

Pictured right: Substation/Metering team members Colton Worley and Tod Eisle installing a radio collector on the top of the 100' tower at the PUD's Otto Street network hub. The collector will be used to receive signals from our new advanced meters. Worley and Eisle are currently conducting testing and propagation studies. The first phase of system-wide meter replacement will not begin until September.



## TRANSFORMER SHORTAGES & PRICE SPIKES

Electrical utilities across the country and globally are facing unprecedented multi-year supply chain issues for a wide variety of electric distribution equipment, and most significantly distribution transformers. Supply chain disruptions are tied to worldwide material demand and shortages caused by the pandemic, labor constraints, shipping issues, and even the war in Ukraine.

Transformers vary in size and are rated in kVAs (amps). The most common transformer used by the PUD is a 25kVA padmount (meaning the green cabinet kind that sit on the ground) transformer. It typically supplies power to around 4 homes. In normal years, the PUD tries to keep a stock of 60 25kVA units at all times, with a minimum on-hand quantity being 20 units. Current stock is well below that minimum.

Large orders for pad-mounted transformers, which typically took between 6–12 weeks to fulfill in 2020, now have lead times of 52–86 weeks. Transformer orders slated for arrival in mid-2021 have been postponed several times, with final arrival dates yet to be determined.

As the global supply of transformers has diminished, prices have risen accordingly.

25kVA pad-mounted transformer pricing rose nearly 400% from 2020 per-unit pricing, and 50kVA unit pricing jumped 900% since 2020. Pole-mounted transformers, which the PUD uses less of, have seen similar price increases, as well as extended lead times with no guarantees of meeting price quotes.

What does this mean for PUD customers? While the PUD has to date been able to supply transformers to customers seeking new service with minimal delays, supply chain issues could result in delays of connections in the months ahead.

The cost of new connections has also increased. The PUD increased charges for new connections in 2021 to cover industry-wide increases in materials costs. Unfortunately, costs continued to increase, with transformer prices changing almost daily. The PUD revised its charges again in early 2022, opting to pass on the cost of the transformer to the customer. Those charges went into effect June 1st. The full set of charges can be found in Exhibit B on the Rates/Specifications page under the ELECTRIC tab on our website.



Current stock of padmounted transformer units (pictured above) is at an all-time low due to global supply chain issues. New inventory is still months away from delivery. Supplier quotes have risen by 400%.



## DEHNERT PROMOTED TO LINE CREW FOREMAN

Jonathan Dehnert joined the PUD team as a Journeyman lineman in 2017. He was named to temporary foreman in January and was promoted to the permanent role in late-April. Dehnert is an avid outdoorsman and the proud father of two. He lives in the woods with his family on the Coyle Peninsula. Dehnert is also reigning PUD cornhole competition champion.



## PUD AWARDED FOR SAFETY ON THE JOB

The PUD was awarded 3rd Place in Safety by the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) for Utilities with 100,001-150,000 hours of exposure annually.

The NWPPA defines workplace exposure as the total number of hours worked by all employees in relation to the number of safety incidents, and the severity rates (work loss) from safety incidents.



Josh Garlock  
Electric Superintendent  
with 2022 Safety Award

"We're incredibly proud of our team as a whole for this award," said PUD HR Manager, Melanie Des Marais. "It shows that from our line crew, to our water team, to our office staff, everyone has safety at top of mind."

This is the PUD's third consecutive safety award from the NWPPA. The NWPPA represents more than 150 utilities in the U.S. and Canada. The award was presented to PUD staff at its annual Engineering & Operations Conference in Spokane, WA.

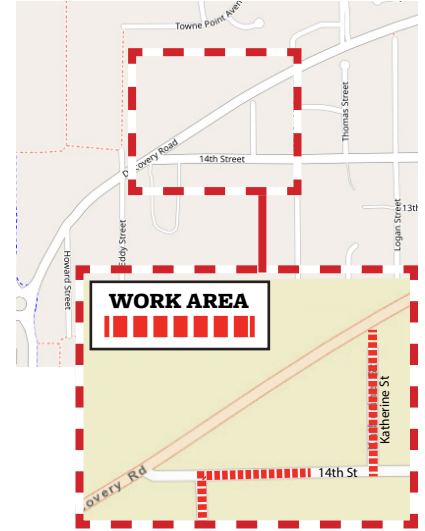
## DISCOVERY ROAD POWER UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT

In late-May, PUD contractors began work undergrounding overhead power lines and relocating existing underground power lines in conjunction with the City of Port Townsend's Discovery Road Project.

The goal of the City's project is to provide safer access for pedestrians and improved roadway lighting along Discovery Rd. PUD contractors will remove overhead lines at the intersection of 14th Street and Cliff Street and run them underground to connect to existing infrastructure.

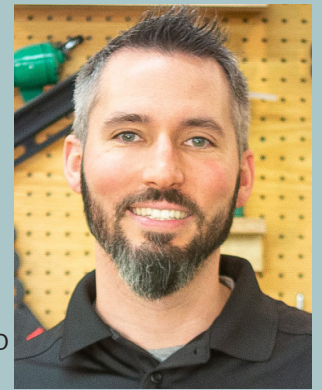
Existing underground lines along Discovery Road, supplying Katherine St. residents will be rerouted to allow access for future maintenance needs.

As this work is taking place in residential areas and pedestrian corridors, the PUD urges residents to use caution around work sites. Work is expected to continue through July.



## HAWN HIRED AS COMM SPECIALIST

Jameson Hawn was hired as Digital Communications Specialist in late-April, taking over many duties previously performed by Broadband and Communications Director Will O'Donnell. Hawn comes to the PUD after several years as a multimedia specialist with Grizzly Industrial in Bellingham, a company well known to local woodworkers and boatbuilders.



At Grizzly, Hawn was responsible for creating their online video education program and social media channels.

Jefferson is the second PUD Hawn has worked for. The first was Grant. It's also the second time Hawn has lived in Port Townsend, having previously attended Peninsula College. Some of you may even remember seeing his byline in the PT Leader. Now a married father of two, Hawn says he is excited to be back. "This is where I have wanted to be for a long time."

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