

LIGHTNING IN JANUARY

January 2024 Newsletter

General Manager Kevin Streett with the PUD's first all-electric fleet vehicle, an F-150 Lightning.

In 2023, electric-hybrid and EV's made up 16% of all new vehicles sales in the US. In Jefferson County, EV registrations continue to grow.

When we reported on the first all-electric truck in Jefferson County (May 2022), only 415 EV's were registered countywide. In Nov 2023, EV registrations totaled 638 (42% increase).

The rapid growth of EV's means that in addition to water, sewer, power, and broadband business, the PUD is now solidly in the fuel business. In fact, we installed our first 'fueling' station for the PUD's new all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning in December.

EV charging is a bit easier than the PUD's traditional gas fueling station which has 2 pumps, a covered area, and large underground tank system. The EV station is just a 240V, wall-mounted Level 2 charger.

The PUD's Lightning has an estimated 320-mile range from a 98kWh battery, which fully charges in 8-12 hours. Nationally, daily home usage is approx 30kWh of power. The Lightning itself is essentially a generator, providing field crews front and rear 120V power outlets and the potential for a 240V port in the bed capable of energizing a building.

Unlike traditional vehicles or even hybrids (both plug-in or not), fully electric vehicles require no gas or diesel, nor oil (for engine),

nor transmission fluid (there is no transmission). An EV's fuel is simply the 96% carbon-free electricity direct from the PUD.

Fueling with low-cost PUD power can save money, as shown in the 100-mile example comparing the PUD's new EV vs current fleet truck.

EV's convert between 80%-90% of stored energy into motion, while traditional vehicles average 20%-25% when converting fuel into motion.

EV's and Demand on the Grid

Adding electric vehicles to the grid is a shift from long-standing power consumption

models. Typically, power usage occurs in peaks and valleys. Peak hours are the main concern for utilities and occur in the morning between 6-9am (homes heating) and in the evening from 6-8pm.

Charging EV's during low-demand times (overnight or mid-day during work hours) helps reduce peaks and aids in flattening the power usage trend. This helps the PUD better identify power usage trends systemwide, said Kevin Streett, PUD General Manager. Continuous usage trends can also help the utility better negotiate power contracts as demand rises.

"Adding the EV and needed infrastructure to the PUD fleet helps us grow as a utility alongside our customers," Streett said.

GOING THE DISTANCE - COMPARING 100 MILES

A closer look at cost of operation for 100 miles of drive distance for the PUD's F-150 Lightning vs current PUD fleet F-150 vehicle.

F-150 Lightning (EV): \$3.89

41.6kWh needed for 100 miles. Tier 1 kWh rate 0.0936

F-150 (gas-powered): \$24.30

17mpg average. 5.8-gal needed for 100 miles. WA average: \$4.19/gal

EV Chargers

LEVEL 1

Basic Home Charging
Charge Time: 30-50+hrs



Voltage: 120V

LEVEL 2

Home & Public Charging
Charge Time: 6-12hrs



Voltage: 240V

LEVEL 3 Fast Charger

Public Charging
Charge Time: ~35mins (0-80%)



Voltage: 480V

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*Board Member
since 2018*



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since 2016*

2023 was a busy and productive year. I extend my deepest gratitude to all JPUD employees, staff and contractors for their dedication and commitment to providing reliable and quality services.

To our customer owners, thank you for your continued support and patience as this burgeoning utility takes steps to grow and succeed.

Your PUD continues to successfully collaborate with local, state, and federal entities to expand opportunities and improve broadband, electric, water and wastewater services countywide.

You have three JPUD line crews and experienced electric division specialists working tirelessly to minimize outages as they upgrade our grid and help to deploy broadband fiber optic service.

Your water/wastewater division works closely with utility stakeholders and several communities to support water and sewer services, old and new.

Retail broadband operations is a focal point for our staff, Customer Service Reps, and installers as we deliver internet service throughout grant funded areas in 2024.

The new year will see PUD organizational structure defined for decades to come as we add and/or train personnel that will contribute to the shaping and delivery of much needed and critical services to every corner of our service area.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe 2024.

