



**Jefferson County**  
Public Utility District

Public Power,  
Local Services,  
Community  
Connections

**January  
Newsletter  
2022**

Snow and ice on Flagler Rd in late December

# Letters for a New Year



It is traditional for me at this time of year to express appreciation to the entire PUD staff for the hard work they have put in this past year under difficult circumstances. We did not anticipate that 2021 would see not one but two new variants of the Covid 19 virus emerge, just when it looked like things were beginning to return to “normal”.

Like most PUDs in Washington, we are understaffed, meaning that people have had to work harder and longer to get the work done. But they have, and we made it through multiple major outages. Our staff

have also worked very hard to take on the challenge of improving broadband across Jefferson County. JPUD has applied for and received several state grants to reinforce the broadband backbone and to position JPUD to compete for additional millions of dollars of funding to ultimately bring fiber optic cable to most businesses and residents who are currently unserved or underserved. One thing the virus made crystal clear is the importance of a good internet connection when it was not safe to access education, routine healthcare, shop for goods or visit face-to-face with friends and family.

While not traditional, (yet!), I also wish to thank our customers for their patience and support during a difficult time. I knew before being first elected Commissioner in 2014 that not everyone would agree with every action taken by the Board. As a Commissioner, I have tried hard to listen to complaints and hear out differences of opinion. I believe that it is the job of the Commissioner to be well-informed and to take the time to research both sides of a question. The vast majority of customer-owners have been considerate and respectful and I want to commend you for that. I regret the degree to which we have become a polarized society, in part because we get information from different sources, but also because we have stopped listening to each other. I wish our community peace, tolerance, good will, health and prosperity in the new year.

**Kenneth Collins, Commissioner, District 2.** [kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)

## New Water Rates Begin Jan 5 2022

In June 2021, PUD Commissioners approved gradual rate increases over four years. Water rates increase annually in January (during low use season). Electric in July. The standard residential water base rate is now \$34.80. The consumption charge begins at \$0.31 per hundred gal. A \$5.00 capital surcharge also goes into effect Jan. 5.

## PUD wins State Grants for Solar & Broadband

In December, WA State's Department of Commerce awarded the PUD \$1.09M to build fiber to homes along Hwy 20 and Anderson Lake Rd; and \$100,000 to construct solar panels on the roof of its operations center at 310 Four Corners Rd.



## Letter from Commissioner Toepper



On completion of my two years as Board President, I would like to thank those of you who attend our online meetings for your participation, contributions, and patience. To those who write, email, text or phoned the Commissioners, I will continue to advocate and insist that your PUD is transparent, inclusive and responsive to the public we serve.

An important accomplishment in 2021 was the completion of the PUD Strategic Plan, which had not been updated in five years. Its adoption charts the course for PUD priorities of how and where to focus resources and direct action as our utility grows. Broadband deployment, outage reduction, systems resiliency and labor needs of the utility will be challenged by inflation and supply chain challenges as we negotiate 2022.

As your Commissioner, I will remain focused on delivering customer service and customer satisfaction that meet public expectations.

Wishing you a happy and prosperous 2022,

**Dan Toepper**, District 3. [dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)

## Letter from Commissioner Randall



First off, I want to thank the staff of Jefferson PUD for their hard work during this most challenging year. I also want to express my gratitude to Jefferson PUD's customers.

Looking ahead to 2022, you will see Jefferson PUD be innovative in supporting the switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity to meet

our County's climate goals. We will launch an on-bill repayment program to help our customers invest in energy efficiency improvements to their homes and businesses, including switching from propane to electric. We will also address needed improvements to aging infrastructure, like the Quilcene water tank replacement project.

To be a healthy community we must also support our customers in financial need, which we will continue to do through numerous bill-pay assistance programs and through our work with our partner agencies like OLYCAP and St. Vincent DePaul. Jefferson PUD is your PUD and we will continue to work hard for you.

**Jeff Randall**, District 1. [jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)

## Smith Joins Line Crew

According to Mike Smith, he'd wanted to join Jefferson County PUD's line crew back in 2013, as it was first forming. "I was really interested in being part of



building a utility." But as Smith had only started on at the City of Port Angeles a year earlier, after a 20+ year career as a journeyman at Portland General Electric, he decided to stay put awhile. In December of '21, he finally made the leap. Smith still says the newness is still what attracted him. "I like that it's a relatively young crew, and it hasn't been going so long that the culture is already set in stone." Electric Superintendent Josh Garlock said Smith fit in with the rest of the crew right away. "We are lucky to have him. The knowledge and skill he brings is invaluable."

## Transformer Shortage

You've heard it on the news, and it's no different for the PUD. Many essential items are either out of stock, delayed months to a year, and/or drastically increased in price. Right now there is an industrywide shortage of electric distribution transformers. Every utility is dealing with it. What it means for Jefferson PUD is there may be delays in installing transformers for residential service. As of January 1, the PUD's backstock of residential transformers is all but depleted. Staff is working to re-purpose unused transformers in the field where possible. Orders have been placed for new transformers, with March being the soonest delivery date offered. Prices for the transformers have quadrupled. Staff is reviewing construction rates with the BOC.

# PUD Awarded Broadband Grants

In December and January, the PUD was awarded two grants totaling around 11 million dollars to build broadband connections to hundreds of homes lacking access to internet speeds of 25mbps down and 3mbps up over a wired line.

## WHERE IS THE FIBER GOING?

The first grant, from WA State's Public Works Board, pays for the construction of fiber optic cable to 70 homes near Hwy 20 btwn Four Corners Road & Sunset Lake Rd and along Anderson Lake Rd.

The second grant, from the WA State Broadband Office, connects 650 homes in 3 zones: Between Cape George Rd along Discovery Bay up to Middlepoint Rd; in the Woodland Hills community between Hwy 19 and Kala Point; and on Marrowstone Island.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Residents in the project areas who agree to have fiber installed to their homes will not pay for any of the construction costs to connect. Monthly service from the PUD will begin at \$65 for 100/100mbps. Gig and better speeds will be available. Discounts for customers enrolled in our Low Income program will apply. Other internet providers may also be available, and will offer their own package pricing. The PUD is building an open access network.

## HOW DO YOU SIGN UP FOR PUD FIBER?

The PUD is working on finalizing agreements with the state now. In April or May the PUD will open enrollment for service for eligible homes in the project areas. Enrollment will only be open for a limited time. Homes that do not sign up for fiber installation during the enrollment period will likely have to pay construction costs if they elect to connect to fiber at a later date.

## WHEN WILL I GET PUD FIBER?

The PUD will begin installing fiber in the second half of this year. We are currently ordering materials and finalizing our workplan. Because of supply chain issues and contractor availability, it will likely be late 2022 or early 2023 before work is complete.

## WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?

*We're also applying for funding to build fiber from Quilcene to Gardiner, and from Chimacum to Coyle. Our first goal is to connect residents without access to 25/3 service. However, grant rules are changing and future opportunities may arise for areas that have higher speeds, but do not have fiber.*

**CALL IF YOU  
NEED HELP  
PAYING BILLS  
360 385-5800**

If for any reason you're struggling to pay your monthly PUD bill, call our Customer Service team immediately. They have multiple options to help, depending on your situation, including monthly payment arrangements or connections to assistance programs. But they can't help if you don't reach out. Call between 9am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday or email anytime at [customerservice@jeffpud.org](mailto:customerservice@jeffpud.org).

**We are here to help.**



# Sewer Rate Changes Proposed

System Group	Current	Proposed 2022	Proposed 2023
Beckett Point	\$30.80	\$64.62	TBD
Kala Point	\$20	\$31.19	\$36.79
Standard (all others)	\$30.80	\$51.59	\$61.99

As with previously approved changes for electric and water rates, **PUD commissioners are considering a four year slate of gradual increases for sewer rates to better capture the cost of providing the service.** If approved in February, the new rates would be broken out into three system types (see above) and go into effect March 5, 2022.

