



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pend Oreille PUD Board Meeting Report for December 17, 2024

NEWPORT, WA. – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) Commissioners Curt Knapp, Joe Onley and Dave Rick executed the following actions during the Board’s regularly scheduled meeting held at the District’s Newport office on December 17, 2024:

- Approved water rate adjustments for eight of the PUD’s water systems in 2025. Monthly base rates will increase by \$3 to \$15, depending on the system's specific financial and operational needs (Resolution No. 1491).
- Approved the Washington State Public Works Board emergency funding of \$1 million dollars for the Metaline Falls Water System. The PUD was awarded a \$500,000 grant and a \$500,000 loan to begin emergency repairs to the system, which suffered a devastating water main break in October 2024. More details on the emergency funding will be released at a later date.
- Approved the revised Internal Reliability Compliance Policy to ensure that the PUD's operations align with updated standards for reliability and regulatory compliance.
- Approved the Napa Valley electric service agreement.

The Board also received updates on the PUD’s Integrated Resource Plan, which outlines strategies to meet future energy demands while balancing sustainability and cost-efficiency. Additionally, Commissioners were briefed on the state’s Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and received updates on the PUD’s low-income assistance programs.

PUD’s Riverbend Water System Honored by Department of Health

During the meeting, the PUD’s Riverbend Water System was recognized by the Washington State Department of Health with the Platinum Award for achieving 15 consecutive years of compliance with the Treatment Optimization Program (TOP) regulations.

Since 2009, the system has consistently surpassed regulatory standards, ensuring continuous public health protection for its customers. The PUD is one of only six water districts in the state to receive this award this year. More information about the Department of Health’s Treatment Optimization Program is available on the Washington Department of Health website.

During the meeting, PUD employees Rusty Gill and Andrew Crawford accepted the award from DOH representatives.

“The PUD is honored to receive this coveted award,” said General Manager John Janney. “I want to recognize our team for their diligence, which has enabled our water system’s outstanding adherence to regulatory standards and thank all District staff for their daily efforts to ensure the water delivered to our customers is safe to drink.”

Commissioner Onley Recognized for Service

At the conclusion of the meeting, outgoing Board President Joe Onley was honored for his service to the Board and the PUD during his final meeting as a Board Commissioner. Onley has served on the Board since 2019, following more than 30 years as a PUD employee. During his tenure at the PUD, he played a key role in developing fiber connectivity throughout Pend Oreille County.

“We truly appreciate Joe’s leadership and vision, not only as a Commissioner but also during his years of dedicated service to the PUD,” said Janney. “We thank him for his hard work and commitment to the people of this county and wish him all the best as he concludes his tenure.”

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is January 7, 2025, at the PUD’s Newport office.

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>.