The Power Line

Douglas PUD Customer Newsletter

June 2024

Rate Setting Principles'

Ron Skagen
Douglas PUD
Commission President

At their May 7th meeting Commissioners approved rate setting guidelines for staff. Prior to setting rates, the Commission wanted to memorialize the principles used to set rates into the future. "PUDs were created to serve our local rural residents and businesses," said Ron Skagen, PUD Commission President. "As our communities grow, the commission wanted to protect the standards used to determine rates." Those principles include:

- Rate schedules shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations
- Rate schedules shall be established at least one year before becoming effective
- Rate schedules shall capture all costs necessary to provide reliable service to its customers
- Rate schedules shall provide adequate reserves and rate stabilization funds
- Rate schedules shall be guided by cost-of-service analysis but prioritize the wholesale power sales benefits from the Wells Hydroelectric Project to residential and commercial services
- Large loads, present higher risk profiles than foundational customers and shall generally be served from the District's Rate Schedule 4 – Energy Delivery Service to preserve the Wells Project electricity for future generations of Douglas County, in accordance with the purpose expressed in the PUD Authorization Act

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Summer is a great time to explore the Wells Reservoir. As a hydro operator, Douglas PUD strives to provide and maintain high quality recreational opportunities on lands upstream of our Wells Project for residents and visitors to the area. We are committed to preserving the natural beauty of the Columbia River.

As part of our Federal Energy Regulation Commission license for the Wells Project, Douglas PUD has developed 20 recreational facilities along the shoreline of Wells Reservoir. These facilities include parks, campgrounds, trails, swimming areas and boating facilities. All of Douglas PUD's boat launches are free. We also offer outdoor educational opportunities with interpretive exhibits located at Wells Overlook Interpretive Center and at various locations around Wells Reservoir.

Check the website for a map of recreational facilities linked at the end of this email.

Your Next Car??

In partnership with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Toyota, Douglas PUD received four used Toyota Mirai hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The purchase of the vehicles was made possible with a grant from Toyota to demonstrate the production and utilization of renewable fuels.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to test out these Toyota Mirais with our soon to be locally produced green hydrogen" said Gary Ivory, Douglas PUD general manager. "When we begin production of our renewable hydrogen later this year, we will be encouraging other agencies with fleet vehicles to take a look at these and consider adding a fuel cell car to their line up."

"We're excited to partner with Douglas PUD to showcase how fuel cell electric vehicles like the Toyota Mirai can help reduce carbon dioxide emissions in local communities," said Michael Lord, Executive Engineer, Environmental Regulation, Toyota Motor North America. "Through this program, the Mirai can help demonstrate the benefits of this zero-emission technology by providing a viable electrified option for those without reliable access to charging or who have a longer commute for work, school, and recreation."

The public is invited to stop by the East Wenatchee office at 1151 Valley Mall Parkway to get an up-close look at a fuel cell vehicle.

The renewable hydrogen production facility near Baker Flats is in active construction and is anticipated to be in commercial production by the end of 2024. The goal of producing renewable hydrogen is to efficiently integrate renewables in a manner that is cost effective, reduce generator unit maintenance costs at the Wells Hydroelectric Project and free up reserve capacity to benefit our customers.

Take a look at our new Green Hydrogen video linked at the end of this email.