## Budget Billing Eases Cold Snap Bills

When temperatures plunge, electric bills tend to rise. During the late December early January cold snap, many saw electric bills rise to new heights. **It takes a lot more energy to overcome a 50 degree temperature differential than it does 10-20 degrees.** And with temps in the teens for nearly a week straight, a lot of kilowatts were needed to keep our county's homes in the comfort zone of 66-72 degrees. For many, electric bills will be up \$100-\$200 more than normal because of the cold snap. But they don't have to be. **Customers who sign up for the PUD's budget billing program avoid big month to month swings by paying a bill calculated by averaging the previous 12 months usage.** That means bills stay steady and predictable, no matter the weather. Call customer service to enroll: **360-385-5800.**

## Heat Pump Rebates Reduced in April

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is reducing rebate payment amounts for all residential HVAC incentives beginning April 1st. The PUD has worked to provide its customers and contractors with the maximum amounts available, but as the program is entirely funded by the BPA we cannot go beyond their posted rebates. Current rates and reduced rates are listed below. Current rates are available to all eligible projects completed and properly submitted to **rebates@jeffpud.org** by March 26th, 2022.

Rebate Type	Thru March 26	April 1 2022
Ductless Heat Pump	\$1300	\$800
Ducted Heat Pump (no PTCS)	\$1500-\$1300	\$800-\$1000
Ducted Heat Pump (PTCS)	\$2100-\$1900	\$1400-\$1600
Ducted Heat Pump Upgrade	\$900-\$700	\$700-\$500

## Meet Our Newest CSR

The Customer Service team added a new member in December. Jonette Bruneau comes to the PUD after several years at Passport Foods in Kent working



in customer service, purchasing, and inventory. Originally from Minnesota, Bruneau moved to Port Townsend in high school, graduating from PTHS. After some time in California and the greater Seattle area, she returned to Jefferson County to be closer to family and to help take care of her elderly mother.

Despite coming on in the midst of Covid-19, Bruneau said that the PUD felt like a good fit right away. Services Director Jean Hall echoed the sentiment. "Jonette came to us with a lot of skills and experience and was able to jump right in. We are lucky to have her."

## Where Does My Power Come From?

Energy Source	%
Biomass	0.0%
Hydro	84.7%
Solar	0.0%
Nuclear	10.9%
Natural Gas	0.0%
Wind	0.0%
Unspecified	4.4%
Coal	0.0%
Other	0.0%
Total	100%

Energy source data from CY 2020 provided by the BPA to WA UTC.





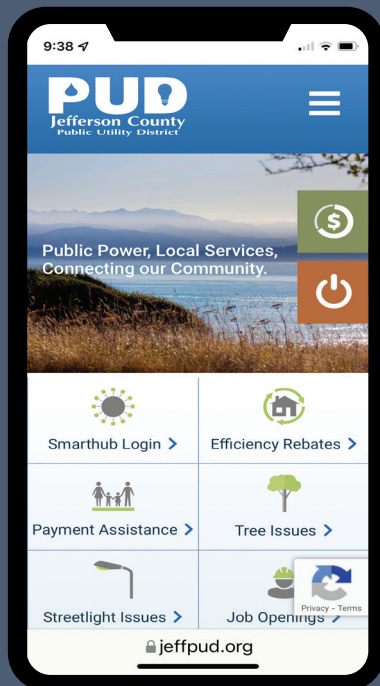
Jefferson County  
Public Utility District

March 2022  
Newsletter

Pictured: SCADA/Substation Foreman Colton Worley working in the Hastings Substation in Port Townsend

## GO PAPERLESS

Use our website to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates, & check outages on your computer or phone.



## Call 811 before you dig

It's free! Call 811 to locate any potential underground power, water, phone or propane lines within 2 business days.

## Staying Secure in the Digital Age

Catastrophic earthquakes, extreme weather events, cyberattacks by foreign nations, active shooters, domestic sabotage: these are just some of the threats the PUD reviewed in a pair of studies concluded this winter.

The first study was undertaken in response to federal Safe Drinking Water Act rules requiring community water systems to complete a Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP). The study began in early 2021 and was broadened to include electric and computer network assets as well as water systems.

The study documented PUD assets, possible threats, vulnerability to those threats, likelihood of occurrence, and impact on the utility in a spreadsheet matrix. The likelihood that a nefarious actor would contaminate a particular PUD water source with a biotoxin was calculated at .00001, or one event per year per 100,000 utilities. The likelihood of a cyberattack on our employee computer network is 0.3. Quite a bit higher. And not surprising given the PUD is subject to various forms of attempted cyberattacks nearly every day.

According to IT Manager Kris Lott, the vast majority of attacks aren't the kind depicted in movies, where a hacker taps furiously at a keyboard for hours on end until they break through multiple layers of network defenses and take control. Known as brute force attacks, these kind of hacks are rare. The kind the PUD is subject to are simpler hacks like phishing or spoofing.

"We easily see a dozen phishing attempts a week," said Lott. "These are fake emails that pretend to be from a reputable sender and try to encourage the recipient to open an attachment or log into a fraudulent site. Some of them are laughable," said Lott. "Others are pretty sophisticated, duplicating contacts and information from sources specific to the utility or employee."

Though Lott took pains not to downplay risk, he said PUD firewalls catch many phishing attempts, and can isolate the threat even if an employee opens a nefarious attachment. He also noted that the PUD's networks are isolated from each other, limiting the spread if one network is breached.

The PUD's employee network is separate from the network that is used to operate water and electric systems, and both are separate from the PUD's wholesale and soon to be retail broadband network. The PUD's website is not hosted on any of its networks, nor is its billing system. No customer financial payment data is stored on PUD owned networks. *Continued on back...*



**New  
Service**

## #14 KINGSTON EXPRESS Try Kingston Express! MONDAY - SATURDAY

**Ride FREE  
February 22, 2022 to March 31, 2022**



Get a FREE ride to the Kingston Ferry Terminal on JTA's #14 Kingston Express and a FREE ride transfer for the Kitsap Transit Kingston Fast Ferry when you ride the Kingston Express Route February 22, 2022 to March 31, 2022

Visit us at: [jeffersontransit.com/14kingstonexpress/](http://jeffersontransit.com/14kingstonexpress/)

## Assistance for Internet Bills

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is provided by the federal government to help ensure households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. ACP is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household. To be eligible, household income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Accepted by Astound, CenturyLink, AT&T, Verizon, HughesNet and more. Apply at [acpbenefit.org](http://acpbenefit.org).

## Keep brush & vines back from meters, poles & transformers

The PUD spends lots of time and money keeping trees from growing into power lines. But our crews could use some help from homeowners keeping meters, poles, and transformers clear of brush and vines. In parts of the county, and even Port Townsend, there are meters, ground mounted transformers, and even whole poles covered in blackberries or ivy, or hidden by overgrown grass, bushes, or piles of junk. Not only is this unsightly and potentially unsafe, it prevents PUD crews access in case of emergency.

If you are aware brush or vines covering or blocking PUD equipment, but unsure if it is safe to approach, call to let us know: **360-385-5800**.

## Staying Secure cont...

According to General Manager Kevin Streett, isolating networks is essential against brute force hacks, but less effective against post-it notes. Streett learned this firsthand after completing a Cybersecurity Incident Response Training in December. The training was provided by Energy Northwest, the non-profit formed by PUDs that operates WA state's nuclear plant.

"Some of the things we learned we need to do are standard security issues: improving our gates, adding cameras, changing locks," said Streett. "But the change we needed to make first was getting rid of post-it notes with passwords. Hard to stop somebody breaking into your computers if the passwords are on a note stuck to the desk."

Overall, Streett said the results of the training were eye-opening. "The Energy Northwest team uncovered a lot of issues. But that is why we called them. We had to see where we were vulnerable so we could improve."

## We're here to serve you!

The PUD is governed by a 3 member Board of Commissioners elected by the citizens of Jefferson County to alternating 6 year terms.

PUD Districts are the same as County Commissioners

### District 1



**Jeff Randall**

[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

### District 2



**Ken Collins**

[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

### District 3



**Dan Toepper**

[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

### General Manager



**Kevin Streett**

[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360

**Publicly Owned  
Not For Profit  
Locally Operated**

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell [wodonnell@jeffpud.org](mailto:wodonnell@jeffpud.org)

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



# PUD

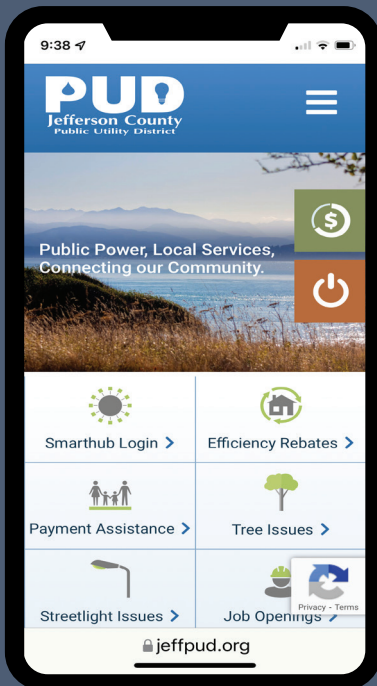
Jefferson County  
Public Utility District

April 2022  
Newsletter



## USE OUR WEBSITE

on your computer or phone, to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates, & check outages.



