

PUD CUSTOMER CONDUIT

Jefferson County
Public Utility District

Public Power, Local Service, Community Connections

Jefferson County PUD's Monthly Newsletter, January 2018

WHAT DOES A SMART METER DO & WHY WOULD WE WANT THEM?

Though currently on hold while the Board of Commissioners seek an outside review of the project before casting a final vote, the PUD's \$2.5 million plan to replace 19,000 electrical meters is still a hot topic.

Each week letters to the editor about smart meters appear in the PT Leader. PUD board meetings have seen an increase in public comment and attendance from citizens concerned about smart meters. PUD board and staff have listened throughout and tried to respond to as many questions and concerns as possible: whether financial, technical, or even conspiratorial.

What the PUD perhaps hasn't done is explain clearly or often enough why it proposed to replace all of its existing meters with new "advanced" or "smart" meters to begin with.

The need for *new* meters has been clear since the PUD took over electrical service in 2013: Over 450 meters outright fail per year. Over 12,000 meters are 20-30 (or more) years old, do not read accurately and come with a \$300K per year contract for remote reading by an outside firm. And the rest of our meters are a hodgepodge of different brands, ages, and technologies.

The need for new *advanced* or *smart* meters has been less clear, in part because so much time has been spent responding to what some customers fear the meters do rather than what they will do. (And just to recap, they won't spontaneously combust, spy on your toast consumption, or magnetize your pets).

What will the new meters do better than the old? Well, everything! How about keep the lights on during outages for one? Combined with recent up-

grades in our software and investments in our grid, new advanced or smart meters would enable the PUD to reroute power supply to homes that would otherwise lose power in a storm. New advanced or smart meters will be able to communicate with each other and with the PUD operations center, allowing them to share load when electrical capacity is reduced. That means your home will be more likely to stay warm and bright during the worst of weather.

That doesn't mean outages won't still occur. They will. But when they do, the new meters would tell us instantly when a home is out and exactly where it is. The PUD will no longer have to rely on voluntary phone calls and vague verbal directions to find out who has power and who doesn't.

In the event of a home fire, with advanced or smart meters the PUD would be able to shut off power instantly and remotely, rather than waiting for a crew to load a truck and head to the scene following a phone call from the fire department.

These services and safety advantages are available because advanced or smart meters allow for two-way communication between the meter and the PUD. The meter can both broadcast a signal out (via radio-frequency or rf) to the PUD as well as receive one back.

Our current PUD meters can only send an rf signal one-way: out. They do so every five minutes, broadcasting only the meter serial number and usage data for remote read. Gas-powered trucks with receivers mounted on top drive all over the county to collect those signals. With the proposed new meters, customer data will only be broadcast

once every 4 hours, and will be sent to the cloud for collection rather than to trucks: greatly reducing both expensive labor and carbon emissions.

Though the advanced or smart meters will broadcast less frequently, they will provide the conservation-minded customer more data with hourly rather than daily usage reports via the PUD's online Smart Hub application. With careful monitoring the customer will be able to determine what time of day which appliances are costing them the most money, potentially enabling them to save hundreds of dollars per year.

PUDs across the state are switching to smart and advanced meters. Our neighbors to the south at Mason District 3 have already begun, Clark and Cowlitz PUDs have had smart meters for almost a decade, as has Benton County PUD east of the Cascades. Grant County PUD is installing them now, Chelan and Snohomish PUD's plan to soon. PSE and the Seattle City Light have begun switching over and Portland General Electric has finished their installation. Over 72 million advanced or smart meters are already installed in the US alone, and in 2020 there will be more than a billion worldwide.

Advanced or smart meters are not a new or untested technology. They are rapidly becoming the standard. Were Jefferson County to adopt them, we wouldn't be an outlier, we'd only be catching up. And we'd be doing so to provide our customers better service, reliability, and safety.

For more info about meter replacement and a list of frequently asked questions about our project visit jeffpud.org/infrastructure-improvement-program.

2 NEW HIRES HELP KEEP THE LIGHTS ON CALENDAR

The PUD added two new positions and hired two new employees to fill them this last fall. Both will help enhance the PUD's ability to keep the lights on or get them back up quickly in the event of a storm or outage.

Tod Eisele comes to Jefferson County PUD from the City of Port Angeles where he was a substation technician for the last 11 years. Though he still lives in PA, he was attracted to the job here in Jefferson



Tod Eisele, Substation Technician County because of the bigger projects and challenges that our younger utility provides. Eisele will monitor and maintain the PUD's 7

substations.

Jonathon Dehnert comes to the PUD after 5 years in California working from Groundman to Apprentice to Journeyman Lineman. He is now the 9th Journeyman on the crew.

Dehnert graduated from Eatonville HS in WA and played football with another PUD lineman, Casey Alm. The pair have kept in touch ever since, and attended line school together in Oregon.

