



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Administrative Offices - P.O. Box 190 • Newport, WA 99156 • (509) 447-3137 • FAX (509) 447-5824
Box Canyon Hydro Project - P.O. Box 547 • Ione, WA 99139 • (509) 446-3137 • FAX (509) 447-6790

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Media Contact: Joe Hathaway

jhathaway@popud.org / 509-447-6354

Pend Oreille PUD Board of Commissioners Approve 2025 Budget

NEWPORT, Wash. – The Board of Commissioners for Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County unanimously approved its 2025 budget during a regularly scheduled Board meeting on Tuesday, December 3. The \$80.9 million budget prioritizes investments in system reliability, wildfire mitigation, regulatory compliance, and workforce development to meet the evolving needs of the District's customers and the challenges of the energy industry.

“This budget allows us to continue delivering safe, reliable, and affordable services while preparing for future demands and regulatory changes,” said Joseph Onley, Board President. “Our focus remains on serving the community responsibly and sustainably.”

Key Investments and Initiatives

1. Capital Investments

The 2025 budget allocates significant funding for essential infrastructure upgrades. Key projects include:

- **Meter Replacement Program:** The final phase of a system-wide upgrade to replace outdated and unsupported equipment.
- **New Substation Design:** Development of a substation to support growing energy demand, ensuring the system can keep pace with local growth and future needs.
- **Reliability upgrades** to poles, conductors, and other essential components.

2. Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

Recognizing the increasing threat of wildfires, the budget dedicates resources to proactive measures, including:

- **Adding two new vegetation management positions** to ensure safe distances are maintained between power lines and potential fire risks.
- **Moving targeted overhead lines** in high-risk areas underground.
- **Installing new technology** to improve the District's ability to quickly detect and respond to system issues.

3. Regulatory Compliance and Sustainability

The budget addresses the growing impact of federal and state regulations, such as the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and the Climate Commitment Act (CCA). Investments include compliance initiatives to ensure safe, reliable service and avoid

costly penalties.

4. Workforce Development and Succession Planning

The PUD will expand its workforce in 2025 to address succession planning, regulatory demands, and operational challenges. The budget includes funding for:

- Training programs to ensure a smooth transfer of knowledge as key employees retire.
- Competitive wage adjustments to attract and retain skilled employees.
- Additional staff to support the District's long-term goals and critical initiatives.

Looking Ahead

The budget also lays the groundwork for a 10-year financial forecast, with preliminary projections indicating a need for modest annual rate adjustments starting mid-2025 to offset rising costs, increasing energy demand, and regulatory requirements.

“This budget is not just about the numbers; it’s about investing in the systems, services, and people that ensure the reliability and affordability of our operations,” said General Manager John Janney. “We are committed to serving the community with integrity and foresight.”

For more details about the 2025 budget, visit www.popud.org or contact the PUD at (509) 447-3137.

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>.