## GET TEN BUCKS BACK W/ PAPERLESS PLUS!

Sign up for Smart Hub, Paperless Billing + Auto-Pay and get a \$10 credit on your next bill! Save Trees, Save Time, Save Money!

## METERS & FIBER COMING THIS FALL

As pictured above, some of the conduit for the 250 miles of fiber optic cable the PUD will begin installing this fall is already here. So is the fiber itself, on great big wooden reels, with more on order. Also ordered? New electric meters. Over 500 of them.

These orders represent the first steps in two projects that have been underway as long as the PUD has been in the electrical business, which as of April 2022 is nine years. Since 2013, the PUD has been studying ways to build fiber to rural residents who lack it and planning for the eventual replacement of its aged and failing meter system. While some amount of planning and studying continues, the work to begin both endeavors is officially slated to start this fall.

What changed? On the broadband side, a worldwide pandemic and \$23M in state and federal grant funding has certainly made a difference. For meter replacement, time has been the determining factor. When the PUD proposed meter replacement in 2017, concerns from a number of customers led to lots of public comment and many questions at PUD commissioner meetings, as well as a postponement of the project. In 2019, the PUD approved an opt-out program. And in 2021, the PUD conducted a long-requested business case study on multiple types of metering systems that clearly showed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)—which offers two way communication, instant outage reports, and remote disconnect—provided the best financial and feature benefits to the PUD and its customers. In 2022, the PUD reviewed proposals from multiple meter vendors and chose Vision Metering of South Carolina to provide the over 20,000 electric meters it would need to replace the current system. Total project cost (including purchase, installation, and recycling of old meters) is estimated at \$4.5M, which staff plans to fund through a low interest loan from the USDA. While the first

*Continued on back...*





# PUD buys former Mobilisa building for Fiber, Metering Hub

With a 100' radio tower, 16 offices, and two dedicated server rooms, PUD General Manager Kevin Streett admitted he'd been eying the 5,800 sq ft building at 191 Otto Street for some time while it was vacant.

Streett was familiar with the building when it served as the network hub for all internet traffic coming over the PUD's fiber network. At the time, Streett explained, NoaNet (a nonprofit formed by PUD's to provide network management) had rented space in the building for their equipment. Previously, the building had served as the local headquarters of Mobilisa, a technology company that at one time provided wireless internet service for the state ferry system.

The PUD purchased the building for \$1.3M in February. Streett hopes to wrap the cost in with the meter loan. The building will serve as the PUD's broadband network hub, meter shop, and admin center. Streett expects staff to begin moving in during April and May.

## Construction Rates for Electric & Water Revised

At their first regular meeting in March, PUD commissioners approved extensive revisions to the Schedule of Charges and Fees for Electric Services. The changes were proposed by staff due to ongoing supply shortages and price increases, including a worldwide electric transformer shortage. The new Schedule is available on the PUD's website. It goes into effect on June 1st.

At their second regular meeting in March, the commission reviewed a revision of the Schedule of Charges and Fees for Water and Sewer Services. A sampling charge for large on-site septic services was added to the Schedule along with a charge for services provided through Satellite Management Agency (SMA) contracts. SMA contracts allow the PUD to operate and maintain water or sewer systems owned by other parties. The revised Schedule was placed on consent agenda for the first April meeting.



## Fiber, Meters, Fall continued

batch of meters will be installed in September of 2022, full replacement won't be completed until 2024.

The PUD's plans to build fiber to all electric service territory customers lacking broadband will extend into 2025. Currently the PUD has been awarded \$23M to build fiber to over 2,400 customers extending from Quilcene to Gardiner, part of Chimacum, up Discovery Bay all the way to Middlepoint along the Strait, as well as the Woodland Hills community near the airport and Marrowstone Island. The PUD is also working on an application for grant funds to build to the remainder of Chimacum, as well as rural areas around Port Ludlow and down the Toandos Peninsula to Coyle. Additionally, PUD staff are pursuing low-interest loan funding from the state to build fiber to more businesses in Port Townsend from Fort Worden to Glen Cove.

**SIGN UP INFO  
FOR GRANT  
FUNDED PUD  
FIBER COMING  
IN THE JUNE  
NEWSLETTER.**

## Low Income Rebate Amounts Increased for Heat Pumps, more

While the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) lowered heat pump incentive amounts for most customers in April, it also increased rebate amounts for approved low-income customers on the following items:

**Ductless Heat Pumps** and Ducted Mini-Splits: \$4,400

**Heat Pump Water Heaters:** \$1,850-\$2,000

**Windows:** \$20.00 per square foot

**Exterior Doors** to Energy Star: \$400

**Wall insulation:** \$2.00 per square foot (From R0 to R11).  
Single family only

**Publicly Owned  
Not For Profit  
Locally Operated**

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell [wodonnell@jeffpud.org](mailto:wodonnell@jeffpud.org)

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer





# THE FIRST ELECTRIC TRUCK IN TOWN

There are currently 568 electric vehicles (or EVs) registered in Jefferson County. The majority of those EVs are made by either Tesla (132), Nissan (126) or Chevy (108). And most of those are likely one of three models: the Leaf, the Bolt, or the Model 3. But there is currently only one mass market electric pickup truck in Jeff Co., and it's a Rivian owned by Brent and Wendy Davis.

Brent and Wendy (pictured above) own a number of businesses in Jefferson County, including Brent Davis Construction and Lila's Kitchen (also pictured above). They've also owned a number of trucks. The Rivian is their first EV.

So far, they are impressed. According to the Davis's, their Rivian R1T was number 2,987 off the assembly line and they had to wait a year and a half to get it. It has a range of 318 miles, which gets you to either Corvallis, OR, or Ritzville, WA, depending on where you're going, or around the Olympic Peninsula on Hwy 101, before needing a recharge. The older style Nissan Leaf typically has a range of under 100 miles; Chevy Bolts are around 250; Teslas vary from 200 to 400 miles per charge, depending on the model or build.

But where to charge them? Most EV owners report charging at home, using either a standard 110V outlet, or perhaps a repurposed 220V clothes dryer outlet. Also known as Level 1 charging, a 20 amp 110V outlet can add 2-5 miles of range per hour of charge. Level 2 chargers (which includes the dryer outlet type) can add anywhere from 10 to 60 miles of range per hour, depending on the charger model and the amperage. The Davis's Level 2 charger can fully power up their Rivian in 6 hours, but needs a dedicated 50 amp circuit to do so. A

Level 3 can provide a full charge in an hour, and an 80% charge in as little as 30 minutes, depending both on the model of the charger itself and the EV. Currently, there are no Level 3 chargers in Port Townsend, though the PUD and the City of Port Townsend are partnering on a grant to build four of them at the visitor center in town. The nearest Level 3 chargers are in Port Angeles and Silverdale. There are Tesla-only Superchargers in Sequim. **Continued on back**



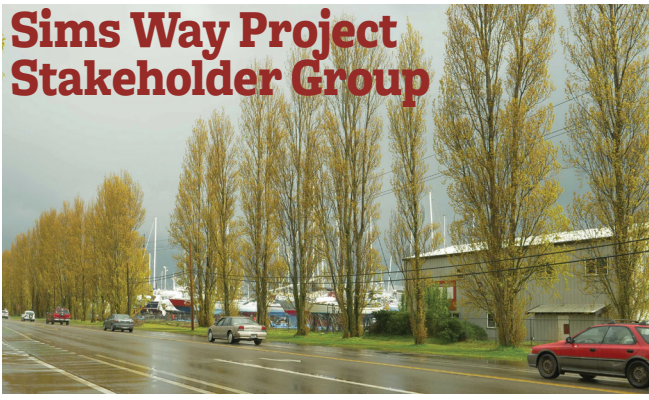
## WHERE TO CHARGE IN JEFF CO?

Each month, more EV charging stations are being added in Jefferson County. Below is a list of locations that offers public charging (limits and rules may apply, more info at [plugshare.com](https://www.plugshare.com) or via the plugshare app.)

