

Skamania County PUD's News From the Wire

**August– Sept.
2015
Edition**

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**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

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**Board of
Commissioners**

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Monday 08/03/15
Monday 08/17/15

Tuesday 09/08/15
Monday 09/21/15

Monday 10/05/15
Monday 10/19/15

Projects to maintain and upgrade the PUD electric and water system infrastructure have been a primary focus of PUD personnel in recent months. Several major projects identified in long range planning have reached or are nearing construction. The PUD is making final preparation for a bond issue to finance these large projects. It is a very busy and exciting time for the PUD!

Electric System Projects:

1. In July construction started to **rebuild the Underwood substation** located on Newell Road. Skamania PUD purchased that substation, and our other 4 substations, from BPA in 2006. The existing power transformer that is the backbone of the Underwood substation was manufactured in 1968. Since the areas fed from Underwood substation (Underwood, Willard and Mill A) cannot be fed from any other part of the PUD system, an end-of-life failure of the substation transformer is an unacceptable risk. This and one other of the five PUD substations will be rebuilt with proceeds from the upcoming bond issue.
2. In conjunction with **improvements planned on Cascade Avenue** by the City of Stevenson, the PUD is replacing the existing overhead distribution lines on Cascade Avenue with underground lines. When the project is complete, all electric distribution lines in Stevenson south of the railroad tracks will be underground.
3. The PUD is nearly finished with a **digital mapping project** of the entire electric system. Once complete, the PUD will not only have an accurate and detailed map of our system but also an accurate and detailed inventory of all components in the system. This new tool will be the means to improve operations, efficiency, reliability, outage response and asset planning of our electric distribution system. The Carson and Underwood water systems are also being digitally mapped in conjunction with the electric system.

Water System Projects:

1. A major project in the Carson water system is in the preliminary stages of design. In order to meet Washington Department of Health regulatory requirements and improve quality of service to customers in northwest Carson, a **new reservoir will be constructed west of Carson** in the vicinity of Brooks Road. The new reservoir will make the system more resilient to power outages, improve storage and fire-fighting capacity and improve service pressure to some customers now underserved.
2. The PUD is also taking steps to **improve and strengthen the raw water transmission infrastructure** delivering water from Bear Creek to the Carson water treatment plant. This work will reinforce the concrete footings and add several cable supports for the pipeline ascending the west bank of the Wind River crossing. Scheduled for completion this fall, the project will resolve an identified weakness in the system.
3. In the Underwood water system the **Shepherd tank and pumping station and some water lines will be replaced** with proceeds from the upcoming bond issue. The Shepherd pumping station is an intermediate pump located on Cook-Underwood Road that pushes water up the final half of the ascent to the water reservoirs. The station is at the end of its useful life and is more economically replaced rather than refurbished. The water lines along Cooper Avenue and Circle Drive are scheduled for replacement to improve quality of service and fire-flow capacity. This will also improve system efficiency as those steel pipes are a major source of system leakage.

These major capital projects will ensure the long term health and reliability of the PUD's electric and water infrastructure. Staff and the Board of Commissioners have worked hard to improve the District's financial position to ensure the best possible bond rating and minimize borrowing costs for these projects. Staff will continue to be very busy in the coming years as we carry out these significant system improvements.

Brent Bischoff, General Manager

Our Meter Readers Need Your Help

To make sure we obtain accurate readings of your electric and/or water meters for billing purposes, we need your help in keeping the area free of debris. Here are some simple tips to help maintain free access to your meters.

- Keep the area around the meters—as well as the pathway to the meter— trimmed or mowed.
- If it snows, shovel a pathway to the meters and around the meter area.
- Keep pets away from the meter area and pathway.
- Do not park vehicles or store materials on top of your water meter.
- If you have a locked gate we can provide a padlock in sequence with your lock.
- Make sure your address is visible for easy location of your home. Remember, if you can't get to your meters, neither can we!

Help us Stay Connected With You

Whether you're a customer who appreciates staying connected via email or the type that prefers doing business over the telephone, we've got you covered. Please provide us with a current email address so that we have another way of contacting you. Call or email us at: info@skamaniapud.com

It is also important that we have your correct physical address and phone numbers. Occasionally a situation arises where we need to get in touch with you. For example, there are times when we need to shut off your power for a planned outage. We attempt to contact every affected customer. Or we may notice an issue with your meter reading that could result in an inaccurate bill. Help us help you by keeping your contact information current.

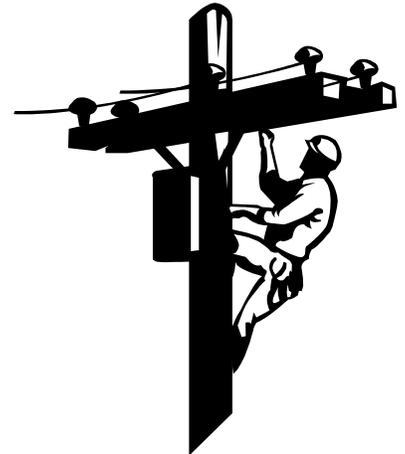
Are you an Auto Pay customer? Please make sure your banking information is up to date.

Please keep signs off Power Poles

PUD #1 of Skamania county appreciates your cooperation in keeping our power poles clear of nails and staples. Nails in power poles can injure linemen and cause their climbing spikes to slip, leading to a fall. That is why hanging signs on power poles in Washington State is against the law. (RCW 70.54.090).

We'll print a gentle reminder now and then to keep yard sale and other types of signs off power poles.

Thank you again for helping with this safety issue.



News From the Wire

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

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