



Skamania County PUD's

# News From the Wire

**Oct. – Nov.  
2012  
Edition**

Published Bi-Monthly

**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](http://www.skamaniapud.com)

Phone: 509-427-5126  
Toll Free: 800-922-5329  
Fax: 509-427-8416

**Board of  
Commissioners**

**Meeting Schedule**

**9 a.m.**

Monday 10/15/12

Monday 11/05/12

Monday 11/19/12

Monday 12/03/12

Monday 12/17/12

## Understanding Your Electric Usage: Preparing for Winter Bills

We all enjoy the conveniences of using electric power, but paying for our electric usage can be much less enjoyable, if we have used more than we thought. Understanding where our electric usage comes from can help us to budget our usage more effectively and thus lower our electric bills— especially those higher winter bills.

Ever wonder what the wattages on your light bulbs and electronics really mean, and how much they are going to cost you? If you look at your bill, you'll notice that we bill by the KWH, or kilowatt hour. Here's how this works out:



A kilowatt hour is a measure of the amount electricity you use. A kilowatt is 1,000 watts, so if you burn one 100watt light bulb for ten hours, you will have used one KWH. We currently charge \$0.066 per KWH, so in our example, running that 100watt light bulb for 10 hours would cost you only a little over six and a half cents.

Light bulbs don't use very much power, but large appliances such as electric furnaces, heat pumps, hot tubs, air conditioning, freezers, hot water heaters, etc. can really run up your bill. Sometimes when appliances or other electric items go bad, they will draw more power than they normally should. For instance, if an appliance becomes damaged, the element will have to work harder to produce the same amount of heat, and will thus use more electricity. It is a good idea to check on your appliances from time to time to make sure they are working correctly.

Another way to better manage your electric usage is to read your meter throughout the billing cycle, so you can get an idea of how much your bill is going to be before it even arrives! If halfway through the billing cycle you notice you're using a lot of power, you may want to cut back some to keep your bill from being more than you can afford. On most meters, the difference between the current read on your meter and the last read is the amount of KWH you've used. For example, if your meter reads 29907 on the first Monday of the month, and the following Monday it reads 30145, then you have used 238KWH that week (30145-29907=238). At \$0.066/KWH, the direct cost of your usage that week would be \$15.70. Please see the reverse side of your billing statements for more information on reading your meter.



Being aware of your electric usage will help you to budget your usage and stretch your dollars, especially as the colder months approach. ☺

## The Many Ways to Pay Your Bill

In case you didn't know, the PUD accepts payments from a variety of different methods. Here are a few of the ways you can pay your bill with us:

- Your bill may be paid with cash or check at our **office**, or at any of our three **payment stations** located throughout the county:
  - Washougal River Mercantile**  
4232 Washougal River Rd  
Washougal, WA 98671  
360-837-3470
  - North Bonneville City Hall**  
214 CBD Dr.  
North Bonneville, 98639  
509-427-8182
  - Riverview Community Bank** (Stevenson branch only)  
225 SW Second St.  
Stevenson, WA 98648  
509-427-5603
- Visa, Mastercard or Discover (debit or credit) can be used over the phone or in our office
- You may mail us a check to apply toward your bill (see front page for our mailing address)
- There is a deposit box on the west side of our office for payments made after hours
- You may use ACH (autopay) through your checking or savings account, or via Visa, Mastercard, or Discover. Please contact us if you are interested in this payment method, and we will send you our ACH form.
- Some of our customers use online banking through their personal bank to submit payment to us. If you use this payment method, please be aware that it takes 6-10 days for us to receive the payment, even though you see it come out of your bank account immediately. Please do not use this payment method if you are paying at the last minute— your account will not be considered paid until we have received the payment..

**\*\*THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS  
— WE APPRECIATE YOU!!\*\***

**INSERT POWER POLES HERE**

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## Consider a Back-Up Generator But Be Careful How You Use It.

If you use a generator, please be sure it is installed properly to ensure your safety and the safety of our linemen. For more information, call us for a free brochure on "Standby Electric Generators & Their Dangers of Back Feed" - This brochure also includes information on portable and permanent generators and things to consider when looking for a generator.

### Remember Safety First!

#### *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  
360-837-3862  
District 3..... Clyde Leach, Vice President  
509-493-3380  
District 2..... Curt Esch, Secretary  
509-427-8591

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