



# 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

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Media Contact: Amber Gifford

[agifford@popud.org](mailto:agifford@popud.org) / 509-447-9328

## **Pend Oreille PUD Recognized for Hiring Veterans**

PUD receives YesVets recognition & a nomination for Hire-A-Vet Employer of the Year Award

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (“PUD”) was recognized at its October 20, 2020, Board of Commissioners meeting by the Employment Security Department’s (ESD) YesVets Program for hiring U.S. military veterans into its workforce. YesVets is a Veteran Hiring Campaign that began in 2016 and encourages and recognizes employers who show their commitment to veteran employment. Over fourteen percent (14%) of the PUD’s workforce is comprised of veterans from all branches of the military. Since the YesVets program inception, the PUD has proudly employed veterans each year.

YesVets presented the PUD with door decals and a commemorative challenge coin in recognition for its efforts. Rusty Gill, the PUD’s Lead Water System Operator, a National Guard veteran, proudly installed the YesVets decal recently at the Newport Administration Building.

“I am excited the PUD is part of the YesVets Program and it was an honor to be recognized at the Board meeting – we take pride in employing and hiring Veterans,” said Suzie Thompson, the PUD’s Human Resources Manager. Suzie earned the Society for Human Resource Management Veterans at Work Hiring Certification in 2019 which is a comprehensive program that focuses on the needs of veterans hiring, onboarding, and retention.

Additionally, the ESD created a Hire-A-Vet award to call attention to unemployed veterans in Washington and to recognize companies participating in YesVets Program with a good track record of hiring, retaining and celebrating veterans in their workforce. The PUD has been nominated for the Employment Security Department Commissioner’s annual Hire-A-Vet Employer of the Year award for 2020. One business winner will be selected from each of the 12 workforce development areas in Washington.

## **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>.

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Pictured: Rusty Gill, PUD Lead Water System Operator, installing the YesVets decal outside the PUD Administration Building.

