



Jefferson County
Public Utility District

CUSTOMER CONDUIT

Public Power, Local Services, Community Connections

December 2018 Newsletter



November brought three widespread outages to Jefferson County, though only one was due to extreme weather...

The largest outages were eerily similar in cause and scale. The first took place on Friday, November 2nd, affected over 16,000 customers and lasted four hours. The second, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, lasted two hours and affected over 13,000. The PUD has over 19,000 electrical customers in total.

Both outages began around 10am and both were caused by trees falling onto transmission lines. Trees falling onto power lines are the most common cause of outages in Jefferson County, but most outages involve distribution lines, which lead to homes and businesses.

Transmission lines bring power to substations and deliver it at a higher voltage, which is stepped down by transformers before sending via distribution lines to end users.

Both outages in November occurred when tall skinny fir trees fell onto transmission lines between the Bonneville Power

Administration's (BPA) substation in Discovery Bay (where power is received from the lines originating

at dams on the Columbia) and secondary substations in Port Townsend.

On each occasion the tree on the line caused a fault, interrupting the flow of electricity and tripping a breaker back in the BPA substation. When the breaker tripped, it cut the power supply to the PUD's substations feeding the county's most populated areas including Port Townsend, the Tri-Area, and Port Ludlow.

In the first widespread outage, power could not be restored until the tree was located and removed. In the second instance the PUD was able to use switching to isolate the section of line affected by the tree and was able to restore power to the Chimacum and Port Ludlow substations before the tree was fully removed.

those adjoining distribution lines.

The trees that caused the November outages would not have been affected by PUD's normal trimming schedules. They were tall and spindly, and crews suspect that freshly loosened soils and weak root structure led to their fall as much as the wind. Graham suspected the trees may have suffered from root rot.

PUD General Manager Larry Dunbar has asked staff to re-inspect the transmission corridor for more potential tree problems as soon as possible. Preventing large scale outages like the two that occurred in November is a top priority, said Dunbar.

Preventing outages like those that occurred during the 50mph+ gusts on Monday Nov. 26th will be more difficult. Power poles and distribution lines were knocked down in multiple locations across the county, trees fell and limbs littered roadways. A semi was entangled in BPA powerlines on Hwy 104.

Outages were reported from Gardiner to Coyle, and lights flickered across the system, but no more than 1,600 customers lost power at one time, though some for almost 15 hours when two poles came down on Center Road, which our crew worked through the night to replace and repair after attending to outages throughout the day.

Stay informed when the power's out: use your mobile phone to follow us on twitter or Facebook. Not a fan of social media? You can find outage updates on the homepage of jeffpud.org, which is optimized for mobile viewing.

Despite occurring twice in November, large scale transmission outages are rare. According to Resource Manager Bill Graham, the last one occurred in December of

2015. They are rare because the corridors transmission lines run through have wider clearances than

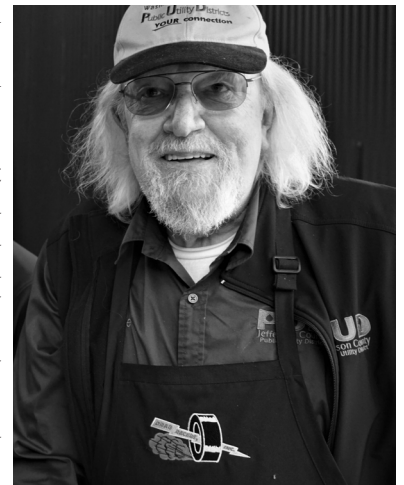
CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS NOW 9AM TO 4:30 PM
310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368 (360) 385-5800

PUD 2019 BUDGET PASSES: NO RATE INCREASES

The Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the PUD's 2019 budget at their regular meeting on Tuesday, November 20th. During his presentation, General Manager Larry Dunbar highlighted changes made to the budget at the request of commissioners in previous meetings. Dunbar introduced the budget's "principles," which included expanded planning and training, and heightened focus on service, safety and reliability. Dunbar stated that the budget was designed to be revenue positive, maintaining key final ratios without raising core service rates. The final budget projected \$39.7 million in operating revenue, and \$37.7 million in expenses. Residential electricity sales are the PUD's single largest source of revenue, while the purchase of electricity from the Bonneville power administration is the PUD's largest operating expense, accounting for 46% of the expense budget. Taxes, loans and finances make up 30 % of expenses. Operations, maintenance and administration account for 24%. The PUD estimated a total of \$19 million in cash reserves available at the start of 2019, of which \$12 million is a 90-day operating reserve. During 2019 \$7 million will go to capital improvements, with \$3.2 million for the PUD's facility expansion and remodel, \$3.2 million for various electrical plant equipment and vehicle purchases, \$500,000 for water projects, including \$310,000 for an initial phase of a new water reservoir in Quilcene. The PUD's 2019 ending cash balance is projected at \$16.8 million. A presentation of the approved 2019 budget can be found on the PUD's website: jeffpud.org.

WAYNE KING HONORED FOR 18 YEARS OF SERVICE

Three-term District 3 Commissioner Wayne King will be honored with a resolution acknowledging his service and leadership at his final meeting as a commissioner on Dec. 11th. As stated in the resolution, King demonstrated exemplary leadership during the negotiation of the acquisition of Puget Sound Energy's electric assets in Jefferson County. King was also instrumental in authorizing the construction of the Beckett Point septic system that drastically reduced septic pollution to Discovery Bay. He was also involved in the protection of the upper watershed of Chimacum Creek through the PUD's acquisition of Peterson Lake. The King family were integral in forming the Gardiner water system, one of the first in the PUD. King was born in Jefferson County, but spent many years in California building and racing Top Fuel Dragsters. He owns and operates King Hydraulic Marine and Machine and lives with his wife Peggy in Gardiner. King will be followed on the board by Dan Toepper of Port Ludlow, who was elected District 3 Commissioner and begins his term in January.



PUD RECEIVES CLEAN FINANCIAL AUDITS FOR 2017

Assistant Audit Manager for the State of Washington Amy Strzalka presented her preliminary report to the board and PUD staff at a November 26th special meeting. The PUD received clean audit findings for both its 2017 accountability and financial statement reports. Strzalka described the 2017 audit as "the easiest one yet." She estimated the PUD would save over \$10,000 on the cost of its audit. "The fact that the district had made such big improvements in the controls and the financial statement preparation process saved a ton of time, and saved a lot of money this year," said Strzalka. The commissioners thanked Strzalka and complimented staff at the close of the meeting.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT THE PUD!

All Jefferson County PUD offices will be closed Tuesday December 25th and Tuesday January 1st for Christmas and New Year's Day.

Best wishes from all of us to you and your families. We hope you have the happiest of holidays. We are proud to be publicly owned, and are grateful for the opportunity to serve you safe, reliable, and affordable utility services.



ROUND UP FOR RAINY DAY

Please consider checking the box on your bill to round up for our Rainy Day fund. If you can, please consider giving an additional one time donation this holiday. You can include the donation in your bill. This is the time of year many struggle the most. Help keep your neighbors warm and dry this holiday season.

The PUD partners with OlyCAP and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to distribute funding.