



# Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pend Oreille PUD to Hold Public Rate Hearing for Electric and Fiber Services**

**NEWPORT, Wash.** - Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) will hold a public rate hearing during its Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the PUD's Newport headquarters. The hearing will address proposed increases to electric and Community Network System (fiber) rates and fees.

During the hearing, PUD staff will present various rate adjustment scenarios, explain how each option would affect the utility's operations, and outline the potential impact of not implementing a rate increase this year.

The discussion will include factors driving the need for adjustments, such as inflation, rising costs for operations and materials, power purchases, and long-term infrastructure investments required to maintain financial stability and reliable service.

According to the PUD's updated 10-Year Financial Forecast, failing to implement incremental rate adjustments would lead to a sharp decline in cash reserves, limiting the PUD's ability to fund essential projects like substation upgrades and ongoing maintenance at Box Canyon Dam.

A 2025 customer survey indicated that most customers prefer smaller, predictable increases rather than infrequent, steep rate changes.

The Board of Commissioners will accept public comments during the March 3 hearing and is scheduled to consider the proposed rate adjustments for approval at its March 17 meeting. If approved, new rates would take effect April 1, 2026.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide input.

### **Public Hearing Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**Time:** 9:30 a.m. (Board of Commissioners meeting begins at 8:30 a.m.)

**Location:** Pend Oreille PUD Board Room, 130 N. Washington Ave., Newport, WA.

**Virtual Option:** <https://popud.org/top-links/about-your-pud/commissioners-and-meetings/meeting-information>

### **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>.