



**Jefferson County
Public Utility District**

HOTLINE

NEWS FROM YOUR PUBLIC POWER & WATER UTILITY • FALL 2016

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contact us

Customer Service:
(360) 385-5800,
Monday-Friday,
8:45am-5pm

Mailing Address

310 Four Corners Rd
Port Townsend, WA
98368

Payment

Pay by phone at
(855) 386-9916

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jeffpud.smarthub.coop

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Follow us for outage
updates and news.



Before the storm...

Store a few basics in your home

- **Three day supply of water, one gallon per person per day.**
- **Three-day supply of non-perishable, high-energy food.**
- **Tools: Radio, can opener, flashlights, extra batteries, hand sanitizer, and first aid supplies.**
- **A week's supply of medications.**
- **Copies of important documents—birth certificates, passports, and insurance policies.**
- **Customize your kit with family photos, candy, and games.**

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: MILESTONES

Jefferson PUD passed an important milestone in August with the completion of the audit for 2013 and 2014.

As the state auditor noted, some of the issues were related to ramping up a \$30 million enterprise with financial software that was not adequate for our needs. That system was replaced in 2014, and other corrective actions have been taken. Implementing the audit recommendations is the key task on the manager's work plan for 2016.



Barney Burke

You can read the audits and hear the auditor's presentation at <http://www.jeffpud.org/audio-from-august-16-special-meeting-with-state-auditor-representatives/>. I would like to thank the State Auditor's office for helping the PUD move forward.

The PUD is reviewing an updated cost of service study. When we purchased the power utility from PSE in 2013, we adopted the rates PSE was using and have not raised them. Some costs have increased since then, including BPA power.

There are a number of cost issues under discussion that affect rates. These include plans for capital improvements, a proposal for expanding the low-income discount to more customers, how to address situations where a rate class is paying more or less than its estimated cost, and the question of how much of any increase should come from the base fee and how much from the consumption fee. You'll see these issues listed in the consultant's presentation (http://d3kdnrhmwdsbul.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/JPUD_COS_WRKSHR_08242016.pdf) at jeffpud.org.

The presentation contains consultant recommendations, but the PUD Board has not made any decisions as this column is written. The PUD welcomes public input to help us set fair and sound rates.

Meteorologists say we're in for a La Nada (the nothing) this winter. Cliff Mass says a "neutral-type winter" is probable with La Nada, meaning we could have near normal precipitation and temperature and a greater chance of heavy precipitation, windstorms and big snowstorms (see <http://cliff-mass.blogspot.com>).

Let's hope it's not the wild ride we had last year. The Aug. 29, 2015 storm was the most powerful summer storm ever recorded in the Northwest, according to Mass. It was one of three storms last season that

were certified as national disasters, making the PUD eligible for reimbursement for some of those expenses from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).

We did a lot of tree trimming this year, and this will help keep the power on during storms. PUD trucks have GPS units programmed with the locations of key components on the grid, saving response time – and money.

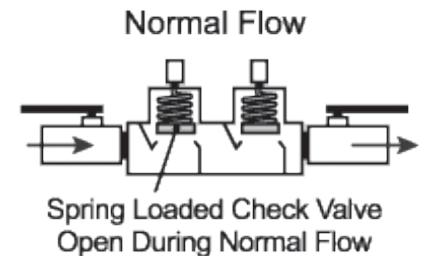
When your power goes out, you can usually connect to jeffpud.org on your smartphone. Updates are posted so you can quickly find out if an outage has been reported in your neighborhood and how long repairs are expected to take.

The PUD just hired a new employee, Debbie Lund, whose duties include communications and public outreach. In the customer survey last year, many of you said the PUD needs to improve its communications, and how important this is during outages.

If you're new to the Olympic Peninsula, you might want to read up on the Cascadia Subduction Zone, a mega-thrust fault located along our coast. In June, the PUD participated in the "Cascadia Rising" exercise with other local, state and federal agencies to practice and evaluate disaster response plans. No one can prevent an earthquake, but we all need to get prepared.

WHAT'S THIS DO?

In our second installment of "What's This Do?", we take a look at something you'll likely never see, but should be thankful it's there doing its job. This is a double check valve also known as a back flow prevention device. Imagine enjoying a shower with your water efficient showerhead and for no apparent



reason it sputters and proceeds to do little but drip and make a distinct sucking sound. You heard fire engines moments ago in the distance, but thought little of it. Then you put it all together: tapping into the fire hydrant dropped my water pressure to my home causing you to have an abruptly short shower.

This is not merely an inconvenience. It could be a health hazard. The water pressure has actually reversed in this situation. If you had a valve open within a hot tub, jacuzzi or even an outdoor irrigation system a reverse in pressure could cause

IT'S A TWO VALVE ASSEMBLY THAT KEEPS WATER FLOWING ONLY IN ONE DIRECTION PREVENTING BACKFLOW INTO THE SYSTEM.

contaminated water to get sucked back into the distribution system and then get re-distributed to other customers. How does one avoid such a hazard from occurring? Install a backflow prevention device.