I hope 2024 finds you and your family well.

In 2023, the PUD's grant-funded 100 kW solar array on our headquarters generated about 118,000 kWh of electricity—enough power to drive an electric truck like our latest all-electric Ford Lightning fleet vehicle about 200,000 miles per year. If you exclude vehicle charging, the solar array will offset about 63% of our office's annual energy use. I look forward to the PUD expanding our electric vehicle fleet and seeking more opportunities to generate clean electricity in coming years.

In 2023 we began building our high-speed fiber network to improve access to the internet for Jefferson County residents. Construction of this network will take years to complete, but retail service to customers begins in 2024. On our fiber network, you'll be able to choose either the PUD or a private company to be your internet service provider (ISP) over the same high-speed network.

Looking ahead, the PUD will continue making investments to modernize and improve our electric, water, and sewer systems so that these systems continue to be efficient and reliable.

An important project for the PUD is working with Jefferson County to develop a public sewer for the Hadlock area. This project is essential to support existing and new commercial businesses and local residents.

Stay Safe During Storm Season

Storms bring challenging conditions that can impact the entire region. Be prepared with these tips!



KEEP A 3-DAY SUPPLY OF WATER ON-HAND

Store 3 gallons per person, per day. Store extra to help others and change water yearly.



KEEP IT COLD! DON'T OPEN THE FRIDGE

Fridges & freezers are insulated and keep cold better if unopened during outages.



BATTERIES & FLASHLIGHTS

Unopened batteries have a 7-year shelf life. Keep headlamps & flashlights on-hand.



POWER LINE DOWN? STAY AWAY!

Treat any downed power line as if it is live. **STAY AT LEAST 50 FEET AWAY!**



FUEL-UP & CHARGE-UP BEFORE A STORM

Fuel-up vehicles and generators & charge EV's beforehand in case travel is needed.



STAY INFORMED VIA MOBILE

Follow the PUD on jeffpud.org, Facebook, Nextdoor for update postings and info.

The Rainy Day Fund helps neighbors in need! Round-up today!

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EMERGENCY RESOURCE GUIDE



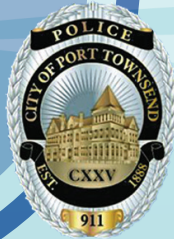
Jefferson County Emergency Mgmt
Phone: (360) 385-9368
Website: bit.ly/jeffcoec



Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, Non-Emergency: (360) 385-3831
Website: www.co.jefferson.wa.us/172/Sheriff

POLICE



Port Townsend Police Department

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, General Line: (360) 385-2322
Website: www.cityofpt.us/police

East Jefferson Fire Rescue

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, Non-Emergency: (360) 385-2626
Website: www.ejfr.org

Quilcene Fire Rescue

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, Non-Emergency: (360) 765-3333
Website: www.quilcenefirerescue.org

Brinnon Fire Department

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, Non-Emergency: (360) 796-4450
Website: www.brinnonfire.org

Discovery Bay Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Phone: DIAL 9-1-1, Non-Emergency: (360) 379-6839
Website: www.dbvfr.org



FIRE EMS



NIXLE TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

Sign up for the free public safety text messaging service NIXLE alerts by texting JEFFCODEM to 888777. Countywide notifications will be sent direct to your mobile device.

Jefferson County Roads Maintenance Division

Phone: Non-Emergency: (360) 385-0890
Roadway Emergency: (360) 344-9779
Website: bit.ly/jeffcosnowandice

Washington State Dept of Transportation

Travel Route Questions: (206) 464-6400
Website: www.wsdot.wa.gov/travel
Social Feeds: Twitter(X): @wsdot / Facebook: WSDOT



ROADS



HOOD CANAL BRIDGE INFO

www.wsdot.com/travel

Search: **Hood Canal Bridge**

or scan with smart phone camera →



Jefferson Transit

Phone: (360) 385-4777
Website: www.jeffersontransit.com
Facebook: Jefferson Transit Authority
Twitter(X): @JTatransit



