



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille Agencies Exploring County's Economic Future

Newport, WA – Leaders in Pend Oreille County have come together to explore the county's economic future. Six local agencies – including Pend Oreille PUD, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Pend Oreille County, the Port of Pend Oreille, the Pend Oreille County Economic Development Council, and the City of Newport – have agreed to jointly sponsor the creation of a comprehensive economic development strategic plan. The Washington State Department of Commerce has also committed to support the plan, including potential funding for additional activities that may be required.

The plan, which is being developed through the nationally recognized firm, Ady Advantage, will include comprehensive stakeholder engagement, a market assessment, a review of developable sites and buildings in Pend Oreille County, a target industry sector analysis, an in-person goals and priorities workshop, and an economic-development roadmap for specific strategies and actions the county could potentially take.

In mid-May, consultants from Ady Advantage conducted two days of virtual meetings with various stakeholders from around the county to gather input from a broad cross-section of businesses, governments, local leaders, education professionals, and members of the environmentalist community. The Ady Advantage team will travel to Pend Oreille County for an in-person tour of the county and a public meet-and-greet discussion later this summer when travel restrictions are lifted. Presentation of the final plan and an in-person implementation workshop will occur later this fall, with implementation support ongoing for another year.

Pend Oreille PUD is acting as the lead agency to facilitate this study process, as the PUD has ongoing obligations to explore new in-county load growth and attempt to remarket its hydroelectric resources. All agencies have expressed a strong interest in making this project a joint priority to provide the community with a plan for identifiable actions to ensure the county's economic future. Particularly with the closure of Teck Mine and the ever-uncertain future of newsprint markets, the county must act quickly to ensure it can retain and attract jobs and maintain the demand for electric load.

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille PUD was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband communication services. For more information visit: <http://popud.org>.

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