- Doc's Marina Grill
- Dosewallips State Park
- Edensaw
- Finnriver Farm & Cidery
- First Presbyterian Church of Port Townsend
- Food Co-Op
- Gearhead Deli
- GreenPod Development
- Jefferson Transit @Four Corners
- John L. Scott Real Estate
- Northwest Maritime Center
- Quilcene Village Store
- Revision Marine
- Safeway
- Windermere Real Estate



## Sims Way Project Stakeholder Group



Staff from the PUD, Port, and City of PT are working with a group of 11 community stakeholders to look at the technical details and develop options for consideration by decisions makers. These meetings will be held monthly in a virtual format and recorded for viewing on the City's website. Interested members of the public are encouraged to watch these meetings to understand the various factors and complexities being considered. Stakeholder meetings will not be the place to provide public comment and testimony. However, public comment will be received and is encouraged outside of the meeting via email to [engagept@cityofpt.us](mailto:engagept@cityofpt.us). Comments are shared with the PUD and Port.

## First EV Truck continued...

How much does it cost to charge? A full charge from a commercial Level 3 charger can vary from a few dollars to \$50, depending on the rate per kWh and the battery size. Commercial Level 2 charging prices also vary, but are typically less expensive. Most of the public Level 2 chargers in our county are free.

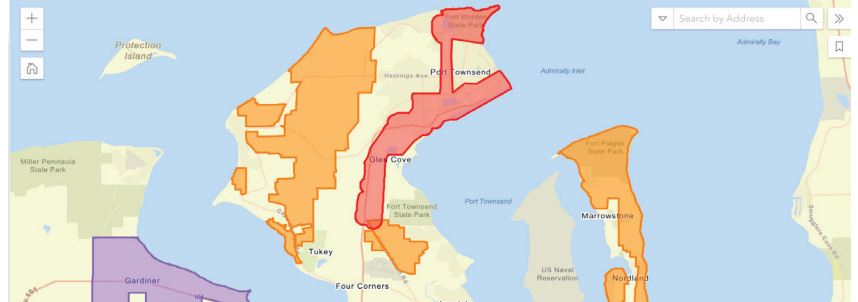
How much does it cost to charge at home, using the PUD's 96% carbon-free electricity? The Davis's Rivian costs about \$18 to fully charge. Their other truck, a full-sized Chevy Silverado, costs about \$170 to fill. And it can't even be used to plug in power tools.

As an extension of their catering kitchen, Lila's, the Davis's are building what they call the "Bar Car": a towable converted horse trailer that can serve as a fully licensed mobile bar for weddings and events. The Rivian will tow it and serve as its onsite power source.

## View the Fiber Project Map Online

### Open-enrollment for eligible homes coming soon!

Wondering if you're home or business will be included in one of the PUD's upcoming grant-funded fiber projects? Go to our website and click on the Fiber Project Map under the Broadband tab. Once on the map, enter your address in the search bar in the upper-right (pictured below).



Though we are still working on developing a project timeline, the PUD will contact eligible customers in project areas to begin the sign-up process in the summer of 2022. Connections to the home will begin in 2023, and continue through 2024. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months!

## DON'T POST ON POWER POLES



### IT'S AGAINST THE LAW AND COULD INJURE LINEWORKERS

Please help keep our line crews safe by not posting unauthorized signage on utility poles.

Leftover nails and pins pose a very real danger for electrical workers working with high voltage. Sharp objects can lead to punctures in a worker's gloves that can expose them to electric shock, causing serious injury or death.

When the sealed outer layers of a pole are pierced, moisture and insects creep in, causing damage that shortens the life of the pole, which increases maintenance costs and reduces safety.

**Providing 96%  
Carbon-Free  
Electricity**

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360

**Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell** [wodonnell@jeffpud.org](mailto:wodonnell@jeffpud.org)

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



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.

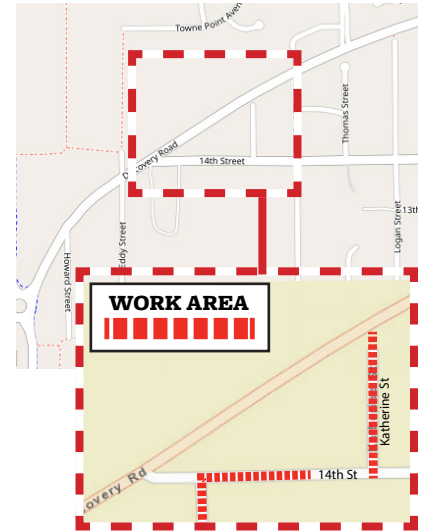
## DISCOVERY ROAD POWER UNDERGROUNDING PROJECT

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.

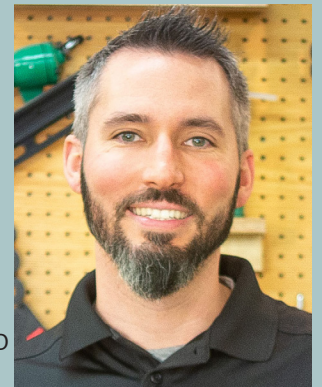


## HAWN HIRED AS COMM SPECIALIST

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."



**Publicly Owned  
Not For Profit  
Locally Operated**

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell [wodonnell@jeffpud.org](mailto:wodonnell@jeffpud.org)

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer





**Jefferson County**  
Public Utility District

**JULY 2022 NEWSLETTER**

### CHIMACUM FIELD DAY

Jefferson PUD proudly joined local public services to introduce kids to the unique jobs supporting our community. Kids experienced utility line crew trucks, fire department vehicles and more!



# Scheduled Rate Change Takes Effect July 5

**Rate increase addresses increasing costs and funds critical infrastructure updates.**

This month, PUD electric rates undergo the second of a previously scheduled four-year slate of gradual increases. Commissioners adopted the increases in June of 2021 following an extensive cost of service study.

The study provided adjustment recommendations for all utility-managed systems, including electricity, water, and sewer services. The adjustments were recommended to recover the costs of operating, maintaining, and improving the PUD's utility infrastructure. The commission chose to spread rate adjustments out over four years to make the increases more gradual. Commissioners review the four-year rate schedule on an annual basis.

"We've been working on increasing our reliability, replacing old infrastructure, reducing outages, and planning for the future," said Jeff Randall, DIST 1 Commissioner. "Over time, like all utilities, we need to adjust our rates to keep up with the cost of service."

"The General Manager and the Board are sensitive to the fact that inflation is raging, and customers are being squeezed from many directions," said Dan Toepper, DIST 3 Commissioner. "There would not be consensus among us if we thought there was another option than to stay on schedule with rate increases. Maintaining system reliability and providing a high

level of customer service are at the core of our decision-making process."

July 2022 electric residential rate increases will see the monthly base rate move from \$21 to \$23.50. Consumption rates will increase on a tiered basis as shown in the chart below.

According to PUD General Manager Kevin Streett, the rate increases needed to go forward.

"These rate increases were first proposed in 2020 to catch up with costs the PUD wasn't recovering back then. Right now, with supply-chain issues, fuel prices and inflation, costs are way beyond 2020 and well beyond what we ever would have budgeted for 2022."

**Maintaining system reliability and providing a high level of customer service are at the core of our decision-making process.**

**-Dan Toepper  
District 3 Commissioner**

Along with rates, the PUD commission has also increased the amount available to help low-income customers pay their bills.

"We've tried to do this as fairly as possible, while being sensitive to the support we provide to our low income customers." Randall said. "Ultimately, we are trying to provide good value for our customers' money while maintaining reliable and effective service."

## 2021-2024 Residential Electric Rate Schedule

Effective Date:	July 5, 2021	July 5, 2022	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024
<b>Basic Charge:</b>				
Single Phase	\$ 21.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 26.00	\$28.50
Three Phase	30.65	34.30	37.95	41.59
Low Income Credit:	(44.84)	(50.18)	(55.51)	(60.85)
<b>Energy Charge per kWh:</b>				
Tier 1 (0 – 600)	\$ 0.0882	\$ 0.0908	\$ 0.0936	\$ 0.0966
Tier 2 (601 – 1,600)	0.1070	0.1102	0.1136	0.1172
Tier 3 (Greater than 1,600)	0.1218	0.1254	0.1293	0.1334

More info on payment assistance programs and applications for low-income program eligibility are available on our website by clicking Payment Assistance. To view the full electric rate schedule click Rates/Specifications under the Electric tab.