UTILITIES



Jefferson County PUD

Phone: (360) 385-5800
Website: www.jeffpud.org
Facebook: Jefferson County Pud #1
Nextdoor: Jefferson County Public Utility District

City of Port Townsend

Phone: (360) 385-3000
Website: www.cityofpt.us
Snow Info: bit.ly/cityofptsnowremoval
Facebook: City of Port Townsend, WA Government

JEFFERSON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Port Townsend School District

Website: bit.ly/ptschoolswinterweather
Transportation Dept: (360) 302-5812



Quilcene School District

Website: bit.ly/quilceneschoolswinterweather
Transportation Dept: (360) 765-3363



Chimacum School District

Website: bit.ly/chimacumschoolswinterweather
Transportation Dept: (360) 302-5890



Brinnon School District

Website: bit.ly/brinnonchoolswinterweather
Transportation Dept: (360) 302-5890



**Jefferson County
Public Utility District**



Looking Back & Looking Forward

As I begin my tenth year as a PUD commissioner, I can't help but reflect on how much has changed since I first took the oath of office. Back in 2015, the PUD was meeting in the old Post Office building in Port Hadlock. The rugs were worn out, the walls needed paint, and the restrooms were frequently out of order.

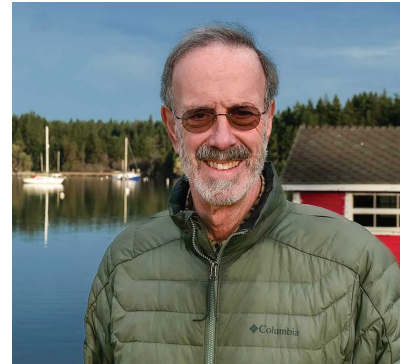
The PUD was seriously understaffed, the electrical infrastructure antiquated, and the financial software deficient to the point that it could not be audited.

Ten years from now, the PUD will have spent more than \$50M building out

fiber optic broadband across the county, primarily with federal and state grants. The PUD will have upgraded the Port Ludlow, Quilcene, Hastings, and Discovery Bay substations, investing more than \$12M on transmission and distribution system upgrades. The PUD will also have made improvements in leak detection and water delivery, as well as likely taken over the operation of the Port Hadlock wastewater system.

But the greatest accomplishment of the PUD has been to create a culture that cares about and inspires its employees.

So much has been achieved and will be achieved going forward.



Ken Collins
Commissioner, District 2



More than 12,000 AMI meters have been installed to date.

Meter Upgrades - 2/3 Complete

During the recent cold snap, AMI meters provided a real-time view of energy usage. Our crews use the data to help decide how to balance supply and demand to keep customer lights on or get them back on faster. Meter upgrades are nearly complete in Gardiner and Discovery Bay, and are 75% complete in parts of PT, Cape George Colony, Hadlock, Irondale, and Port Ludlow. Work remains mid-county from Oak Bay Rd to Hwy 101 in Quilcene. Postcard notifications have been sent to remaining services. Learn more about the PUD's AMI program on jeffpud.org/meterprogram. Meter opt-out information is also available.

Sewer	January 5 2023	January 5 2024
Base Rate:		
Standard ¹	\$ 61.99	\$ 72.39
Beckett Point ²	-	-
Kala Point ¹	\$ 36.79	\$ 42.38

Water	Jan 5 2023	Jan 5 2024
Basic Charge:		
5/8" - Meter	\$ 40.83	\$42.61
1" - Meter	97.74	102.00
1.5" - Meter	191.02	199.36
Rate Per 100 Gallons:		
Tier 1 (0-5,000)	\$ 0.36	\$ 0.38
Tier 2 (5,001-10,000)	0.50	0.52
Tier 3 (10,000-30,000)	0.68	0.70
Tier 4 (> 30,000)	1.25	1.31

Water/Sewer Rate Increases

For water services, 2024 is the final of a 4-year slate of increases approved by the PUD board in 2021. Sewer rates are halfway through the rate increase cycle and are dependent upon location. Service rates, water quality reports, and water studies are all available on jeffpud.org.

