



Skamania County PUD's

News From the Wire

**Dec2013—
Jan2014
Edition**

Published Bi-Monthly

**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

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

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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 12/16/13

Monday 1/06/14

Monday 1/20/14

Monday 2/03/14

Tuesday 2/18/14

2013 Highlights

A Productive Construction Season Winds Down

Winter weather is here and the PUD crews are wrapping up a busy and productive construction season. When the weather dried out in the spring, the Line Crew started replacing rotten distribution line wood poles. As of September, 88 wood poles have been replaced this year representing nearly 2% of our in-service pole inventory. Next the crew tackled rebuilding a 4100 foot length of overhead distribution line along Highway 14 immediately west of the town of Skamania. This was the final and most difficult section of a multi-year project to completely rebuild 10 miles of the Highway 14 line from North Bonnevillle west to Salmon Falls Road. Finally, about 5 miles of underground power line in various locations is being replaced. Annually the PUD identifies the worst performing underground feeders to target for replacement. The Water Crew had a productive year as well. They repainted the inside of the Carson reservoir and replaced water lines on Monaghan Road in Carson and Scenic Heights Road in Underwood. All of this replacement work translates into more reliable electric and water service for you, our customers.

More Successes

Carson Water: The Bear Creek diversion dam and water intake structure resides on US Forest Service (USFS) property and requires a Special Use Permit for continued operation. The USFS defers to the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to regulate fish habitat in the creek. To renew the PUD's expired special use permit, WDFW approval is required. In 2012 WDFW was mandating that the PUD construct a physical fish passage structure over the 12 foot high dam. The fish passage structure was estimated to cost at least \$500,000 to design and construct; this expense seemed impractical for a water system of less than 1000 customers and a creek that holds no salmon or steelhead, only resident rainbow trout. With the assistance of a few key Carson residents, the PUD went back to WDFW offering mitigation in lieu of constructing physical fish passage. The PUD has gained WDFW approval of our mitigation proposal and is awaiting USFS approval of the new special use permit. The mitigation is estimated to cost less than \$40,000 representing a cost avoidance of \$460,000. I am very pleased with the efforts of PUD staff working with WDFW and USFS to reach a realistic and cost effective solution for renewing the Bear Creek diversion dam special use permit.

Strategic Plan Development: The Board of Commissioners and Management worked collaboratively to develop a Strategic Plan for the PUD. For the first time, the PUD has a comprehensive written plan directing and prioritizing the efforts of management and staff. The strategic plan includes three lists of Action Priorities in the areas of long range planning, improving system assets and improving operational effectiveness and customer service. The focus and guidance provided by the strategic plan will better ensure the PUD operates as an effective steward of your utility now and in the future.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Brent Bischoff, General Manager

AVAILABLE NOW
Rebate Applications For Low Income Senior Or Disabled Citizens
For 2013-2014

This application is for a special electric bill rebate for qualifying low-income persons of Seniority and/or persons 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, 2013, and must be the head of your household. The account must be in your name or your spouse's name.

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.

One-person households qualify if income from all sources is \$21,900 or less, and households of 2 or more qualify if income from all sources is \$29,500 or less.

Thank You For Your Warm Hearts!

Operation Warm Heart (OWH) is a program that helps families keep their power 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, \$13,256.35 was distributed to 64 needy families and individuals in our community.

Contributions to OWH 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 fill out the enclosed flyer and mail it in. We offer many options for those wishing to donate on a regular basis, and one-time donations are also welcomed.

News From the Wire

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

PUD Commissioners:

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