



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2025

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Pend Oreille PUD Board Meeting Report for January 21, 2025

NEWPORT, WA. – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) Commissioners Curt Knapp, Troy Moody and Dave Rick executed the following actions during the Board’s regularly scheduled meeting held at the District’s Newport office on January 21, 2025:

- **Approved Financial Metric Update:** The Board approved the PUD’s financial metric targets through Resolution No. 1492, to further strengthen the utility’s financial health and sustainability. These metrics align with best practices in fiscal management and provide clear targets for maintaining the PUD’s financial stability in the face of evolving industry challenges.
- **Authorized Submission of Five BEAD Grant Applications:** PUD Managers were authorized to submit five Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant applications. These efforts aim to secure critical funding for expanding broadband access across Pend Oreille County, to help support underserved areas and bridge the digital divide.
- **Approved an Amendment to the Contract of Cascade Digital:** This amendment updates the qualifications for banking institutions that the customer may utilize for the purposes of obtaining a letter of credit. A letter of credit is a key part of the collateral required under the agreement between the PUD and Cascade Digital.

Other Business

During the meeting, Commissioners were presented with an updated 10-year financial and revenue requirements forecast. Some of the main points include the potential implementation of a 4.25% annual rate increase to maintain financial stability, compliance with Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requirements, and \$110 million in capital improvements over the next decade. The forecast anticipates \$20 million in new debt proceeds in 2028 to support the Electric System. Public input on proposed rate changes will be sought in February, with implementation in April 2025 if approved by Commissioners.

The Board was also presented the results of a professional research survey conducted by an outside consultant on behalf of the PUD. The survey of PUD customers reveals high satisfaction with the utility’s core functions, including affordability and reliability. The survey shows that 74% of customers find their energy bills affordable, with most preferring smaller, incremental rate increases to maintain financial stability and reliable service. Customers prioritize the delivery of affordable electricity, safety, and planning for extreme weather resilience, while broadband access and green energy goals ranked lower.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on **February 4, 2025**, at the Newport office. For more information, visit the Pend Oreille PUD website or contact the PUD 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>.