FREE! **MARCH 2ND**
3939 San Juan Ave.
Port Townsend
Doors open @ 9am
Proudly sponsored by:

Jefferson County Public Utility District
Chat with the pros about PUD efficiency rebates for your home projects!

2024 AND BEYOND

As we traverse our way through 2024, Jefferson PUD will grow and our budgetary needs entering 2025 will reflect our expansion of services, increased operational and maintenance requirements, and an increase in the number of critical projects needed for the continued success of the utility.

The impacts of Covid-19 over the past three years, coupled with other economic stresses, have hampered our ability to update or replace critical infrastructure and to adequately increase our workforce at a pace needed to supply reliable and vital services. We have reached a juncture in our evolution as a PUD, requiring an assessment of every aspect of PUD business lines. Our mission and goal is to provide reliable, affordable, and needed services as we expand as a utility.

I urge the community to engage and participate with PUD management and the Board of Commissioners in 2024 as we launch a cost of service/rate study, prioritize projects, and provide broadband service throughout our service area.

The challenges we face are many. It is likely that the PUD will participate in new sewer operations and the consolidation and/or acquisition of water systems. We must accelerate the undergrounding of our infrastructure as electric grid upgrades and broadband buildouts progress. Providing the tools, equipment and workspace for current and incoming employees must be a priority if we are to meet the demands of supplying the level of customer service that our customer-owners expect.

The board of commissioners and the PUD management team have been and will continue to communicate with state and federal agencies while coordinating with lawmakers to obtain funding that will provide affordable and reliable services in Jefferson County.

Funding opportunities are extremely competitive, and many come with requirements that are hard to meet. We find ourselves in a time when supply chain shortages still exist, inflation is up and higher interest rates continue to have an impact on the cost of our projects before, during, and after we can secure funding. Our staff put in a lot of time and

effort to obtain financial support for the utility in this challenging environment.

The Commission is always aware and sensitive to the impacts that policy and rate decisions have on low and fixed-income households and small businesses. We will continue to be mindful of the impacts our decisions will have on those customer-owners as we determine our path in 2024.

During 2024, and in the years to come, there are several factors impacting our utility.

How we deal with growth in Jefferson County from a utility perspective is going to prove challenging. The capacity and size of our electric grid needs to be expanded. Determining where growth will occur is critical to plan for necessary projects. How should the cost of new construction be apportioned or funded? Should projects be funded through loans, cash, usage rates, grants or potentially through bonds? What effect will state, and federal carbon reduction or climate policies have on our ability to keep costs of service low? These are a sampling of the challenges and decisions that must be addressed in 2024.

As a preference customer of BPA and the recipient of 96% clean energy, we are currently in power contract

negotiations that will determine our energy costs and the size of our power allocation to meet our load demands for the next two decades. This is a vital component in determining where we need to focus our projects and dollars for the electric division. As the economy in general and the transportation sector become more electricity centric, what effect will those shifts have on our expenditures, our load demands, and our grid reliability? Yet another challenge that we must account for when planning or financing for the long term.

Commissioners and the General Manager must set goals and prioritize pathways forward for the PUD. We must weigh how to utilize revenues, cash reserves and multiple funding sources to keep rate impacts acceptable for all classes of customers against the risk of potential negative outcomes around service affordability and systems reliability. It is imperative that our customer owners engage in the process by providing input and feedback on the decisions made this year that will affect us for decades.



Dan Toepper

Commissioner, Dist 3
Board Vice President

Check out the new & improved SmartHub for desktop! Same convenient tools and even more functionality!

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BALANCING ACT

Rate Study Underway

Electrical rate study to be conducted by the FCS Group.

Rate studies analyze the operating costs and capital costs for the utility.

Rates are recommended based upon electrical demand and usage, inflation, infrastructure upkeep and replacement needs, debt, and reserves.

Rate and fee recommendations are presented to the board for review and approval in the fall of 2024.

Utility Pole Attachment Fee Raised

PUD commissioners voted to raise pole attachment fees from \$22.45/yr to \$28 (2024), then \$32 in 2025.

Attachment fees, paid by telecom providers, help cover the costs for pole upkeep and replacement.