<p>January 2nd 5pm Regular Board Meeting Jefferson Transit Board Room</p> <p>January 8th 2:30pm Citizen's Advisory Board PUD 4 Corners Meeting Room</p> <p>January 16th 5pm Regular Board Meeting Jefferson Transit Board Room</p> <p>January 25th 1:30 pm Facility Proposal, PUD 4 Corners</p> <p>January 29th 5pm Rate Hearing, Chimacum Fire Hall</p> <p>February 6th 5pm Regular Board Meeting Jefferson Transit Board Room</p> <p><i>Regular board meetings take place at 5pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Agendas & minutes available on our website.</i></p>
--

2018 PROPOSED ELECTRICAL RATE INCREASES

PUD BOC 2018 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

On November 21st, the Jefferson County PUD Board of Commissioners approved a 2018 budget that included revenue from electrical rate increases first proposed by PUD Staff and utility rate consultant Gail Tabone of EES Consulting.

The PUD first voted to raise rates in 2016 in response to increases in the cost of purchasing power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). BPA raised its rates by 5.4% again starting in Octo-

Rate Type	Current	Proposed
Base Residential	\$14.50	\$18.50
Usage Residential (<600kW)	\$0.0860	\$0.0882
Usage Residential (>600kW)	\$0.1048	\$0.1070
JPUD Bill at 1200 kW/mo.	\$128.98	\$135.62
PSE bill at 1200 kW/mo.	2018: \$139.25	

ber of 2017. Power purchased from the BPA is the PUD's single biggest expenditure, accounting for 46% of its annual budget. PUD staff is accordingly recommending a 4.8% increase in electrical rates. The bulk of the increases are proposed to raise base rates rather than usage rates. See table on the left.

The rate increases have not yet been formerly adopted and will be discussed again at a special rate hearing on Monday, Jan. 29th, at 5pm in the Chimacum Fire Station.

Customers wishing to comment on the rates are encouraged to attend the hearing on the 29th or write the commissioners by emailing: commissioners@jeffpud.org. For more info: <http://www.jeffpud.org/rate-schedule>



Jeff Randall District 1: Hiring the right General Manager will be the most important decision we face in 2018. I also hope to help the PUD strengthen its finances, be responsive to community needs, and to continue to provide reliable and affordable utility services.

WATER CREW WRAPS UP 5 YEAR PROJECT

What's on the PUD water crew's to do list in 2018? Not as much as there has been. The crew will be rebuilding a well house at Snow Creek, replacing lines down in Coyle and attending to the regular repairs and maintenance associated with providing water to 4,500 customers. But what they won't be doing is the massive undertaking that they spent the last five years on: incorporating multiple smaller water systems back into the PUD's main Quimper Water System. In the last five years the PUD has expanded the Quimper System to include Kala Point, Marrowstone Island, South Glen Cove, and the section of Cape George that runs from the Discovery Bay Golf Course out to Becket Point. Marrowstone was a new addition to the PUD, as the island had previously only been serviced by wells. The other systems were added in to Quimper, which also includes the PUD's Sparling wells, to improve their reliability and service. "It was a pretty big push" Eric Storey, Water Crew Lead remarked, "but it's done, and it's all worked great."

PUD FIBER TO DOWNTOWN PT

Beginning in January, Jefferson PUD will install fiber optic cable to sections of downtown Port Townsend as part of the Water Street Enhancement Project. PUD fiber will enable wholesale full duplex (meaning same upload and download speeds) 100 Mbs, 1Gbs, or even 10Gbs capacity for downtown business owners, buildings, and residents. The first phase of installation will take place on Taylor and Washington Streets. Subsequent sections of downtown will have the opportunity to connect to fiber as the PUD continues work on the project.

ROUND UP FOR POWER BOOST

Check the box on your bill this month to round up to the nearest dollar. Your additional cents will be donated to our Power Boost program, helping reduce utility bills for low income families, seniors, and individuals with limited means.

Downed Powerline Safety Tips from Senior Electrical Engineer Jimmy Scarborough

During and after a storm and high winds, be on alert for downed lines. Downed lines may be difficult to see in streams and puddles.

If a tree falls on or through a power line, do not attempt to clear the tree yourself.

Call 911 or the PUD at (360) 385-5800 if you see a downed power line.

Do not handle a downed powerline with a stick, broom, pole, etc. call the PUD, we have trained linemen with special tools to handle power lines.

Do not touch someone being shocked, as you could be shocked and injured or killed yourself.

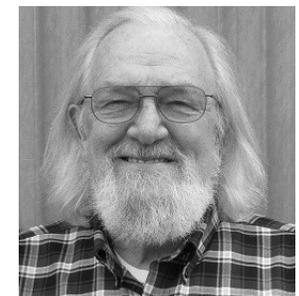
When moving away from a downed line, shuffle your feet close together until you are at least 35 feet away. Taking large steps can create a path for electricity to run through you causing injury or death.

Do not drive over downed power lines. If a power line falls on your car, stay in your car. Do not exit your car until directed by a PUD Lineman, Police or Fireman.

If you must leave the car because of fire or other danger, jump away from the vehicle so that you do not touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Land with your feet together and shuffle away, keeping your feet close together and on the ground.



Ken Collins District 2: My primary goal is to stabilize the JPUD by hiring a highly competent and experienced GM and a permanent CFO. I would also like to see JPUD develop a five-year Strategic Plan, including expansion of broadband services.



Wayne King District 3: My resolution is to continue to support the PUD Governance Manual. And to continue to keep our power and water rates low and affordable for all of our customers. I also want to help communities to form a Fiber LUD for infrastructure.