



# Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Pend Oreille PUD Community Network System (CNS) Rate Hearing Additional RSP Service Offering**

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (“PUD”) and its Board of Commissioners approved several changes to the Community Network System (“CNS”) policies and fees during its August 4, 2020, board meeting which included an additional service offering of a non-protected 10-Gig circuit. Historically, the only 10-Gig offering the PUD provided was a redundant protected circuit. Due to technological advancements and the ever-increasing demand for bandwidth, service providers are forced to stay ahead of these demands by procuring larger capacity circuits. By offering this new non-protected circuit, the PUD is able to avoid the additional cost of purchasing a protected 10-Gig circuit and thus pass those savings on to its customers, the Retail Service Providers.

To provide additional background, a non-protected 10-Gig circuit is similar in all regards to the other Premium Class Service Circuits provided by the PUD with the exception of the service protection a redundant route provides. The service is still supported 24-hours per day, seven-days per week. The Retail Service Provider accepts that during a fiber outage, scheduled or unscheduled, they will experience a service interruption until services are restored.

“The CNS department consistently focuses on ways to pass on savings to our customers,” said Sarah Holderman, the PUD’s Director of Treasury, Broadband and Strategic Planning. “This is a creative way to add a service option and in turn, save on costs.”

Several other minor changes were made to the CNS Policies and Fees which included a new temporary disconnect fee of \$25 as well as the addition of an unauthorized sharing or resale activity fee of \$50 per month.

### **About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District**

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District 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>.

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