



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 15, 2026

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Pend Oreille PUD Board Approves Contract for \$16.5 Million BEAD Broadband Award

NEWPORT, Wash. - The Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) has approved a contract for the PUD's \$16.5 million award through the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The approval, made during the Board's September 15th meeting, moves the project forward to expand fiber broadband service in Pend Oreille County.

The PUD applied for five project areas identified by the state across Pend Oreille County, including two areas in the northern part of the county. Three of those project areas, all located in the southern part of the county, were selected for funding. The projects are expected to extend all-fiber broadband service to approximately 2,500 homes. The PUD is receiving a \$12.4 million federal award, which is supplemented by \$4.1 million in state matching funds.

"This is an exciting step forward for the PUD and the communities we serve," said Chris Jones, General Manager of PUD. "A lot of hard work by our team went into securing this funding, and the Board's approval of the contract allows us to move ahead with the next steps toward bringing reliable, high-speed fiber service to more residents in our county."

The BEAD program is a federal initiative designed to expand broadband infrastructure in areas that lack adequate high-speed internet service. Washington received approximately \$1.2 billion through the program to support broadband projects across the state.

With the contract now approved, Pend Oreille PUD will begin moving forward with the planning and implementation of the awarded projects. The timing and specific details of the next steps are still being determined and will be shared as they become available.

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>.