

Skamania County PUD's

News From the Wire

**June– July
2015
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	06/01/15
Monday	06/15/15
Monday	07/06/15
Monday	07/20/15
Monday	08/03/15
Monday	08/17/15

The PUD is receiving more frequent inquiries about residential rooftop solar systems. The most common question is “Does the PUD participate in the Washington State Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Incentive Program?” The answer is yes. Many of the inquiries are from contract vendors of rooftop solar systems and not from Skamania PUD customers. It is a good time to inform you of the incentives available for residential renewable electric generation and provide some associated information.

Renewable Energy Programs and Incentives: There are three main programs with incentives/subsidies offered at the different levels of government.

The Federal Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit offers a tax credit of 30% on qualifying expenditures toward a residential renewable energy project. The project must be placed in service by Dec. 31, 2016. This credit is applied for with your personal Federal income tax filing.

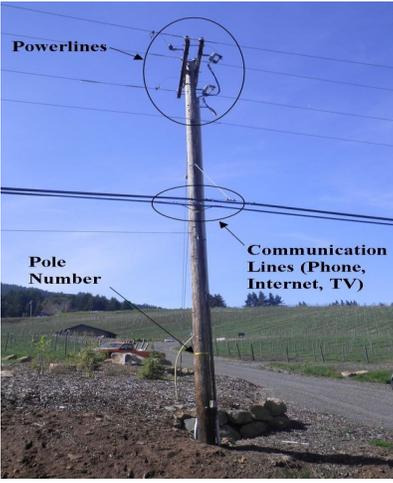
The WA State Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Incentive Program offers annual payment for energy (kWh) generated. The base rate is \$0.15/kWh and can be as much as \$0.54/kWh if you use solar modules and inverters manufactured in Washington State. The maximum annual incentive payment is \$5,000. The PUD pays the annual incentive payment to the residential solar generator and then the PUD applies for an equivalent tax credit with WA State when we file our annual taxes. This program sunsets June 30, 2020.

The PUD has a Net Metering Policy where a residential renewable energy generator receives a credit on their regular bill for energy their system generates in excess of their usage. The credit is at the residential energy rate charged by the PUD. 100kW is the maximum allowed generation capacity of a renewable generation project interconnected with the PUD's distribution system. Annually the PUD reconciles the account of net metered customers. At the annual reconciliation, credits in excess of a customer's usage are forfeited; in other words generation in excess of usage is not incentivized.

Is Rooftop Solar Right for You? Like all new technologies, there are pros and cons to consider. Here are some points to ponder. Western Washington has some of the lowest average annual solar radiation in the nation. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory reports 2 to 3 kWh/m²/day for western WA compared to 4 to 5 kWh/m²/day in central and southern CA. WA has the lowest electric utility rates in the nation and with all of Skamania PUD's electricity coming from BPA, 85% is renewable hydro-electric, 10% is carbon-free nuclear power and 5% or less is fossil fuel based. In the northwest, electricity generated from rooftop solar is an expensive renewable energy source displacing inexpensive renewable hydro-electric energy. Rooftop solar projects in our area (using all of the subsidy incentives) can pay for themselves in 5 to 7 years. Be aware that the Federal incentive expires Dec. 31, 2016 and the WA incentive expires Jun. 30, 2020; so the window to recover your project construction cost is closing. These programs may be extended or replaced but are subject to the political environment.

The PUD will work with you to interconnect your generation project to the grid should you choose to “go solar.”

Brent Bischoff, General Manager



With the prospect of an especially dry summer, the PUD will be particularly proactive keeping vegetation out of the power lines this summer. We would appreciate your assistance identifying locations where trees have grown very close to (within 1 foot) the energized power lines. The energized lines are only the lines at the very top of the power poles. If you see locations where trees have grown into or very close to the power lines, please note the nearest power pole tag number (yellow tag on the pole about 6 feet up that has SK PUD on it) and phone it into the PUD (509) 427-5126 or email it to info@skamaniapud.com. We appreciate your help.

Annual Fuel Mix

In accordance with State law RCW. 19.29A.050, Washington State PUD's must disclose their annual resource fuel mix once per calendar year. Disclosure labels rely on historical data, the prior calendar year. So, for example, the 2015 label information lists your PUD's resource fuel mix for 2014. As Table 1 shows, through BPA, Skamania PUD receives power from five primary sources to ensure that you enjoy continued reliable electrical service.

Generation Type	Fuel Mix 2014
Large Hydro	83.3%
Nuclear	10.4%
Other	4.6%
Small Hydro	1.1%
Wind	.6%

"Unaudited Data"

Welcome Jennifer Jackson!



We are pleased to announce the hiring of Jennifer "Jen" Jackson to the position of Accountant/Human Resource Generalist. Jen grew up in the Pacific Northwest, graduated from the University of San Diego, and established her career in the Bay Area in the venture capital industry. She decided to make

Skamania County her permanent home 14 years ago, and joins the Skamania County PUD following seven years managing the events and recreation programs for Skamania County. In addition, Jen is the secretary of the Home Valley Water District and the local AYSO Youth Soccer League. When not working, Jen enjoys hiking, kickboxing, reading, and spending time with her two children. She looks forward to the great opportunity of being the new team member of the PUD.

News From the Wire

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

PUD Commissioners:

- District 3..... Liz Green, Secretary
509-538-2568
- District 2..... Curt Esch, President
509-427-8591
- District 1..... Dennis Gale, Vice President
360-837-3862

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Printed by The Optimist Printers