# The Power Line

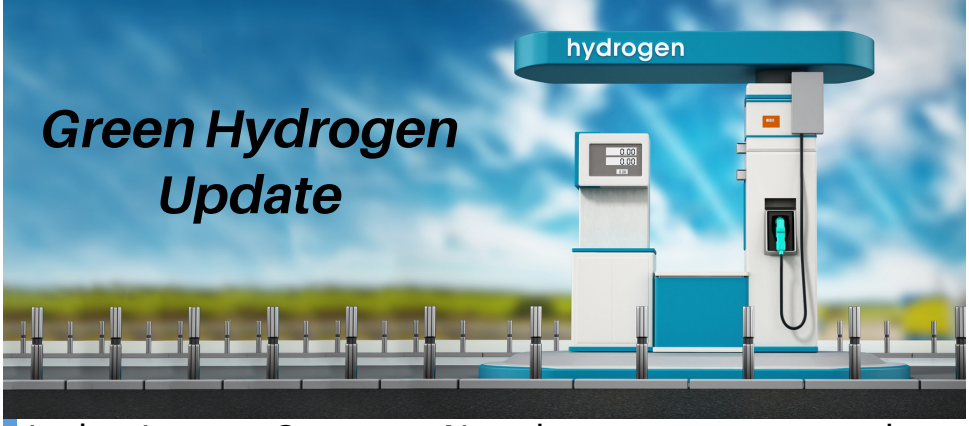
*Douglas PUD Quarterly Customer Newsletter*

## *Fish Passage at Wells Hydroelectric Project*

In the spring of 2020, we conducted the Wells Habitat Conservation Plan required 10-year Survival Verification Study at the Wells Hydroelectric Project using yearling summer Chinook to represent spring-migrating Plan Species. The goal of the study is to determine the survival rate of juvenile fish through the Wells Reservoir and Dam.

To achieve this, fish are tagged with passive integrated transponders, or “PIT” tags, which can be detected at many downstream hydroelectric projects. Fish are released at several locations above Wells Dam and also in the tailrace below Wells Dam.

The results of the 2020 study confirmed that the Wells Project continues to achieve a high rate of survival. To achieve “No Net Impact” as required by our Habitat Conservation Plan, the District must compensate with hatchery fish at just under 4%. Another way to look at these results is the Wells Project safely passes over 96% of the fish migrating downstream. Not only does our Wells Project produce low cost, reliable, carbon free electricity, it does it in a way that is kind to our environment.




In the January Customer Newsletter we gave an update on our green hydrogen project in Baker Flats. Since that time green hydrogen has been all over the news and is gaining attention from a variety of industries who are looking to incorporate this carbon free power source into their operations.

In February, PUD Commissioners authorized the purchase of a second 5MW electrolyzer with an anticipated delivery in the spring of 2025. With this additional electrolyzer, the facility will have a capacity of 10MW of electricity, which at full production would produce just over 4 metric tons or 4,000 kilograms of green hydrogen per day.For perspective, an average hydrogen powered passenger car takes 4-6 kilograms of hydrogen to fill up.

Additional hydrogen production capacity will create more opportunities at the Wells Hydroelectric Project as we balance integrating renewables, variable seasonal pricing and fish water quality concerns. Increased efficiencies will reduce maintenance costs at the dam, which translates into better rates and reliability for our customer owners.

Renewable power generated at our Wells Hydroelectric Project also positions us to take advantage of the state and federal incentives to advance green hydrogen opportunities in our region. Thanks to an expansion of tax credits for hydrogen equipment, Douglas PUD recently received a $5M tax credit for equipment being installed at the hydrogen production facility.

Construction activity will begin soon at the site and the first phase is estimated to be complete in the spring of 2024.

## Budget Plan

If you like to pay the same amount each month on your electric bill, sign up for our Budget Plan! This program averages your annual bill into 12 equal payments paid automatically from your choice of accounts. Now is the time to sign up for predictable bills with no due date worries! Give us a call if you have questions at 509-884-7191.