



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Administrative Offices - P.O. Box 190 • Newport, WA 99156 • (509) 447-3137 • FAX (509) 447-5824
Box Canyon Hydro Project - P.O. Box 547 • Ione, WA 99139 • (509) 446-3137 • FAX (509) 447-6790

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2020

Media Contact: Amber Gifford
agifford@popud.org / 509-447-9328

Pend Oreille PUD Completes River Crossing Project Improving Electric System Reliability

Newport, WA – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) line crews recently completed construction of an upgrade to its three-phase distribution power lines that span across the Pend Oreille River just North of Newport. New conductor and aerial safety marker balls were strung over the river by two PUD line crews while the safety boat kept watch out for other potential boat traffic. The PUD had a line crew on each side of the river, one on Herbs Drive off of Hwy 20 and the other across the way on Leclerc Creek Road – the two crews stayed in constant contact via radio throughout the construction.

New power poles were set on the Herbs Drive side of the project last summer and the PUD has been patiently waiting for the right time and conditions to take the transmission line out of service to complete the installation of the new distribution conductor which had to be strung over the top of the railroad tracks, the river, as well as the District’s transmission line.

This project improves reliability of the PUD’s electric system – there are multiple overhead river crossings that provide redundant feeds that can be used to reroute power during outages, and this is one of those crossing. “It is imperative that we continually maintain and improve our electric system infrastructure said Chris Jones, the PUD’s Director of Operations. “It is an ongoing effort to replace aging equipment that is at risk of failure – a necessary step in order to provide reliable electric service to our customers.

*Pictures attached.

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>.

#