**(360)385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368**

## SCAM ALERT!!!

*If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be Jefferson PUD (or PSE) and threatening to shut off power if not immediately paid over the phone, **HANG UP!** It's almost certainly a scam.*

### The PUD will never:

**Demand immediate payment** over the phone, via text, email, or home visit.

**Request credit card, banking, or financial info** over the phone, via text, email, or home visit.

**Request payment** on a prepaid card.

**Shut off service** without providing written notice at least 7 days in advance.

### How to stay safe:

**Call us directly** to discuss options if you are behind on your bill.

**Download the SmartHub App** to check your real-time balance and usage anytime on mobile or desktop.

**Never** give utility account or payment info over the phone unless you call us directly at (360) 385-5800.

## PALMER JOINS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Kathy Palmer is the newest member of our Customer Service team. Palmer comes to the PUD after 7 years at the PT Food Coop. Palmer was raised in Bremerton where her father worked for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. She raised her own family in the Bremerton area as well, before making the move to PT when her family became more independent. "I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the local community and the utility—the role looked like a good fit for me, and it is!" Palmer said.



## Ken Collins Named Marrowstone Island Citizen of the Year

PUD District 2 Commissioner Kenneth Collins and his wife Judith were among those honored as 2021 Citizens of the Year by the Marrowstone Island Community Association (MICA).

At the PUD, Collins has been a strong advocate for broadband access and was crucial to the founding of the county Broadband Action Team. His decision to run for office in 2014 was partly inspired by the Island's poor internet and cell service. According to MICA, the Collins' were named Citizens of the Year for their ongoing support of the local community and for their ongoing works toward helping better the lives of those around them through support of the arts and infrastructure.



## Broadband Service Registration Delayed until September

Due to contract delays from state agencies overseeing the administration of the PUD's \$23M in grant awards to build fiber to rural Jefferson County, the start of the registration period for eligible customers to sign up for fiber connections from the PUD has been pushed back until September. Unfortunately, the delay in contracts has also pushed back construction start dates, as the PUD cannot expend funds until contracts are issued. The state has been working to manage an unprecedented amount of funding, and expects to issue contracts in coming months.

## Sims Way Project Stakeholder Process Open House Aug 6th

The citizen stakeholder group working with the PUD, Port, and City of PT on design alternatives for Sims Way will share preliminary sketches and plans with the public prior to delivering recommendations to the City Park Board on Aug 23rd.

## PRYOR HIRED AS SCADA ENGINEER

After serving as the PUD's first engineering hire in 2013, Erik Pryor is back for a second round with the PUD as a SCADA Engineer. Pryor grew up in the Tri-Cities and graduated from WSU with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked for Benton PUD before returning to Jefferson County this spring. As SCADA Engineer, Pryor supports the substation and metering team as well as the broadband department. Pryor said the SCADA position with PUD was a perfect fit. "There are so many opportunities with this position. I'm excited to be back."



**Publicly Owned  
Not For Profit  
Locally Operated**

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360

Newsletter Editor: Will O'Donnell [wodonnell@jeffpud.org](mailto:wodonnell@jeffpud.org)

Public Utility District No.1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer





(pictured above & left) PUD line crew members conduct pole top rescue training.

**August 2022 Newsletter**

## In the field and on the move with a PUD Meter Reader

It's a quiet morning on the backroads of North Beach in Port Townsend as Zach Barbieto, meter reader for the PUD, scans the ground. "We should see a little



bump here," Barbieto says, as a peak begins to form on his digital screen. "There we go." Barbieto confirms the location on his mobile app, then continues scanning, marking the ground with red paint (for buried electric cables) as he goes.

Settling back into his mobile office, aka truck, Barbieto opens another application on a small tablet; virtual pins of all colors dot the screen across a map of the Quimper Peninsula. Each pin represents a task for his day and is updated in real time. There are pins for utility locates (usually generated by 811 calls), meter replacements, manual meter reads, meter disconnects, or meter checks (to verify a meter is working or not working).

Barbieto confirms that his next task is a meter swap.

The homeowner at the meter swap location greets Barbieto at the garden gate with a smile. He quickly outlines the process and explains there will be a momentary loss of power while the meter is disconnected. Incoming power to homes is often



240 volts and is never taken lightly. "For most meter changes the power is live," Barbieto explains. "Some have shut-off switches, but regardless we always wear specialized gloves and have proper shielding."

In a matter of minutes, the old meter is removed, the meter base's internal connections are checked, and with a practiced motion, the new meter is installed.

Back in his truck, Barbieto is typing notes when his cell phone rings. An emergency locate is needed across town. This is the second emergency locate of the day. The first came at 1:30 in the morning. "The line crew called me in to verify the location of an underground fault," said Barbieto.



At the PUD, meter readers and the line crew belong to the same union: the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Barbieto and his fellow meter readers are also called in by the line crew to help with traffic management when outage repairs take place along roadways.

The reason for the second emergency locate was apparent as soon as Barbieto arrived. A pool-sized puddle had formed in the middle of a parking area off Discovery, indicating a ruptured waterline. The job was not to find the obviously damaged water line, but to check if any underground power lines were nearby before excavation crews started digging up the pipe.

Actual *meter reading* comprises only about 30% of Barbieto's job. And for the majority of the readings, he doesn't get out of the truck. The meter's reading is collected simply by driving past it. When he does get out of the truck to read a meter it's often because there is a problem. Or it's a non-broadcasting "opt-out" meter specifically requested by a customer.



## New Meters Coming this Month

In August, the PUD will receive its first shipment of Vision AMI meters. AMI stands for Advanced Metering Infrastructure. AMI allows for two-way communication between the utility and the meter. AMI allows the PUD to read or shutoff meters remotely without sending a truck. AMI also provides the PUD the ability to take pre-payments, keep the



power on during instances of reduced capacity, and better incorporates renewable energy generation and electric vehicle charging systems.

During the next two years, the PUD will be replacing all non opt-out electric meters with AMI. Replacement will be done in batches as shipments of the new meters are delivered to the PUD.

Meter changeout involves a short loss of power to the home. Residents in meter replacement areas will receive postcards and an automated phone message prior to installation. The PUD will not be able to provide specific dates and times. PUD meter readers will knock on doors to alert residents when working onsite. If no one is at home they will leave a door hanger notifying the resident that the work has been done.

More info is available on our website: [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org).

## Service Lobby Reopens Aug 15

The PUD's 310 Four Corners office will begin reopening to the public on Monday, August 15th. Customer service staff will be available for in-person consultations between 9am and 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. On-site consultations with engineering or other staff will be available as needed by appointment only.

Board of Commissioners meetings will begin to allow both in-person (at 310 Four Corners) and online attendance (via Zoom) starting August 2nd. Regular meetings of the Commission are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month starting at 3pm.

## PUD Awarded Public Works Board Loan

The PUD was awarded a \$1.8M low-interest loan from the WA State Public Works Board to build fiber to business customers in the greater Port Townsend Area. The PUD will offer fiber internet service speeds beginning at 1 gig up and down for \$100/mo. A \$1,200 installation fee is also required but can be financed over 5 years if needed. Construction will begin this fall with connections available in 2023.

## Event Schedule

### Jefferson County Fair August 12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>

The PUD will have a booth in the New Commercial Building with Power Town electrical safety display, water taste testing and more!

### All County Picnic, August 20<sup>th</sup>

The PUD will be at HJ Carroll Park 11am–4pm for this 10th Annual event.

## Larson Joins Meter Dept.

Born and raised on the Olympic Peninsula, Corey Larson is happiest when outdoors. The varied tasks of being a Meter Reader for the PUD suited Larson perfectly. He had previous experience driving and operating a septic pumping truck and performing underground locates for Strait Pumping. Larson lives in Gardiner with his wife and two kids.



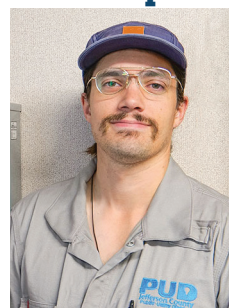
## Witheridge Joins HR Team

Stephanie Witheridge worked as a recruiter for Jefferson Healthcare before joining the PUD as Human Resources Coordinator. Her new role involves coordinating recruitment efforts, benefits, recordkeeping and more. Witheridge's husband grew up in PT and they moved back 8 years ago to be closer to family and raise their 3 daughters.



## Glenn Joins Meter Dept.

Josh Glenn lived in Michigan before making his way west to Port Townsend in 2021. He attended the PT School of Woodworking and worked for Frederickson Electric prior to joining the PUD as a meter reader. Glenn is no stranger to the electric utility world. In Michigan he'd worked as a contract meter installer and his grandfather was a lineman for over 40 years.



