The Power Line

Douglas PUD Quarterly Customer Newsletter

Left to Right: Commissioner Aaron Viebrock, General Manager Gary Ivory, Commissioner Molly Simpson, Commissioner Ron Skagen

Public Power Week!

It's the first week in October, so that means it's Public Power Week! A time when we celebrate local control and not-for-profit service at Douglas PUD. The utility is governed by three Commissioners elected by our customers. They set policy and assign the manager to direct the operation of the utility. Douglas PUD strives to provide reliable low cost power and lightning fast fiber optic service delivered to homes and businesses all over Douglas County.

This week our Facebook page will feature just some of the many benefits of Public Power. Be sure to follow along and let us know why you value Public Power too!

That's a lot of materials!

Douglas PUD employees maintain the Wells Hydroelectric Project and two fish hatcheries, 80 miles of power transmission lines, 1,342 miles of power distribution lines (533 miles is underground, 809 miles is overhead) and 1,144 miles of Fiber Optic cable on 20,893 power poles throughout Douglas County. There are 20 Substations and 9,500 transformers.

The rapid growth of the county and the current supply chain issues are making materials like transformer and power lines hard to come by and in some cases impossible to get. Lead times on items like transformers are sometimes two years out, so we encourage you to plan ahead.

Electric Industry Changes

The Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) that passed in 2019 commits Washington to an electricity supply free of greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. The law also expands energy assistance program requirements for low-income customers. Douglas PUD is fortunate to own and operate the Wells Hydroelectric Project which supplies clean, reliable, carbon free power.

However, this law compounded with other legislation is adding additional risk and regulation to utility operations. These changes will put pressure on rates and change the way we are allowed to serve our customers and operate our dam.

We encourage you to stay engaged with us through our open Commission Meetings, website and social media channels to understand the changes in the electric industry and help us preserve Douglas PUD's ability to provide reliable utility services at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business principles.

Tis' the Season...

To Prepare Your Home For Winter Heating

Fall seems to be settling in the area, along with the smoke unfortunately. As the nights get cooler, there are some easy changes you can make that will help keep your electricity bills low.

- Check your door and window seals to make sure warm air isn't escaping your home. If necessary, use caulking and weather-stripping to keep the cold air out.
- Check your filters. Replace or clean them regularly to increase efficiency of your heating systems.
- Close those foundation vents during the winter. Keeping the crawl space warmer will protect pipes from the cold and slow energy loss.
- Set your thermostat a few degrees cooler (68 degrees suggested) and wear a sweater.
- Close blinds at night to keep the cold out.