The PUD maintains approx 10,500 utility poles countywide and rents space on poles to telecom providers. Currently, there are more than 11,900 private attachments, which generated approx \$286,000 in revenue in 2022.

Power load balance is essential to the health of a grid. "Power Load" is the amount of electricity demand by customers at any given time. Demand fluctuates constantly, requiring a delicate balance between equipment in the field and software used to ensure energy is distributed properly, even during peak times.

Peak demand highlights areas where usage pushes equipment up to or beyond working capacity, guiding PUD staff to regions in need of additional infrastructure. Often, these areas go unseen until Mother Nature comes calling as we experienced in Port Townsend during near-record cold. High demand caused the single-phase line feeding Cook Ave. to overload, knocking out power multiple times.

To address this demand, PUD electrical engineers turn to upgrading infrastructure by extending three-phase power.

Three-phase power balances the energy load for an area from a single line to 3 lines. Each line has its own phase making for a smoother flow of power. Line crews segment areas by estimated load, placing homes onto each phase as evenly as possible. Balancing of the power load goes all the way back to the substation level to feeders that manage the power for the region.

Three-phase power is more efficient, as each line provides distribution voltage (typically 7,200V), but with reduced amps. Excessive amps caused by high demand can cause wire to heat up and result in power outages.

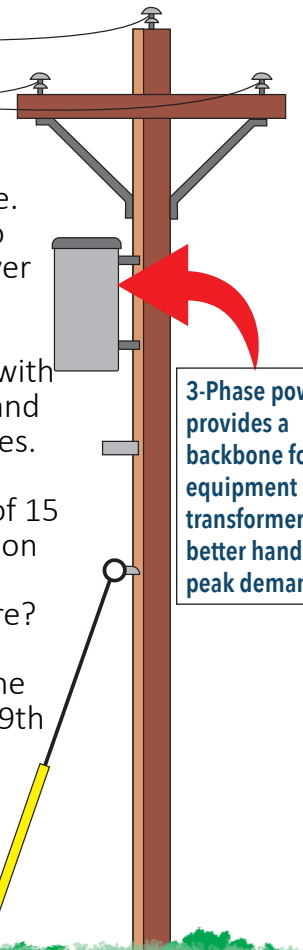
Extension of 3-phase power is underway from the Fairgrounds in PT down 49th St., with replacement of 15 poles during the first section of work. A second section extending to Cook Ave. is planned for summer.

The big question: Why not have 3-phase everywhere? Not every location needs 3-phase power. For most regions, power usage and equipment are sized for the peak load. Three-phase is also expensive, with the 49th St. and Cook Ave. line extension expected to cost an estimated \$100k.

The PUD continually works to identify areas where power load issues exist and work to extend capacity and balance load for better service reliability.



Line crew replace a 3-phase distribution pole in Port Townsend.



3-Phase power provides a backbone for equipment like transformers to better handle peak demand.

Long Term Planning - Designing for the Future

The \$100M question: How does a utility address aging infrastructure and meet the needs for the future?

PUD commissioners and staff are constantly looking ahead to responsibly meet demand with the creation of a 4- and 10-year work plan.

Over the next decade the PUD must invest millions into ground-up construction efforts at its substations, replacing equipment dating back to the 1960's and expanding capacity for growth.

The costs and lead times for essential short term and long-term infrastructure projects are at an all-time high.

Budgeted short term projects for 2024 include the 3-phase line extension for

49th Street and regulator replacement for both the Dana Roberts and Hastings substations.

Long-term projects include the rebuild and expansion of nearly all substations owned by the PUD, plus construction of new distribution lines.



Infrastructure takes centerstage as our substations are upgraded to meet demand.