**Formed in 1939**

**1<sup>st</sup> Water System 1981**

**Public Power since 2013**

**Jeff Randall**

[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)

(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**

[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)

(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**

[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)

(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**

[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)

(360) 385-8360



# A Lot on the Line: How Transmission Poles Carry the Load

**PUD**  
Jefferson County  
Public Utility District  
**September 2022  
Newsletter**

Utility contractors used specialized boom trucks to position a new transmission pole on SR19.

Utility poles undergo an immense amount of stress throughout their lifespan. Transmission poles must support upward of 4,000lbs of hardware and heavy electrical line and remain standing during extreme weather, falling trees, crashing cars, and the deteriorating effects of aging.

Transmission poles range in length from 75–100 feet. Though they can be made from a variety of materials, most of the PUD's transmission poles are made from a single log shaped from a single large tree. The most commonly used tree species here in the northwest is the Douglas Fir.

Trees destined to become utility poles are specifically selected by professional foresters. The poles are pressure treated and must meet national standards based upon shape, natural and processing defects, and growth characteristics. After grading, poles are sent to utilities for installation.

To remain stable and upright, transmission poles are buried 8–12 feet deep and anchored to the ground using tensioned steel cables.



Positioning a large auger bit.

Anchors feature a heavy steel plate threaded to a rod with the eyelet exposed above ground. Crews tension the new pole to the anchor to help distribute forces from utility

lines on the poles and keep the pole from swaying.

PUD engineers select proper anchoring positions and calculate the dynamic stresses being applied for each transmission pole.

The PUD owns and maintains 24 miles of transmission lines throughout the service area. Transmission lines throughout eastern Jefferson County typically carry 115,000 volts to PUD substations.

Transmission poles often work double-duty by supporting primary distribution lines energized with 7,200 volts that feed into specific regions across the service area.

Replacement of large transmission poles requires specialized equipment. The PUD works closely with contractor crews who supply large-capacity boom trucks and ground boring machinery to place the new pole and its anchor system.

The new pole is set and leveled and the ground surrounding it is compacted. Utility lines are transferred from the old pole to the new and the line is re-energized.



The transmission pole pictured above was bending under load. It was replaced in mid-August.



# Letter from Dist 3 Commissioner Dan Toepper : What will PUD Broadband mean for Customer Owners?



As Jefferson PUD moves forward with broadband build-out and the offering of retail internet service to county residences and businesses, the process will require proactive engagement by PUD Customer Owners. Not everyone in the JPUD service area will be able to benefit from grant monies for build-out to the residence.

PUD electric customers should visit our website and review the broadband related information that is posted. We are going to great lengths to get the word out on projects that we are beginning or pursuing in the near term. It is possible that some customers may not be contacted or be aware that the PUD will be offering retail broadband. Please help us by telling your friends, family, and neighbors to visit our website or contact our broadband staff ([broadband@jeffpud.org](mailto:broadband@jeffpud.org)).

Depending on where you reside in the county, which street you live on or which community you are near, your ability to receive fiber to the home at no cost may vary. Grants may also limit the number of potential customers that can benefit during our initial construction. It is important and highly advisable to inquire early, and sign-up as soon as is possible if you are in a covered grant area to ensure the best of outcomes.

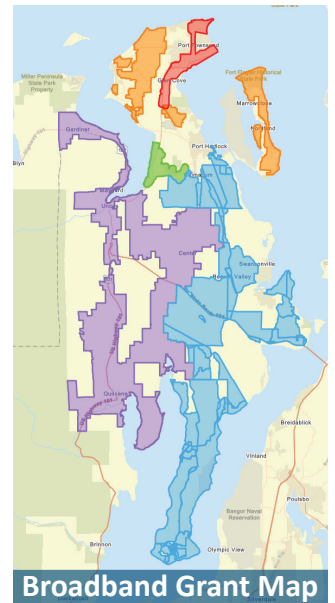
PUD staff have collaborated with a consultant on how our broadband division can build a network and be successful at maintaining a sustainable retail business model. This is a start-up venture with inherent risk during uncertain times and will require time to achieve a secure footing. Current estimates are that it will take 3-4 years before the broadband business is expected to become revenue positive. However, that time frame is not a certainty due

to several factors that will play out as the project progresses. During the interim, funding support from the electric division and possibly from outside loan funding are being discussed and will likely be needed to augment grant funds. Hiring a broadband workforce and supplying them with the tools, training, and equipment to supply broadband service 24/7 for 365 days a year will be an ongoing challenge.

This will be an open access network which means that it will be a competitive market and other Retail Service Providers can offer their services through our fiber.

If you rent or lease your residence, it will be a requirement that the property owner give their permission for the PUD to construct fiber to the home.

Though grant funds pay for all of the costs of building fiber to eligible homes and businesses in the grant areas, there are some exceptions our customer owners should know. Only the first 60-70% of homes and businesses in grant area can have costs covered by the grant. In the case of the Quilcene to Gardiner area, there are also a few dozen customers that may be ineligible for grant funding due to restrictions around their particular census blocks. However, customers who sign up past the 60-70% threshold, or who live in the particular census blocks, may be able to have fiber installed to their home or business during grant construction if they are willing to pay a connection fee. The same is true for homes and businesses immediately adjacent to grant construction areas.



## Summer Intern

PT resident Glen Dawson spent his summer as a PUD intern working in engineering, water, records, and out in the field with operations. Throughout the summer, Dawson also participated in mentorship and event workshop opportunities

with Energy Northwest's Public Power Internship program. Dawson completed the Running Start program at Peninsula College and will be studying engineering at the University of Washington.

## Raise high the Radio Receiver! Preparing for our meter replacement project.

Crews used the same oversized bucket truck for SR19 pole replacement and receiver installation projects.



**Customer Service  
Office Now Open**  
M-F 9am to 4:30pm

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360





## October 2022 Newsletter

PUD water team members Tom Brooke (front) and Randy Calkins responding to an underground leak near Chimacum high school.

# 2023: A Big Year for Jefferson County PUD

Jefferson PUD begins its 10th year of electric operations with its largest budget yet. Large-scale infrastructure upgrade projects and grant funded broadband expansion are the main drivers for the increased budget.

The nearly \$80M draft 2023 budget has been under review by the commission since July and was discussed with the public in a hearing on Oct. 3rd. It will be approved in October or early November.

2023 budget assumptions include a 4.5% increase in revenue and an 8% increase in operating expenses. The projected expense increases include additional staff positions in broadband, substations, water, line crew, and facilities. The expense budget also includes \$800K in funding for tree trimming. Trees and branches are the number one cause of outages in our county, and trimming is our best defense.

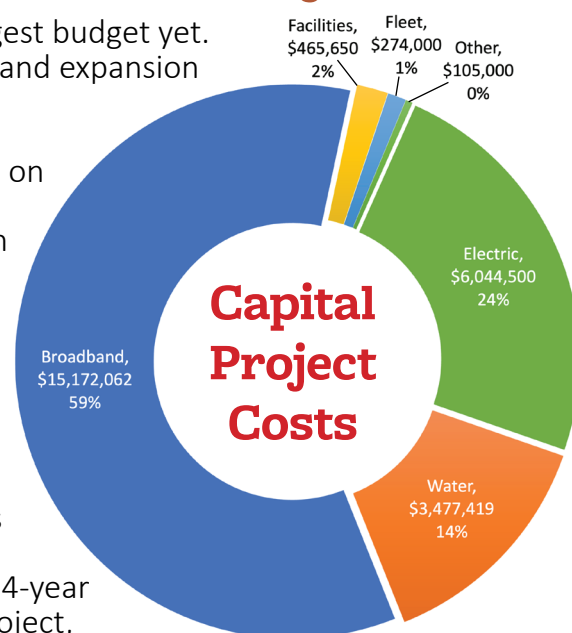
The PUD's largest project in 2023 will be broadband buildout with an estimated \$15M in capital expenditures. To date, the PUD has been awarded more than \$25M in grants to fund expansion, which is anticipated to connect over 4,000 customers and run through 2025.

2023 electric capital projects are based upon a previously approved 4-year work plan and include: \$2.3M for the ongoing meter replacement project, \$855K for underground and overhead distribution, \$665K for replacement of aging substation equipment, and \$250K for pole and pad-mounted transformers. PUD facility improvements and fleet upgrades are planned for 2023. Also budgeted in 2023: installation of a 100kW solar array at our 310 Four Corners Rd operations center and our first ever electric fleet vehicle, a Ford F-150 Lightning.

