



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pend Oreille PUD Presented with ESD Hire-A-Veteran Employer of the Year Award

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (“PUD”) was recognized at its June 8, 2021, Board of Commissioners meeting by the Employment Security Department’s (ESD) YesVets Program for hiring veterans. In November of 2020, the PUD was awarded the 2020 Washington State Hire-A-Veteran Employer of the Year for a medium-sized business by the ESD. The presentation of the plaque was postponed until now due to the virtual meeting platform both the PUD and ESD had been operating under. It was an exciting event for both entities as it was held in-person outside of the PUD’s Administration Building.

The ESD created a Hire-A-Vet award to call attention to unemployed veterans in Washington and to recognize companies participating in YesVets Program with a good track record of hiring, retaining and celebrating veterans in their workforce. The PUD is one business winner selected out of the 12 workforce development areas in Washington. The Veteran Hiring Campaign began in 2016 and encourages and recognizes employers who show their commitment to veteran employment. Over fourteen percent (14%) of the PUD’s workforce is comprised of veterans from all branches of the military. Since the YesVets program inception, the PUD has proudly employed veterans each year.

In attendance at the meeting included Washington’s ESD and WorkSource representatives along with Washington State Senator Shelly Short. PUD veterans in attendance included, David Hodder, Engineering Manager, a Navy veteran, Adam Wiltse, Safety Manager, an Army veteran, Robert Fritz, CNS Supervisor, an Air Force veteran, and PUD Commissioner, Joe Onley, an Air Force veteran. The PUD’s Human Resource Manager, Suzie Thompson, accepted the award on behalf of the PUD.

“The PUD is pleased to be a part of the YesVets Program and is honored to have received the Hire-A-Vet Employer of the Year Award,” said Suzie Thompson, the PUD’s Human Resources Manager. “We take pride in translating military experience into the valuable skills and abilities we look for when hiring.”

Pictures of the event below.

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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*Pictured left to right:
Bryan Raines, WorkSource Colville Site Manager; Barney Brockwell, WorkSource Colville Supervisor; Suzie Thompson, PUD Human Resource Manager; Brandon Harting, WorkSource Colville Consolidated Veteran Services Representative; and Seth Maier, ESD Veteran & Military Families Program Operator.*



*Pictured left to right:
Adam Wiltse, PUD Safety Manager, an Army veteran; David Hodder, PUD Engineering
Manager, a Navy veteran; Suzie Thompson, PUD Human Resource Manager; Joe Onley, PUD
Commissioner, an Air Force veteran; and Robert Fritz, PUD CNS Supervisor, an Air Force
veteran.*