



Skamania County PUD's

# News From the Wire

**Oct--Nov  
2014  
Edition**

Published Bi-Monthly

**PUD #1 of  
Skamania County**

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

**Office Hours:**

**8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.**

[www.skamaniapud.com](http://www.skamaniapud.com)

Phone: 509-427-5126  
Toll Free: 800-922-5329  
Fax: 509-427-8416

**Board of  
Commissioners**

**Meeting Schedule**

**9 a.m.**

Monday 10/06/14  
Monday 10/20/14

Monday 11/03/14  
Monday 11/17/14

Monday 12/08/14  
Monday 12/22/14

The PUD has been a beehive of activity this past summer as we focused on a number of construction and special projects in addition to our normal maintenance and operations. These projects are priorities identified in our strategic plan to improve system performance, reliability and quality of service.

### The Electric System:

Each year PUD staff identifies for replacement our overhead and underground electric distribution equipment at highest risk of failure. Replacement of rotten and bug infested wood poles is ongoing throughout the year; as of July 31 the line crew has replaced 71 failing wood poles in our overhead system. Our underground cable replacement is done in the summer when weather conditions are favorable. We contract the excavation and our line crew installs the new conduit and cable. As of mid September, 3.2 miles of underground cable have been replaced this year. Four additional miles are identified for replacement waiting National Scenic Area permitting. Next, a major project to rebuild the Underwood Substation is in the design phase; this project includes replacement of the 46 year old power transformer – the most critical component of the substation. Construction at Underwood Substation is planned for next summer. The PUD is preparing for bond financing to accomplish the substation rebuild project. Another project is underway to digitally map our distribution system. This project will provide new tools to improve operations, outage troubleshooting, service quality and asset management. Finally, this summer the PUD took delivery of a new man-lift/line crew truck. It will replace a truck our crews have worked out of since 1985.

### The Water Systems:

In the Underwood Water System the PUD constructed a new 1360 foot section of 8 inch water line from the Fire Station to Cooper Avenue Spur. A section of leaking 4 inch steel pipe was retired as part of the project. This new line improves water pressure and fire flow in the east end of the system. It is also a major step toward future replacement of the 4 inch steel water main on Cooper Avenue and Circle Drive. In the Carson Water System we replaced 1339 feet of 4 inch steel water line on Smith-Beckon Rd south of Hot Springs Avenue with 8 inch line. These old steel lines are leak prone so we are replacing them to improve system efficiency, service quality and fire flow. A major improvement project is also gathering momentum. A siting study was commissioned this summer for a new storage reservoir in the Carson Water System. The study will determine the exact location for the future reservoir, ensure the geology will support the structure and set the parameters for the PUD to acquire the land. Completion is planned in 2016. The reservoir will eliminate the need for booster pumps at the water treatment that are currently required to maintain system pressure. This will significantly improve system reliability and ensure water availability during a power outage. Storage capacity and fire flow will also be dramatically improved. The new reservoir will be funded with bond financing or low interest loans from the State Revolving Fund.

Brent Bischoff  
General Manager

## The Many Ways to Pay Your Bill

The PUD accepts payments in a variety of different methods.

Here are a few of the ways you can pay your bill with us:

- **NEW Online Bill Pay**  
Online payment with paperless billing is easy, secure and free. Payments are made from your debit or credit card. Manage your account at your leisure 24/7! Sign up at our website [www.skamaniapud.com](http://www.skamaniapud.com)
- 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
- 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 with 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 can take over a week 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*

## What is the “Basic Charge”?

The facilities charge, which is also known at some utilities by the names of “basic charge” or “customer charge”, is a fixed monthly charge which is part of the rate. It covers some of the cost of providing service which exists regardless of how much electricity is used. This fixed cost service includes such things as meters and meter reading, data processing, billing, service lines and certain fixed equipment and overhead costs. Having this fixed charge helps to hold down the cost per kilowatt-hour, which is the energy or usage charge. For residential and most small commercial customers, the facilities charge is \$13.77 per month, or 27.54 bimonthly.

### *News From the Wire*

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

#### **PUD Commissioners:**

District 3..... Clyde Leach, President  
509-493-3380  
District 2..... Curt Esch, Vice President  
509-427-8591  
District 1..... Dennis Gale, Secretary  
360-837-3862

1492 Wind River Hwy  
P.O. Box 500  
Carson WA 98610

[www.skamaniapud.com](http://www.skamaniapud.com)

Phone: 509-427-5126  
Toll free: 800-922-5329  
Fax: 509-427-8416

*Printed by The Optimist Printers*