintain 20 vehicles, 1 tree trimming chipper, two forklifts, and also portable pumps, generators, shop equipment, chain saws, and hydraulic tools. Each vehicle must be kept in Department of Transportation compliance, each with a custom maintenance schedule as determined by the accumulated hours of operation within Skamania County.

The PUD support staff consists of the Customer Service staff that maintains contact with our customers and handles various accounting functions. The administrative staff is made of the HR Generalist/Work Order specialist, Accountant, Auditor, and Interim General Manager.

Hopefully you have an abbreviated glimpse into the PUD operations.

Robert Gentry, Interim Manager

Congratulations to Employee of the Quarter: Gary Leonard

The PUD Board of Commissioners and Manager Robert Gentry recognize General Foreman, Gary Leonard, for his outstanding service to the utility. Gary has been employed at the PUD for 27 years. Thank you Gary for all your hard work and service to our community!



PUD Welcomes Michael Schulze

We are pleased to announce that Michael Schulze has joined our team as part-time mechanic. Welcome to the PUD, Michael!



Rebate Applications For Low Income Senior Or Disabled Citizens For 2011-2012 Available Now

This application is for a special electric bill rebate for qualifying low-income person of Seniority and/or a person of Disabilities. Persons who qualify in both categories may receive only one rebate, and only one rebate is allowed per account or household.

Person of Seniority: To be eligible, you must be 62 years of age or older on January 1, 2011. You must be the head of household. Or

Person of Disabilities: To be eligible, you must be the head of household. The account must be in your name, or your spouse's name.

Call or drop by the office to get an application. You must fill out an application every year you wish to receive the rebate. Proof of income is required.

Thank You For Your Warm Hearts!

Operation Warm Heart (OWH) is a program that helps families keep their lights on in the cold winter months. We want to take this opportunity to **thank each person who has donated to Operation Warm Heart!** Last year, \$9331.55 was distributed to 44 needy families and individuals in our community.

Contributions to OWH are tax deductible and are very much appreciated by those who receive the gift.

If you would like to donate to Operation Warm Heart as a recurring contribution on each billing, please contact the PUD office. We are now able to offer many options for those wishing to donate on a regular basis. One-time donations are also appreciated.



News From the Wire

is an informational newsletter published by Skamania County PUD for our customers. Reader comments are welcome.

PUD Commissioners:

District 1..... Dennis Gale, President
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District 3..... Clyde Leach, Vice President
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