What's it do? It's a two valve assembly that keeps water flowing only in one direction preventing backflow into the system. Most water using devices and situations aren't vulnerable to backflow because there is what's called an "air gap" built into the design of the device. A kitchen sink faucet has an air gap between your plumbing and your point of use - your sink. Same thing with your dishwasher, clothes drier and of course, your toilet. Does everyone need backflow prevention? No. You only need a double check valve or some other type of back flow prevention device if you have a hot tub, jacuzzi or other fixtures where there is no air gap between your fixture and where the water is being used. If you have concerns about backflow prevention at your home, contact customer service at (360) 385-5800.



Great turnout at the Jefferson County Fair! Themed "All About", the PUD booth won 3rd place for Best Display!



NEW FACES OF PUD



Jimmy Scarborough

Jimmy has spent the last 14 years working as a consultant engineer in Vancouver, WA and Anchorage, AK. He will be the senior electrical engineer at Jefferson County PUD, overseeing various projects and assisting with the operations. What interested him the most about this position was getting in at the ground floor of a start-up utility, where he can use his years of experience working with a multitude of utilities. He told us he was also excited to live in Port Townsend as it reminds him a lot of growing up in Alaska, with many outdoor opportunities and living in a small community.



Debbie Lund

Debbie started as the Human Resources and Communications Manager at Jefferson County PUD on September 12. She has spent the past 20 years working in human resources for the City of Tumwater and most recently the City of Aberdeen. While in Aberdeen she also served as public information officer for the City and the local incident management team in response to record rainfall and flooding in January 2015. She has spent summer weekends on Marrowstone Island for the past 25 years and is very happy to be living and working in the Port Townsend area. Debbie will be focusing on writing personnel policies and contributing to the communications efforts of the PUD as part of her duties.

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATERS

Heat pump water heaters hold key to savings for Northwest homes

If you were to ask yourself "What is the biggest energy user in my house?" during your morning shower, the answer would literally be hitting you over the head.

In a given day, the standard electric water heater consumes more energy than all typical home appliances put together. To put this into context, if you were to blow dry your hair for 17 hours straight after that shower, you still would not have used as much energy as your water heater.

That's a lot of energy.

But it doesn't have to be this way. Switching to a heat pump water heater could cut electric water-heating energy use by up to 60 percent. In fact, heat pump water heaters save so much energy that if every home in Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington used a heat pump water heater, the region could save enough energy to power all the homes in Spokane and Boise each year.

Same reliable water, less energy

Anyone who lives in a household with teenagers and an older water heater knows that being the last to shower can mean a cold start to your day. With a heat pump water heater, you can enjoy hot water whenever you need it. It provides the same reliable hot water as a standard new electric water heater.

How do they provide consistent hot water while using such a small amount of energy? By working a bit like a refrigerator, but in reverse. While a refrigerator pushes heat out, a heat pump water heater pulls it in from the surrounding air to warm the water in the storage tank. This helps the water heater use less energy, which in turn saves money on water heating costs.

An independent research report produced by the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance shows that 93 percent of custom-

ers who have heat pump water heaters are so satisfied with their unit that they would recommend it to their friends and family.

Installation

Installation is fairly simple. Although they tend to take up a little more space than standard electric water heaters, heat pump water heaters can usually be installed right where the old tank was.

Different homes have different installation considerations, so be sure to talk



Increasingly popular heat pump water heaters can save energy and money.

to your installer or PUD representative about your options.

What's the cost?

Right now Jefferson PUD offers a \$300 - \$500 rebate for heat pump water heaters, and homeowners could qualify for up to \$300 in federal tax credits. Some manufacturers offer up to \$300 in instant markdowns on their products. This means a lot of upfront and ongoing savings. With those savings in mind, you can enjoy a reliable hot shower, no matter how many teens you have in the house, any day of the week.

To find participating retailers and installers, available manufacturer promotions and a list of all utility rebates, visit HotWaterSolutionsNW.org.

THE COST OF LIGHTING AT \$9.9 CENTS/KWH - 24/7 IN ONE YEAR



\$16/YR
19 Watt CFL

\$52/YR

60 Watt incandescent



\$9/YR

10 Watt LED

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 Jefferson County Pud #1

Do you have enough?

500 Jefferson County homes, many with children, don't. They won't be able to afford home heating costs this year.



POWER BOOST PROGRAM

You helped your neighbors last year
and please do so again this year.

Donate \$1 to \$20 (or more) each month
through your PUD bill.

*100% of funds go to OLYCAP and St. Vincent De Paul.
The PUD does not deduct any administrative costs.*

--- Sign up today! ---

Call the PUD: 360-385-5800 or visit jeffpud.org



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Jefferson County PUD
Newsletter: Fall 2016

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Northwest Energy
Efficiency Alliance