

3 Second Outages

Ever wonder why your power goes off for a few seconds and then comes back on? This happens when a circuit breaker opens and closes at a substation. Circuit breakers are designed to protect the electric system by opening a switch when a problem occurs, and then reconnecting after a few seconds. This brief outage is often enough time for a fault in the system to clear. A fault can be caused by a number of things, but most recently we have been experiencing faults from tree branches blowing into lines, squirrels making contact with transformers and lightning strikes.

We understand it can be frustrating to have to reset clocks, computers and other electronic devices. However, without these brief outages to clear the fault, power would be out for longer periods while crews search for the problem.

GREAT NEWS!

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued Douglas County PUD a new 40-year license to operate the Wells Hydroelectric Project. This puts the low-cost, renewable, reliable output of Wells Dam at Douglas County customers' disposal for many years into the future. The federal relicensing process took over seven years.

We always like to hear what you have to say. Please, if you have any comments or questions write them down and send this back with your payment. Thanks~

Eyes and Ears

December 2012 - January 2013

Recently, two citizens notified us of suspicious activity affecting the electric system. We appreciate receiving this kind of information.

Because of alert observation and quick action, three copper thieves were caught in the act of stealing ground wire from Douglas County PUD power poles. Though no one was injured this time, had more ground wires been removed, electric shock was a possibility. Missing ground wire puts the electric system and electrical workers at risk.

Signs of possible metal theft:

- Missing sections of power lines or ground wires
- Dangling strands of power lines in the air or lying on the ground
- Missing or misaligned covers to underground vaults
- Cut fences or locks near electric substations
- Holes underneath security fences
- Suspicious or unauthorized persons near electric equipment (i.e. substations, power poles, transformers etc.)

Though we monitor the health of the system, we also depend on reports from you. Our customers are our eyes and ears. Please report any concerns to us or local authorities. We appreciate your efforts to stop vandalism.



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