



Jefferson County
Public Utility District



July 2024 Newsletter

High Speeds on Rural Roads

There's been a rumble in the hills and valleys bordering the eastern flank of the Olympic National Forest for the last few months. And that rumble represents progress!

It all starts with simple paint markings showing the path. Red paint on the road indicates electric service; orange is for phone or cable; and water is blue. White paint marks route where the new fiber goes in.

The rumble comes as fiber construction equipment arrives in the form of small and large tractors, trucks, crawlers, and excavators. But mostly, the rumble comes from the vibratory plow. The plow is a specially modified tractor (see picture at top). The business end of the plow features a rudder-like device which vibrates into the earth, carving a narrow channel approx 3ft deep.

As the plow shakes, the fiber line is channeled from a large spool into the plow blade and deposited under the ground. Only a narrow groove is left to fill, with minimal disturbance. Machine scale varies—along roadways, the plows are larger, but the plows bringing fiber from the

road to the side of homes are often much smaller. The end result is the same.

As of late-June, high speed fiber optic cable capable of delivering 10-gigabit internet now runs beneath and alongside roads at the northern base of Mt. Walker, on Penny Creek Rd and Cougar Run.

Fiber climbs the hills behind Quilcene up Pete Beck Rd, Shady Lane, Wildwood, Elkhorn, Ripley Creek and Snow Creek. Fiber runs

towards Lords Lake and around Lake Leland, and out towards Rice and Crocker Lakes. Fiber has been built in and along roads leading to Peterson, Sandy Shore, Beausite, and Gibbs Lake.

PUD fiber now covers the Bolton Peninsula from McDonald and Rose Point Roads at the bottom of the Peninsula and connects homes on both its east and west shores to Quilcene Bay and Dabob Bay, and up and along Tarboo Bay.

Fiber arrives on the western shores of Discovery Bay and throughout the Gardiner area later this summer and fall. The project should be completed by year's end.

As of late June, PUD contractors have installed fiber to more than 300 of a total 1200 homes in the Quilcene-to-Gardiner project areas.

Late Summer Event Schedule

Jefferson County Fair

August 9-11 at the PT Fairgrounds

All County Picnic

August 18 at HJ Carroll Park. Learn about local resiliency and emergency preparedness from dozens of local organizations!

Port Ludlow Opportunity Fair

August 27th, 4-6pm
See near 70 local vendors and groups at the Ludlow Bay Club.

Quilcene Fair & Parade

September 21st, 10am - 3pm
PUD fiber kickoff event and Parade on Hwy 101 @ 11am.

\$200 Credits

The PUD received \$750K in funding from the WA Climate Commitment Act to help support low- to moderate-income households with their energy burden. Eligible households receive a \$200 credit on their PUD bill. Visit the link below to learn more about program eligibility and to sign up. Registration takes about 30 seconds.

wacleanenergycredits.com

(360)385-5800 jeffpud.org 310 Four Corners Rd. Port Townsend WA 98368

LOCAL GRADS RETURN HOME

After years spent working in other parts of the state, two Jefferson County locals have returned home to take on newly created management roles at the PUD.

Jennifer Dyrseth is a graduate of Port Townsend High School, and she then went on to receive a bachelors and master's degree in IT and Administrative Management from Central WA University. She spent 8 years working in Clallam County at Olympic Medical Center where she was the Manager of Billing. At the PUD she's taking on the Customer Service Manager role, overseeing a staff of 10 and reporting to long time Services Director Jean Pepper.

Jeff Dodd grew up in both Port Townsend and Hadlock before graduating from Chimacum High School. He even put in a few summers working at the PT Paper Mill prior to graduating from Central WA University. After college, Dodd spent more than 20 years across the water, working first for the City of Everett and most recently at Comcast, where he was the Director of Safety for both Washington and Oregon. With continued service and support growth, the PUD added the Safety Manager position to its roster this spring. Jeff is excited to bring his passion for workplace safety to the PUD and to serve our community



Jennifer Dyrseth
Customer Service
Manager



Jeff Dodd
Safety Manager

FIRST FAST CHARGERS IN JEFF CO NOW OPEN

0 to 80 in 20 minutes or less may not sound so great at the racetrack, but for an electric vehicle driver with a low battery and a tight ferry connection, it's a lifesaver that only a fast charger can provide.

Home charging for most new EVs, whether they be Tesla, Nissan, Chevy, Ford, Volvo, Volkswagon, Kia or Hyundai, or Cadillac, Lexus, Polestar, or Rivian, as well as, most recently, Subaru and Toyota, takes anywhere from 12 to 60 hours depending on the model of vehicle and charger; as well as the type of outlet. Charging on a normal 110V, 20-amp outlet takes the most amount of time, with 240V 40-60-amp circuits being much faster.

But to really charge a car quickly (as in 30 minutes or less) 3-phase power and a massive 500kVa transformer are needed to provide 480V power. Which Jefferson County now has, in operation, next to the longtime location of the former Visitor Center off of Jefferson Street and Sims Way in Port

Townsend. A total of eight Level 3 chargers and one Level 2 charger were installed as a result of funding from the Washington Dept of Transportation's Zero-Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Partnership (ZEVIP).

The chargers are owned and operated by EVCS. Charging runs \$0.39 per kWh (the PUD does not set the price). A typical fast charge, taking a ~60kWh battery from 20% charge to 85% would cost around \$15 and provide enough range to get to the Coast, the Cascades, Canada, and maybe even all the way to Oregon if you take the back roads.



WHO'S BUILDING ALL THAT FIBER?

UP ABOVE

Our own local **PUD Line Crew** are building 100 miles of aboveground fiber, attaching it mainly in between the hot and neutral lines as fiber does not conduct electricity.

DOWN BELOW

North Sky Communications LLC is the contractor at work plowing, boring, and trenching 140 miles of underground fiber.

Armies of subcontractors from around the northwest converged to help the North Sky bring fiber from the street to the side of the house.

TO THE HOME!!

IS IT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP?

NO!

It's never too late to sign-up for PUD fiber if you live in one of our project areas. We want to connect as many customers as possible.

That said, we did run out of no-charge installations in multiple (but not all) project areas. Sign up ASAP in the purple and blue areas before the last no-charge installations are gone. jeffpud.org/broadband-maps/

YES!

BUT!

You can still sign up for a \$750 installation, and pay it over 3 years if needed, while projects are under construction. But not after.

Beat the summer heat with rebates on heat pumps, more info:
jeffpud.org/rebates

Jeff Randall
Commissioner D1
jrandall@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-6694

Ken Collins
Commissioner D2
kcollins@jeffpud.org
(360) 316-1475

Dan Toepper
Commissioner D3
dtoepper@jeffpud.org
(360) 302-0448

Kevin Streett
General Manager
kstreett@jeffpud.org
(360) 385-8360