

Protect Your Equipment

All District customers take responsibility for protecting their electricity consuming equipment when they sign up for service. With all the sensitive electronic equipment in homes, it is important to remember Section 10 of the Customer Service Policy states: **It shall be the customer's responsibility to provide suitable protective equipment such as fuses, circuit breakers, relays, and surge protectors to adequately protect his or her equipment.**

Conservation

The Wells Hydroelectric Project is a tremendous asset for Douglas County PUD customers. It provides clean, renewable, low-cost hydropower to our area. Even though the power enjoyed in Douglas County is among the least expensive in the nation, it should not be wasted. Here are some things you can do to reduce your consumption of this precious resource.

- Raise your thermostat by two degrees to reduce your cooling system load.
- Clean or change air conditioning filters regularly. Dirty filters cause air conditioners to work harder and use more energy.
- Remove dust from the coils of your refrigerator and freezer so they operate more efficiently.
- Close your blinds during the heat of the day and open your window during the cool evening to give your air conditioner a rest.
- Turn off heat producing indoor lights and home computers when not in use. Turn off unnecessary outdoor lights.
- Fire up the barbecue grill to move cooking outdoors.
- Adjust your dishwasher so dishes dry without heat.

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~



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It's Your Network - Pt. 2

June - July 2012

Your February-March bill insert described the Douglas County Community Network (DCCN) and the environment in which we operate to provide services. This update is about how the DCCN was developed.

In 1998, the aging microwave radio system used to monitor and control the electric system needed to be augmented. The District determined a fiber-optic communication solution was the best choice. In addition to greater flexibility, another benefit of a high-speed, broadband fiber-optic solution is the ability to make excess network capacity available to residents and businesses in Douglas County.

With no broadband options available to residents in the rural areas of Douglas County, the District decided to make service available first in those areas, then to build into the East Wenatchee area. The network has been paid for as it was built, so it carries no debt load.

By concentrating on delivering services based on Internet protocol technology, and keeping the network design as simple as possible, the District has managed to realize a very good return on network equipment investments. Over the last 14 years, DCCN electronic equipment has needed only one upgrade. Also, by refining connection techniques and utilizing evolving technologies, the electronics and necessary fiber to connect homes has been reduced by a factor of four over traditional fiber to the home systems!

As money becomes available, the District invests in infrastructure that helps other businesses provide services to major Internet companies like Yahoo, Microsoft and Sabey. This brings in revenue to the DCCN and contributes to a stable financial model, which supports additional customer connections.

Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is available through the DCCN. The nature of IPTV allows reproduction of the signal just as it is sent by the networks without any compression or alteration. This offers end users crystal clear HD TV experience with an unlimited number of potential channels.

There are 1,956 end users connected to the DCCN. Service is available through local retail service providers to around 54% of Douglas PUD customers. Of the locations serviceable, almost 24% are connected.

Coming up: What lies ahead for the DCCN.