The Power Line

Douglas PUD Customer Newsletter

November 2024

Wells Hydroelectric Project

A new Columbia River Treaty: Where's the value to the Mid-C PUDs?

The Columbia River Treaty was originally negotiated in the 1960s. Initially the agreement was to benefit both the US and Canada by coordinating operations of Columbia River reservoirs and stream flows for flood control and power production. In return for that coordinated effort Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Mid-C PUDs (Chelan, Grant and Douglas PUDs) would send Canada half of the additional electricity generated due to these improved flows.

A recent analysis shows that the improved stream flow benefit is not reality. In fact, the Mid-Cs were over-compensating Canada by a factor of 10! BPA has also stopped coordinating the river system, which virtually eliminates any stream flow benefit for the Mid-C PUDs.

After several years of trying to engage with the US government we have filed a joint lawsuit asking BPA to provide their calculations showing the value of the stream flow benefits we are receiving. We're willing to pay our fair share of the actual improved generating capability. But first, our PUD customers and Northwest ratepayers deserve transparency about how that's calculated.

ATTENTION!! If you pay your Douglas PUD bill over the phone, a new payment phone number starts in DECEMBER. To pay your bill over the phone please call toll-free:

New payment line
855-939-3528

Holiday Safety Tips

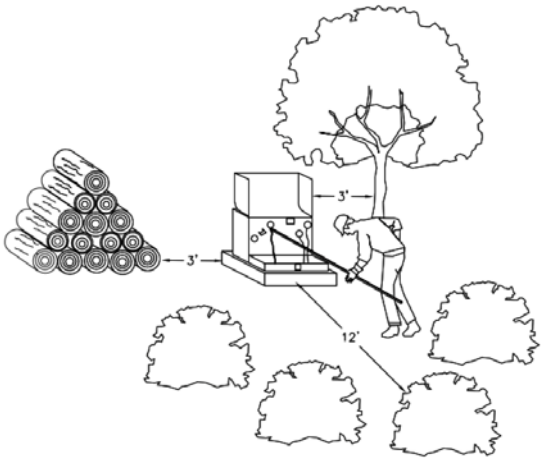
Home means “safety” for the Holidays. Preparing for the Holiday season is joyful and exciting. Above all, think Safety this Holiday Season. Here are some tips on holiday electric safety:

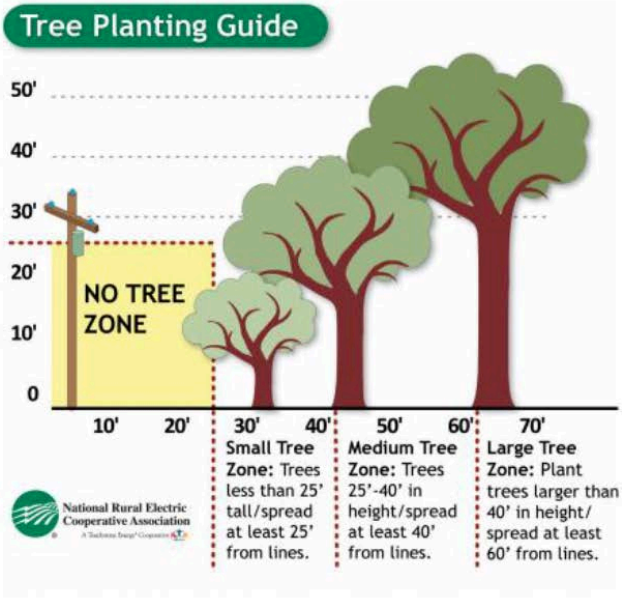
- Inspect tree lights for cracked or loose sockets, exposed wires and frayed, broken or scorched insulation.
- Never use indoor lights outdoors.
- Don’t overload home circuits with too many plugs or lights and keep extra fuses on hand.
- Unplug all decorative lights before going to bed.
- If you are making plans to trim the outside of your residence in lights this year, be sure to identify any overhead lines close to you.
- Do not use any metal ladders or structures anywhere near these power lines. Instead, choose alternate ‘trim’ areas to hang your lights or decorations.

Right tree, right place

As you plan your spring landscaping please keep our electrical infrastructure in mind.

- Maintain 12’ of clearance between plantings and objects and the FRONT of the electrical object.
- Maintain 3’ of clearance between plantings and objects and the SIDES and BACK of the electrical object.





Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Wildfire mitigation has always been a goal for Douglas County PUD. The District’s existing policies, programs, and procedures directly or indirectly manage to reduce this risk. In recent years, the District has implemented wildfire mitigation measures to reduce the ever-evolving risk of wildfires in areas of our service territory that are more prone to wildfires. These measures include the installation of new emerging technologies, moving overhead lines to underground, vegetation management, asset inspection, and best management practices to mitigate the potential for utility-caused ignitions and more effectively respond to high wildfire risk conditions. The District’s Wildfire Mitigation Plan can be found here: https://douglaspud.org/about-us/wildfire-mitigation-plan/