Water department capital projects are based upon a 10-year work plan and include: \$2.5M for construction of a new 105,000-gallon Quilcene water tank, \$180K for feasibility studies for adding additional service in Brinnon, \$200K for water distribution and service lines, and \$100K for well and pump replacements.

Another notable anticipated expense in 2023: the PUD will pay another \$6.8M towards its \$115M loan to purchase the electric grid.

As part of a four-year slate of gradual increases approved by Commissioners in 2021, customers will see annual increases in water rates and sewer rates going into effect in January and increases to electric rates in July. Rate increases were approved in 2021 to recover the actual costs of providing services. According to General Manager, Kevin Streett, the previously approved increases do not take into account recent inflation or market shortages and were based on pre-2021 costs. To review the 2023 budget, and for more information about PUD rates or projects, go to our website: [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org)



Department	Revenue	Expenses	Net
Electric	\$53,115,973	\$50,838,335	\$2,277,638
Broadband	\$17,512,436	\$17,538,014	(\$25,578)
Water	\$8,360,577	\$7,789,085	\$571,492
Sewer	\$293,981	\$632,082	(\$338,101)
Total	\$79,282,967	\$76,797,516	\$2,485,451

(360)385-5800 [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org) 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

# Meter Replacement Underway in Jefferson County

In September and October, the PUD's meter crew replaced hundreds of aging meters with new advanced meters in the Kala Point area.

The meter crew will move on to Glen Cove and Irondale after completing Kala Point. Customers within each new installation area will receive a postcard notification alerting them to the work being done, plus an automated call prior to replacement.

Homeowners must ensure the area near the

electrical meter is clear and safe for access prior to meter replacement.

Meter replacement requires a temporary loss of power. Each meter base is inspected during replacement. If issues are found, the PUD will repair the meter base or schedule repairs at a later date. A door hanger will be left behind indicating work done. Visit our website for more info. on the metering project and for details about our meter opt-out policy.

## Sims Way Project Update



Sims Way transmission corridor.

In a joint meeting held on Sept. 12, the City of PT, Port, and PUD voted to continue with plans for expansion of the boatyard along Sims Way, undergrounding of power lines, and replacement of the poplars with mixed plantings of parkway-compatible trees. The total project is estimated at \$2M, with \$1M provided by

the County Public Infrastructure Fund.

Due to contact with the poplar trees, the PUD's transmission lines along Sims Way were de-energized in 2021. In order to re-energize the 115kV lines and ensure reliable power to the downtown area, the PUD will begin trimming back the poplar trees along the south side of Sims Way in October.

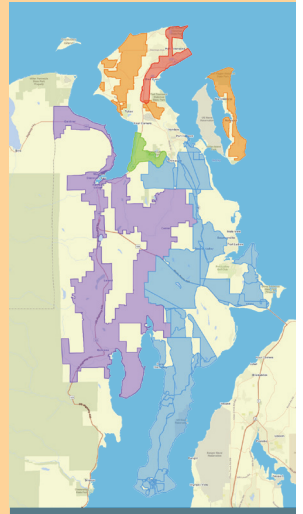
## Fiber Sign Up Now Open!

We are now accepting sign-ups for fiber internet within funded project areas, including Quilcene, Discovery Bay, Gardiner, rural Cape George, Woodland Hills, Marrowstone Island, and the Port Townsend business district.

In grant funded areas, the PUD will install fiber optic cable to eligible residents and businesses at no cost to the customer. The PUD will also provide and install the fiber equivalent of a modem. Fiber installations in the Port Townsend business district require proof of a business license in the form of a UBI number.

A \$1,200 construction fee is also required.

After connection, monthly service from the PUD begins at \$65 for homes and \$100/mo for businesses. Monthly service may be available from additional providers on our open-access network. More information, including a live project area map and an online sign-up form, is available under the Broadband tab on our website.



Fiber project map.

## Line Crew News

Line crew members work in the field and in the classroom to attain the hours needed to reach a Journey Level Lineworker position. Jefferson PUD's line crew, composed of Union IBEW Local 77 Linemen, are at various stages of their career. This month we want to acknowledge and spotlight the achievements of some of our new additions to the line crew team.

### Newest Team Member



Garrett Bradley

Garrett Bradley, joins the PUD from Grays Harbor and brings extensive construction skills. He is a 3rd year Line Apprentice.

### PUD Apprenticeship



Tyler Gale

Tyler Gale started with the PUD in 2021 as a pre-apprentice, and as of Sept. 2022 he has begun the Line Apprentice position.

### New Position



Gerrit Van Otten

Gerrit started with the PUD in 2014, working as a meter reader, warehouse storekeeper, and now in the Line Helper position.

**Commission Meetings**  
1st & 3rd Tuesday of each  
month from 3:00-6:00pm

**Jeff Randall**  
[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

**Ken Collins**  
[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

**Dan Toepper**  
[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

**Kevin Streett**  
[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360





Tree trimming contractor clearing potentially hazardous trees near distribution lines.

# Safety is on the Line – Working Near Power

**Contact with power lines can be deadly. Always pay close attention to your surroundings.**

Electricity is always seeking a path to ground and typically goes unnoticed until the moment contact is made, making the body the easiest path to travel. Distribution lines are energized to 7,200 volts. Only 50 volts of electricity can be deadly to humans.

Approximately 400 people die annually from high-voltage electrocution in the United States, and at least 30,000 non-fatal shock incidents occur. High-voltage electrocution can have long-lasting health issues including pain from electrical burns, muscle pain and arthritis due to muscle damage, neurological issues, and vision impairment.

Homeowners are cautioned against tree trimming near power lines.



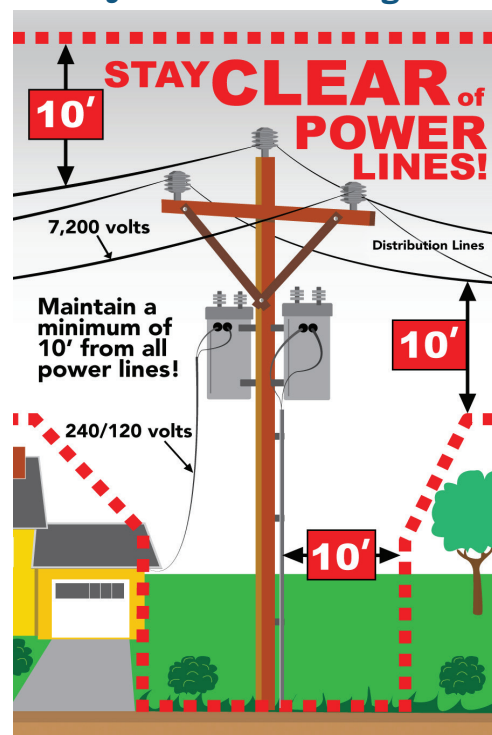
PUD tree trimming contractor

A tree touching power lines can energize the tree itself. A fallen tree branch contacting the lines can transfer power to anyone who touches it. A downed power line touching a vehicle can energize the entire car. A ladder contacting the line can cause electrocution.

The PUD has established a 10' safety buffer highlighting the area a high voltage power line could potentially arc. If trimming must be done around power lines, homeowners should verify the professional tree trimming service selected is certified to work within the energized power buffer. Approved trimmers use specialized equipment to remain safe in the power space and are recommended even beyond the safety buffer when there is a potential for power line contact.

If you need to work near power lines, please call the PUD to determine safe access, and if any object comes in contact with a line, keep yourself and anyone else at least 50' away and call the PUD for assistance.

Customers can view the PUD's tree trimming policy and report tree issues via the Tree Issues tab on [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org).





# Meter Changeout coming to Glen Cove Area

**Customers do not need to be home during meter replacement.**

PUD meter staff have completed meter replacement in the Kala Point area and are moving onto Glen Cove and areas along Hwy 20 and Hwy 19 (see map to the right). A few weeks before work begins, the PUD will send residents a

## Meter Program Info Link



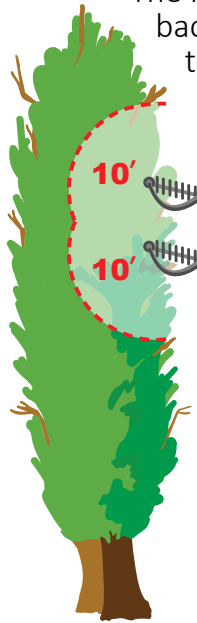
postcard notifying them that our metering team will be working in the area and an additional automated reminder call will go out a few days before they are on site. **Note:** *We must have up-to-date contact information for the service address.*

For more info about our current meters, the AMI meters and the changeout process, scan the QR code with your smartphone camera. For desktop users, click the Infrastructure/Metering link under the Electric tab on [jeffpud.org](http://jeffpud.org)



## Sims Poplar Trim begins mid-Nov

The PUD has set November 14th as a start date to cut back poplar trees from the power corridor along the Boat Haven on Sims Way. The transmission line was de-energized in 2021 due to safety concerns about the trees being in contact with the lines. Trimming and



limited tree removal is necessary to energize the 115,000-volt transmission line. The transmission line is one of two pathways to power homes and businesses along Sims Way and the downtown area, while also acting as the backup power path during storm season.

