



Skamania County PUD's

News From the Wire

December-January 2014-15 Newsletter

**Dec2014—
Jan2015
Edition**

Published Bi-Monthly

**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 | 12/1/14 |
| Monday | 12/15/14 |
| Monday | 1/05/15 |
| Monday | 1/19/15 |
| Monday | 2/02/15 |
| Tuesday | 2/16/15 |

In our tech savvy world we have all gotten a new gismo - whether toy or tool. Excited to commission the amazing widget, we jump into the driver's seat, fire it up and take it for a spin. By common sense and feel we figure out the main functions ignoring the details at first. As we get more familiar with the form and function we realize there are some quirks that don't make sense and may be down-right irritating. Reluctantly we open the owner's manual or Google the gismo to see if we can neutralize the annoyances. Low and behold the quirks are designed into the system! Once we understand their function and purpose, they become tolerable; we may even begin to appreciate them.

The Electric Power System is one of the most sophisticated gismos of our time. Yet it is so common place and reliable that we take it for granted. At the same time we are so thoroughly dependent on it that a power outage can completely derail our day. The system comes with no operators manual. When it is not operating as expected, you simply call the PUD.

What is normal operation and when should you call the PUD? What about those annoying power flickers? Power is off for a couple of seconds and then right back on - maybe even 2 or 3 times in a row. Or, you wake up to realize you missed your alarm and every digital clock in the house is flashing. Maybe you just settled into your cozy recliner after a long day to catch the game or check your Facebook when one of those annoying flickers resets your cable controller and Wi-Fi connection. You may cuss the power blip but actually that is normal power system operation and it prevented a prolonged outage.

Here is how it works. Most power system short circuits are what we call temporary faults - lightning strikes, a limb falls across the line and then falls clear, or a squirrel gets in the wrong spot. (Ooouch; really bad for the squirrel!) The power system senses the short circuit and opens the circuit breaker. Assuming the problem is temporary, the circuit breaker "recloses" automatically after a brief delay. If the controller senses the short circuit is still present, the circuit breaker opens again and repeats the sequence up to 3 times. If the short circuit remains after the third "reclose", the circuit breaker opens and remains open because the fault is permanent - a tree across the line or wires on the ground. The system is de-energized until the PUD crew identifies the problem and makes repairs. This type of control scheme is designed to minimize the number of sustained outages and prevent hazard to the public. Those pesky power blips are the power system at work keeping the lights on. They are a power system design feature you probably would not appreciate until after you "read the operators manual." I hope this is helpful since storm season started early this year with that nasty blow-and-snow in mid November.

AVAILABLE NOW
Rebate Applications For Low Income Senior Or Disabled Citizens
For 2014-2015

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. Last year \$17,242.48 was distributed to seniors and persons of disabilities in 125 households.

Person of Seniority: To be eligible, you must be 62 years of age or older on January 1, 2014, 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 \$22,173 or less, and households of 2 or more qualify if income from all sources is \$29,887 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, \$14,533.89 was distributed to 66 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.

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