



Public Utility District No. 1

of Skamania County

Post Office Box 500 • Carson, WA 98610
Phone (509) 427-5126 • Fax (509) 427-8416
Toll Free (800) 922-5329

Underground Cable Replacement Project FAQs

1. Why are you replacing the cable?

Skamania PUD and our contractors are replacing and upgrading older “direct bury” underground cables with new conductors installed in conduit. Direct buried cables installed in the 1970’s are experiencing failure rates that are unacceptable. The new system will provide high reliability and speed future repairs in the unlikely event of failure.

2. What is “direct bury”?

In the late 1960s, utilities across the country began putting lines underground instead of overhead. In the 1990s, plastics, PVC and other materials advanced to the point where it was cost effective and more reliable to install the underground conductors in conduit made of these materials. Conduit protects the conductor from the water, dirt, rocks, roots and other underground obstructions. Conduit also provides better protection for the conductor from “dig in” damage caused by excavation in the vicinity of the underground power lines.

3. What is “conduit”?

Conduit is a pipe or tube for protecting electric wires or cables.

4. Will I be able to get into and out of my home or business?

Yes. The crews on site will work with you to make sure we minimally affect you and access to your home or business. We will be knocking on doors and doing everything we can to minimize disruption of access to your property.

5. Will I see an additional charge on my bill for this work?

No. The cost incurred by the PUD to accomplish this work is paid through the rates all customers pay.

6. How do I know it's a Skamania PUD crew or contractor working for Skamania PUD?

All of our field personnel drive vehicles with Skamania PUD logos and carry PUD ID cards that they will show at your request. Contract crews are not always as easy to identify but will respond with a description of their purpose in your area and their association with the PUD when asked. If you desire assistance verifying the identity of a contracted PUD work crew, please call the PUD at (509) 427-5126.

7. Who do I contact with questions or concerns?

Contact Gary Leonard, our General Foreman, at (509) 427-5126 or gleonard@skamaniapud.com.