The work will be conducted by a certified tree trimming contractor with a specialized 100' bucket truck. Trimming and tree removal operations are based on an existing 10' easement providing safe space around transmission lines.

Trimming work completed along Sims

Way by the PUD will precede the Sims Gateway and Boatyard Expansion Project planned to begin in 2023. Transmission lines will be undergrounded as part of the Gateway Project.

## Commission Approves Largest Budget to Date

PUD Commissioners and staff have worked since July 2022 on the nearly \$80M 2023 PUD budget, which was approved on Oct 18. Included are multiple large scale projects including grant-funded rural broadband buildout, on-going utility-wide metering replacement project, and water resource infrastructure upgrades. The budget also includes previously approved annual rate increases for power, water, and sewer services to pay for long-term infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The approved 2023 budget is available on [jeffpud.org/budget](http://jeffpud.org/budget).

## The Rainy Day Fund Needs You!

Helping neighbors in need this winter is as easy as checking a box.

For customers struggling to make ends meet, the cost of heating the home during winter months can be crushing. Please help those in need on your PUD bill each month. You can choose to round-up to the nearest \$1, \$5, or \$10 per month on your paper bill (or via SmartHub online). The PUD also accepts one-time donations of any amount. Funds are distributed through our local partners at OlyCap and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

## Broadband Sign-up is Open!

Since opening its online application, the PUD has received hundreds of broadband registration sign-up's from residents within grant-funded areas. Check the live fiber project map to see if your home or business qualifies! Scan the QR code to register today.



### Have you tried SmartHub?

Track your power usage & pay bills all in one place!

### Jeff Randall

[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

### Ken Collins

[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

### Dan Toepper

[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

### Kevin Streett

[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360



Tree through transmission lines along Rhody Drive.

## **Thank You Mason PUD 1 & Mason PUD 3!**

During and after a large storm, neighboring public utilities come together to turn the lights back on. Jefferson PUD is part of a volunteer mutual aid program to assist outside utility crews with storm recovery efforts. In a time of need it can make a big difference. Our community greatly appreciates the help from our mutual aid partners at Mason PUD #1 and Mason PUD 3 for their hard work in storm repair!

## **Late Fees Resume 2023**

During COVID, the PUD stopped charging late fees. Starting Jan. 1, 2023, late fees will be reinstated for non-payment of electrical, water, and sewer services. The late fee for residential customers is \$5 per service. The late fee for commercial customers is either 1% of the balance or \$5.00, whichever is greater per service.

## **The Other End of the Line - Storm Dispatch**

At 11:00pm on Nov. 4th much of Jefferson County was dark. High winds, gusting to more than 70mph, battered the region. Despite the hour, the PUD dispatch office hummed with activity. Computer screens flash alerts as new outages registered inside.

At Jefferson PUD, dispatch during an outage is maintained by a mixture of substation journeyman and SCADA technicians. Tod Eisele, PUD Substation Journeyman, scrolled over a map of the Irondale substation. Red alerts flashed, indicating much of the substation as de-energized.

"We've got a tree through the line near Anderson Lake," he said. "Sounds like it took one of the transmission poles with it." Which it did, knocking out power to both the Chimacum and Port Ludlow substations (pictured above).

A few minutes later, one of the PUDs Line Foremen called in a report from the field: multiple transmission poles were down along Seton Road; access road impassible. Eisele placed a digital tag on the outage management system, then guided the Line Foreman to the next section of line to patrol.

Alerts continued to flash on screen as David Elias, SCADA Technician, reviewed transmission and substation data looking for options to remotely reroute power through feeders within substations. Feeders provide power to large regions, with each feeder featuring a breaker (aka recloser) that protects the substation by opening or closing if a line fault is detected. When a recloser opens, it generates an outage to protect the substation.

Red outage lines crawl across the map on screen (pictured below), and Elias and Eisele discuss switching options to reroute and return power.

Remote switching at the substation level greatly reduces outage time, as the substation team does not need to physically drive to and access the station—it is also far safer to operate should equipment malfunction.

Over the next few days, reports of trees on wires, broken poles, and wires on the ground continue to pour in. During

an outage, Eisele, Elias, and Substation Foreman, Colton Worley, work to categorize and coordinate responses. Each outage on the map is different, requiring specific repairs, often under harsh weather conditions. For lines on the ground dispatch sends a crew to verify and make the scene as safe as possible; for damaged poles, meter staff are sent to flag roadways and setup barricades.



David Elias continues to scans the outage map well after midnight.



**Dispatch Cont.** Line crews work long hours during and after storm events, sometimes up to 40-hour shifts before going on rest. Dispatch is right there on the other end of the line with them helping to coordinate the action and organize the response.

Dispatch is in constant communication as crews move from outage to outage—from Nov. 4–9 dispatch logged more than 1,100 phone calls. Crews arriving on an outage must verify the specific service area and isolate the work zone with dispatch. In the office, dispatch switches power feeds and provide physical clearance tags to each line crew lead. Clearance tags help ensure other line crews verify sections of line are de-energized for safety and can only be removed by the line crew lead themselves.

During this storm, the dispatch team worked with 5 support crews in addition to our own PUD line team. Contract line crews from Palouse Power and Olympic Electric, as well as mutual aid line crews from Mason PUD #1 and Mason PUD 3 assisted with outage recovery days after the event.

“Imagine stepping into an unfamiliar county in the dark during storm conditions and trying to locate a specific pole location,” Eisele said. To help, PUD staff are assigned to act as “bird dog” to new crews,



**Tod Eisele takes a pause after working with PUD linemen to restore the Discovery Bay substation.**

helping navigate the area and supplying equipment needed for repairs.

Hour by hour and day by day the outage map began to clear and the hum of activity surrounding dispatch slowed. Within five days of the storm the majority of outage areas were energized. Dispatch and line crews, after a brief rest, turned efforts to the rebuild effort.

Large-scale storms like the November event are rare and often impact day-to-day life for days or weeks afterward. For Jefferson PUD staff, the time between storms is spent repairing, resupplying, evaluating response, and preparing for the future.

**Storm by the Numbers**  **250 Wire Splices** **9 Poles Replaced** **17,718 Customer outage total during storm** **16 Transformers Replaced**

## Abbott added to PUD Team



**Karen Abbott**

Karen Abbott joined the PUD in October as Admin Assistant for the broadband, substation, and metering departments.

She brings more than 14 years of public utility experience to the job. Abbott previously worked for Chelan PUD as a contract specialist. She also worked at Clallam

PUD in, engineering, and contract coordination. Abbott will put her years of experience to work helping organize and coordinate the PUDs proposed \$40M broadband buildout.

She enjoys playing in the big city, attending concerts, museums and just spending time with her “littles”—her two fun-loving granddaughters.

## McKnight Promoted to CS Program Specialist

Drew McKnight has been promoted to Customer Service Program Specialist at the PUD. His new position includes overseeing the PUDs low-income assistance program and working with partner programs such as OlyCap and St. Vincent de Paul.

McKnight moved to the PT area 9 years ago to be closer to family. He began work with the utility in 2017 as a customer service representative.

Since beginning the Program Specialist position he's already been able to help enroll 40 income-qualified community members for service assistance.



**Drew McKnight**

### PUD Fiber Signup is Live!

Register today on  
[jeffpud.org/fiber-registration](http://jeffpud.org/fiber-registration)

### Jeff Randall

[jrandall@jeffpud.org](mailto:jrandall@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-6694

### Ken Collins

[kcollins@jeffpud.org](mailto:kcollins@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 316-1475

### Dan Toepper

[dtoepper@jeffpud.org](mailto:dtoepper@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 302-0448

### Kevin Streett

[kstreett@jeffpud.org](mailto:kstreett@jeffpud.org)  
(360) 385-8360