The Power Line

Douglas PUD Quarterly Customer Newsletter

Wells Dam Safety

National Dam Safety Awareness Day seeks to encourage awareness of responsibilities and best practices for dam safety. Proper maintenance, routine inspection, necessary upgrades, and implementation of an Emergency Action Plan all play a role in protecting public health, safety, and welfare. As part of our safe dam commitment Douglas PUD is investigating the seismic hazard risk associated with Wells Dam.

In the May 2021 billing insert we talked about the Wells Dam East Embankment seismic event concerns. Those concerns still exist, but we are getting more information on what the realistic risks could be. We have drilling plans awaiting approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as part of our regulatory commitment. Those drilling results will help a specialized team of consultants make an informed decision whether or not structural repairs or operational changes are needed at the Wells Project.

The Seismic Hazard Assessment also identified the Spencer Canyon fault as a geologic feature needing further investigation. This fault is believed to be the likely source of the December 1872 North Cascades Earthquake. Not much is known about this fault in relation to Douglas County. The final report, due next year, will inform the District of the attributes of this fault to support future updates to the seismic hazard evaluation for Wells Dam.

Keeping people safe is our main priority. We regularly practice and update our Emergency Action Plan, which detail a multi-agency response to problems at the dam. You play a key part in dam safety too! Please be aware of your surroundings while recreating on the Wells Reservoir and directly downstream of the dam. Follow all warning signs and recreate responsibly.

SmartHub

Shocking! More than 40% of our customers haven't enrolled in SmartHub mostly because they didn't know about it. Please consider this your personal invitation to experience the convenience SmartHub has to offer. SmartHub is an online account and mobile app that allows you to interact with Douglas PUD like never before. Make payments, report an outage, set notifications, turn off paper bills, check your usage and communicate directly with us all at the touch of a button. See douglaspud.org for more information.

Summer 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.
SAVE ENERGY IN THE SUMMER COOLING SEASON:

- 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.

Budget Plan

The Budget Payment Plan lets you pay your annual electric bill in equal monthly installments automatically from your bank account. This provides our customers predictable bills and no due date worries. Spring time is the right time to sign up. If you are interested in paying the same amount each month, winter, spring, summer and fall, the budget plan is made for you! Call our office at 509-884-7191 to learn more.