

Skamania County PUD's News from the Wire

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Edition**

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**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

**PO Box 500
1492 Wind River
Hwy.
Carson WA 98610**

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

www.skamaniapud.com

Phone: 509-427-5126

Toll Free: 800-922-5329

Fax: 509-427-8416

**Board of
Commissioners**

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Tuesday 02/16/10

Monday 03/01/10

Monday 03/15/10

Monday 04/05/10

Monday 04/19/10

It's a PUD, and it's yours.

A recent conversation with a customer led me to reflect on what our PUD is and how it differs from an investor-owned company. The conversation was similar to one you might have with a privately-owned company or corporation. When dealing with a private company, and privately-owned money, the owners have exclusive power to decide how that money is used, and where to spend it. If a private company wants to charge more for their service or product, they can. If they want to give somebody a discount, they can. It is their money.

A PUD is very different. A PUD is publicly-owned; in Skamania's case, by the citizens of Skamania County. The PUD's money is your money. The laws of the State of Washington have a lot to say about how the keepers of public money, i.e. your elected Commission and staff, care for and spend your money. For example, the rates set by the PUD Commission must be fair, just, reasonable, and non-discriminatory. The PUD cannot give somebody a discount unless we give everybody in that particular rate class the same discount. Further, you have opportunity to speak directly to the PUD Manager and Commissioners, and participate in the discussions of the Commission on any and every issue.

All meetings of the PUD Commission are open to the public, with the rare exceptions of 'Executive Sessions' which are closed to the public and deal with very limited issues such as personnel matters or legal matters. The meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 9:00am at the PUD office in Carson, except when this comes on a recognized holiday. In this case, we meet on the Tuesday after.

Through your elected Commission you have voice on matters such as rates, levels of maintenance, reliability, system improvements, and all the PUD does. Again, it's your PUD.

The average residential customer of any large investor-owned company will have a harder time and less effect influencing the policy makers of these companies. This is not only because these companies are big and headquartered far away, but also because they are driven by a very different motive. They are driven by profit for the stock-holders. They are in business to make money, and hence, service is but a necessary expense. This is very different from the purpose of a PUD.

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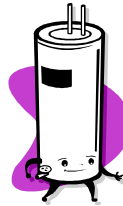
Over 70 years ago the people of Skamania County decided they could provide electric utility service to themselves by themselves. This decision has led to lower rates, better service, and most importantly, local control.

Today I can happily speak for the staff and Commission in saying 'Thank you for hiring us, for allowing us to work for you and your PUD.

Bob Wittenberg, Manager

Yearly Reminder: Check Your Water Heater Settings

1. It is recommended that water heaters be set at no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the minimum setting on a water heater which cannot be set as low as 120 degrees to prevent severe burns and to reduce excessive energy consumption; and
2. The thermostat of an individual water heater furnished in a residential unit leased or rented in this State to new tenants shall be no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the minimum setting on a water heater that cannot be set as low as 120 degrees, pursuant to Chapter 19.28 R.C.W.



Annual Fuel Mix

In accordance with State law R.C.W. 19.29A.010, Washington State PUD's must disclose their resource fuel mix once per calendar year. Disclosure labels rely on historical data, the prior calendar year. So, for example, the 2009 label information lists your PUD's resource fuel mix for 2008. As this table shows, through BPA, Skamania PUD receives power from six primary sources to ensure that you enjoy continued reliable electrical service:

Generation Type	Fuel Mix 2009
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Biomass	.11%
Coal	3.59%
Hydro	82.84%
Natural Gas	1.47%
Nuclear	11.85%
Other	.14%

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
360-837-3862
District 2..... Curt Esch
509-427-8591
District 3..... Clyde Leach
509-493-3380

Skamania County PUD:

Manager.....Bob Wittenberg
Auditor..... Chris lobst

1492 Wind River Hwy
P.O. Box 500
Carson WA 98610

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