



Skamania County PUD's News from the Wire

**Oct-Nov
2011
Edition**

Vol. 83, Issue 5.11

Published Bi-Monthly

**PUD #1 of
Skamania County**

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**Board of
Commissioners**

Meeting Schedule

9 a.m.

Monday 10/17/11

Monday 11/07/11

Monday 11/21/11

Monday 12/05/11

Monday 12/19/11

What! Another BPA power rate increase?

Effective October 1, 2011, Bonneville Power Administration is raising its power rates charged to Skamania PUD by 13.8%.

These increases in rates will also affect tribal utilities, cooperatives, municipalities and federal entities. The average increase in these power rates is 7.8% but Skamania PUD will face a 13.8% increase.

The BPA increase in power rates is marked by three primary reasons : (1) Refurbishing and upgrading of the hydroelectric and nuclear generating facilities, (2) Surplus power sales revenues are lower than expected, (3) A new Market based Rate Design.

BPA will be providing funds for refurbishing of the northwest hydroelectric and nuclear generating facilities, purchasing fuel and repairing the Columbia Generating Station and restoring habitat and improvements to dams as required in the Basin tribal agreements.

Bonneville sells surplus power to customers outside the region and uses the funds in its operations. These surplus power revenues have been lower than expected.

Bonneville is implementing a new market based rate design that tends to be utility specific on market based factors. Importantly, the new demand rate is 5 times today's demand rates.

The demand charges from BPA comprise about 12.6% of Skamania PUD's annual power costs. BPA customers like Skamania PUD have demand costs in the range of 5-7%. However, Skamania PUD will receive a 13.8% rate increase, more than 1 ¾ times the average. In short, the Skamania PUD power characteristics profile is such that its customers' power needs are high during times of the year BPA power is most expensive.

On October 1, 2009 BPA increased Skamania PUD power rates by 7.5%. At this time the PUD chose not to pass this rate increase on to its customers. To begin to recover from the October, 2009 increase, 14 months later, The PUD responded on December 1, 2010 of just 3% to its customers. Now the PUD must consider the effects of the 13.8% increase from BPA starting October 1, 2011.

How these increased BPA power rates will affect our Skamania PUD 2012 budget and customers is being discussed during the annual Skamania PUD Budget processes.

-Robert Gentry, Interim Manager

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!!****

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.

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Printed by The Optimist Printers