



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

May 2025

Hydropower Education Starts Here

Wanapum Dam spans the midpoint of the Columbia River and is part of an intricate hydro network helping power our region.

Hydropower is our region's main energy source, providing 85 percent of the power we use in Jefferson County. Understanding how that power is generated and conveying that knowledge to the next generation was how I ended up in the bowels of the Wanapum Dam.

As a PUD Communications Specialist, I have the unique role of conveying the work our team does day in and day out. I attend public events, teach classrooms, and serve on the board for the Foundation for Water & Energy Education (FWEE).

Since 1995, FWEE has provided electrical education materials, in-person engineering-based academies, and tours to students highlighting the unique energy generation mix throughout our region. And hydropower is where it all starts.

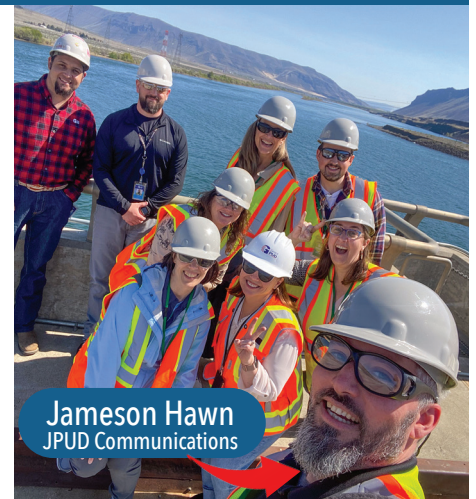
Our group of FWEE Board members, led by Wanapum Dam operators, started with a tour of the powerhouse where a row of 10 dark green and yellow hydro generators stands at attention. This is where our power truly begins. More than 5 stories below our feet water from the Columbia River surges. Beyond the upstream wall of the powerhouse stands 80' of water ready to drop into engineered channels. Far below, this unseen waterfall turns each massive turbine at 86 RPM's. It may not sound fast, but the energy produced in this powerhouse is enough to power 400,000 homes.

Dam operators work 24/7/365 to ensure water spill and power generation match grid demand. Inside the control room, which is a unique blend of 1960's-era lighted consoles and modern LCD screens, operators track real-time river flow data to ensure out-migrating salmon smolt have a clear pathway downriver. Beyond the control room door, three floors below the powerhouse, the hallway is alive with the rhythmic hum of turning turbines.

Experiencing hydropower production and scale firsthand helps us as FWEE educators convey to our neighbors what truly goes into a task as simple as turning on a light switch hundreds of miles away.



The Wanapum Dam powerhouse features 10 hydro generators.



Jameson Hawn
JPUD Communications

FWEE Board members with Wanapum Dam operators during a hydro generation tour.

HEAR
to Help!

Home Energy and Appliance Rebates

Rebate funding to help income-qualified households and small businesses upgrade to high-efficiency electric equipment is still available! Income verification is required and you can learn more about rebate opportunities on our website: jeffpud.org/efficiency-program.

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



In-home installations are now underway in our grant-funded buildout areas.

Making Connections

In-home fiber installations are now underway!

The PUD has installed fiber to the outside of more than 1100 homes and businesses from Quilcene to Chimacum, Discovery Bay and Gardiner. While construction work continues to tie up loose ends north of Hwy 104, south of 104 our in-house fiber techs have been busy making connections. If you live in Quilcene and don't have fiber inside at this point, we are just waiting for you to pick your service package. This can be done one of two ways. Either by contracting for monthly service directly from one of our Qualified ISPs or by filling out the online form sent to you by the PUD. A service request can be filled out easily on a smartphone or computer. Need help? Call Customer Service at 360-385-5800 M-F between 9am and 4:30pm. Monthly service from the PUD starts at \$65 for 150/150mbps. No Data Caps, no contract games, and no lags, buffering or slowdowns due to congested networks or interference. All equipment is included. \$20 monthly discounts are available for eligible customers on our income assistance programs.

Sims Gateway Project Begins

The Gateway Project is a partnership between the City of PT, Port, and PUD, with grant funding provided by Jefferson County's Public Infrastructure Fund.



PUD contractors will remove trees and install conduit to relocate the existing 115kV transmission lines, excluding the Kai Tai Lagoon side. The Port will build a pathway, add landscaping, and expand the boatyard up to its existing property line.

Sims Way
Bike Lane

Improved Drainage

Utilities

Pathway

Boat Haven

The parkway concept provides a pedestrian pathway a safe distance from Sims Way, while creating a stormwater swale.

Undergrounding lines improves boatyard safety & reduces outage potential from boat contact.

HOW TO SPOT A UTILITY SCAM

Utility scammers are an ongoing threat. If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be the PUD and threatening to shut off power if not immediately paid over the phone, **HANG UP!** It is 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.
- Shut off service without providing written notice at least 7 days in advance.



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