



# Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 22, 2024

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## **Pend Oreille PUD Launches Public Outreach on 10-Year Financial Forecast**

*First Public Meeting Scheduled for October 30, 2024, in Newport*

**Pend Oreille County, WA** – Pend Oreille Public Utility District (PUD) is launching a series of public meetings to discuss its recently presented 2024 Revenue Requirement Forecast and outline the financial challenges facing the utility over the next decade. The first public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at Newport High School at 5:30 p.m.

The 2024 Revenue Requirement Forecast was initially presented during a Board of Commissioners meeting on September 23, 2024. This financial tool provides a comprehensive view of the PUD's anticipated operational costs, power supply needs, and critical infrastructure investments, which are expected to total over \$113.9 million between 2024 and 2034. The forecast will guide discussions on whether the current revenue streams are sufficient to meet these expenses and whether rate adjustments may be necessary to maintain the PUD's financial stability and ensure reliable service.

Key issues raised in the forecast include:

- **Rising Costs and Infrastructure Needs:** The PUD faces rising costs driven by inflation, supply chain disruptions, and new regulatory requirements. These costs include critical infrastructure projects, wildfire mitigation efforts, and upgrades to the aging electric system, all of which are essential for maintaining reliable service.
- **Potential Rate Adjustments:** Although no final decisions have been made, the forecast outlines one scenario that includes potential annual rate increases of 3% to 7% starting in 2025. These increases would help cover rising operational and regulatory compliance costs, in addition to significant capital expenditure.
- **Staffing and System Resiliency:** Ensuring a stable and skilled workforce is critical for the PUD to maintain and upgrade its systems, especially as the utility faces retirements in the coming years. The forecast underscores the importance of attracting and retaining talent to meet future demands.

The public meeting on October 30 will serve as an opportunity for customers to learn more about these challenges, ask questions, and provide feedback. Additional presentations are being planned at various locations across the county, with details to be finalized and announced soon. The PUD will also present its financial forecast at several city and county meetings throughout November and December.

“We want our customers to be fully informed about the material factors driving PUD operations, finances and rates,” said John Janney, General Manager of Pend Oreille PUD. “This is a critical

aspect of the ongoing dialogue about how we can ensure the long-term sustainability of the PUD while continuing to provide reliable, affordable services to our communities.”

Pend Oreille PUD encourages customers to participate in these discussions and provide their input on the utility’s future direction.

For more information on the 2024 Revenue Requirement Forecast and upcoming public meetings, visit our website at [popud.org](http://popud.org) or contact us 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>.