



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

January 2023 Newsletter

The view from North Beach after recent snow

PUD Fiber Sign Up is OPEN!

Over 1,000 residents within grant-funded areas have signed up for fiber to their home. Check the live fiber project map to see if your home or business qualifies! Scan the QR code to sign up today.



Mikey Thomas joins Water Crew



Thomas brings a background working in large-scale water system construction, pipelaying experience, and general commercial construction in the Port Orchard and Poulsbo area. Raised and residing in PT, Thomas said he's loving the shorter commute and is glad his work can help support neighbors. He enjoys cruising around town with his son in his hot rod 1983 Chevy step side truck, and teaching his son the ins and outs of riding dirt bikes.

Looking Back & Looking Forward

2022 was an interesting year for the PUD. After a two-year closure, we reopened our customer service lobby to the public. During the closure, our old customer service center at 310 Four Corners was gutted and turned in extra office space. A new customer service center was added on, as was a new board room and conference room, each equipped with all the AV equipment, and screens needed for simultaneous in person and online meetings.

Hybrid meetings and a hybrid workplace is now the new normal for the PUD. And so far, it's been a welcome improvement. Less welcome was 2022's outages. January through June set records for rain and cool weather, and then in Nov we had our most damaging windstorm of all time. 70-80 mph winds cut across the center of the county and took out power to nearly every customer. Full restoration took 9 days, with almost half of our customers out for 3 three days straight. The storm cost the PUD almost \$1M in extra labor and repairs.

Another unexpected million-dollar plus repair has now come due at our Port Ludlow substation. In December, unrelated to any storm, a tree fell on a power line on Beaver Valley Rd and the ensuing fault led to the last gasp of the Ludlow substation 1960s era transformer. Because we knew its demise was imminent, our crews already had its replacement on site. We were able to swap the transformers in less than a day, still a huge undertaking, though nearly undone when a car hit a transmission pole on Beaver Valley the next night, resulting in all of Port Ludlow without power again.

The new year will be even more expensive. We expect to spend tens of millions in 2023 on multiple projects. At least \$2M on meter replacement, \$15M on our fiber buildout (which should begin in Quilcene in April), nearly a million in tree trimming, \$2M for a new water tank in Quilcene. It's our biggest budget of all time, with more work planned than ever before. We'll be adding practically a whole new utility service to the PUD with retail internet, and we are replacing big portions of our old infrastructure for our existing services.

However, 2023 is just the beginning. The working of growing our new service and replacing the old will go on over the next decade. Both the challenges and opportunities involved are huge.



Kevin Streett, GM

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

Happy New Year from PUD Commissioners



Dan Toepper
District 3

I would like to thank our employees, contractors, and customer-owners for making JPUD a stronger utility over the past year.

It was gratifying to see old friends and make new friends by welcoming the public back into our service center, participating in community events around the county, and returning to live participation with our public meetings.

Looking ahead to 2023, the PUD will be growing its workforce, undertaking capital projects for resiliency, and creating a broadband business largely funded by state and federal grants.

I encourage everyone in our service area to be engaged with the utility. Stop by our service center and meet our customer service representatives; come to a commission meeting, or drop us a line if you have questions.

My goal for 2023 is to help our customers stay informed through outreach, transparency, and public inclusion in all that we do as a utility. We will work to find efficiencies, identify infrastructure funding, and create value with a goal of softening rate impacts, while maintaining a high level of service. Have a safe and prosperous new year.



Jeff Randall
District 1

I am grateful for the hard work of our PUD employees to keep the lights on and the water flowing to our homes and businesses.

When an outage occurs, I'm grateful those responding live locally and are highly motivated to restore service as soon as possible. I also appreciate that our PUD is forward looking, always seeking to identify electrical and water improvements for reliability.

In 2022 our PUD obtained millions of dollars for high-speed broadband. In 2023 our federal and state governments are offering unprecedented funding to make electric utilities more resilient. Your PUD staff is already preparing proposals to take advantage of this once in a lifetime funding. You will hear about our ideas next year, proposals to generate local power, make our substations more resilient, and build more interconnections of our electrical system to improve our ability to move power around storm damage.

I was reminded at the PUD employee Christmas party that working at the PUD is more than just a job, it's a place where we come together as a community to provide the services we need. I wish you and your family the best this new year.



Ken Collins
District 2

As I complete my eighth year as a PUD Commissioner, I am very aware of how much has been accomplished and how much still needs to

be done.

When the PUD took over the electric utility ten years ago, it acquired an infrastructure that had a lot of deferred maintenance. Since then, tens of millions of dollars have been spent to upgrade the system, and that will need to continue over the next decade.

Regardless of how much is invested, what matters is that our customers believe they are getting good value for their dollars. Value is what customers should experience when they interact with the PUD, whether this happens when they come in to pay their bill, report an outage, seek information on the website, or call a commissioner with a problem.

Along with investing in the physical plant, the PUD must continue investing in its employees, with competitive wages and opportunities to enhance their skills and advance in the organization. Employee dedication depends on their knowing that their efforts are appreciated, something we can never take for granted.

Have a wonderful new year!

dtoepper@jeffpud.org - (360) 302-0448

jrandall@jeffpud.org - (360) 316-6694

kcollins@jeffpud.org - (360) 316-1475