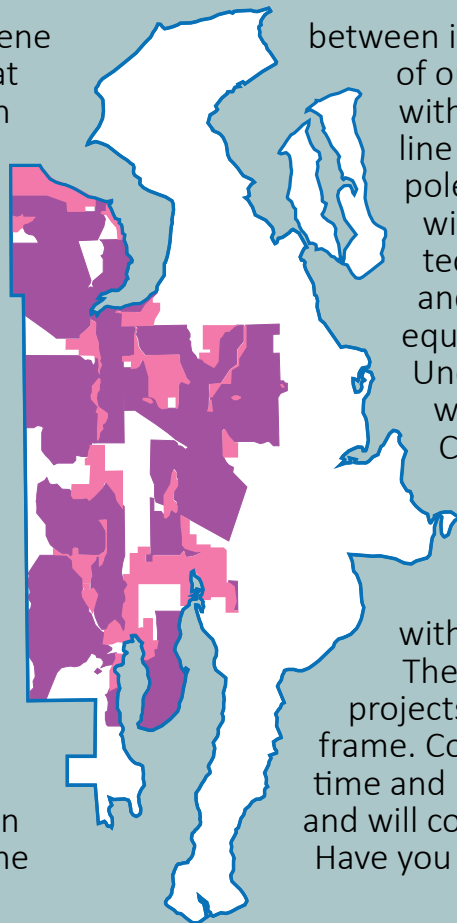
These essential projects come with a high cost which will begin to show on the PUD's 2025 and 2026 budget and will be reflected in the current rate study. PUD staff is committed to finding financial solutions that minimize the impact on customers while ensuring the long-term sustainability and reliability of our grid.

Making the Connection: Fiber Update

Fiber connections in east Quilcene are underway. Our fiber "hut" at the Quilcene electric substation is now live and receives data at the speed of light from our 310 Four Corners network hub. The signal is sent out to homes via fiber distribution lines installed by PUD line crews throughout the region. A second, smaller fiber hut will be placed at the Discovery Bay substation in April.

Fiber to the Home Process

No-charge fiber construction to the home for eligible customers requires completion of a service application. PUD staff will contact registered homes within current work zones to determine construction timelines and provide service application details. Customers can choose



OLYMPIC FIBER CORRIDOR

INBETWEENS FIBER AREAS

between internet service from the PUD, or one of our qualified providers. For customers with overhead communication lines, PUD line crews will bring the fiber from the pole to the exterior of the home. Staff will then set up a time for a network technician to bring fiber into the home and install the equipment. In-home equipment is provided with PUD service. Underground fiber to the home will be completed by North Sky Communications, LLC. North Sky was awarded the winning bid (\$10.9M) for the Olympic Fiber and Inbetweens grant area construction. PUD staff will reach out with a service application prior to work. The Olympic Fiber and Inbetweens projects will be built during the same time frame. Combining efforts allows us to save both time and money. Construction begins in March and will continue throughout the year. Have you registered for fiber? Visit jeffpud.org/broadband to learn more about grant funded fiber and see if your home qualifies!

Has your contact information changed?

Please update your contact info in-person or online via SmartHub!

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Powerlines, Trees, and other Burning Questions

Trees are our number one cause of outages. Vegetation that grows too close to lines can cause outages, start fires, or create hazardous conditions. The PUD and trimming crews work hard to maintain a safe and reliable electrical grid.

What happens when a branch falls on power lines?

When a wind-blown branch lands on power lines and becomes energized it creates a path for thousands of volts to travel through. Both the branch and line begin to burn and melt. Pieces of branch can fall to the ground or, as many witness, can arc brilliantly in a flash, sending sparks in all directions.

The melted power line falls to the ground, draping across any object below (typically underbrush) often with the appearance of being de-energized. Current can easily flow directly into any object it touches. Vegetation can provide a path to ground with areas on the energized plant smoldering or smoking. This tree-line contact results in a localized outage, but also presents a major fire hazard.

Net Meter Bank Resets in Early-April

Net meters are bi-directional meters allowing customers to both use power from the grid and send power back to the grid. There are currently 624 net meters in Jefferson County. Net meters measure how much power comes in and how much goes out. When the PUD reads the meter, the customer is charged the difference between the two readings. If the customer generates more than they use they will receive a credit. Credits are "banked" and applied to future bills. Banked credits expire and reset yearly in April.

Why does the PUD cut back trees so severely?

Trimming branches and removing trees within the protective zone (shown on back page) is essential for service reliability. The tree species can determine trimming requirements. At minimum the zone is 10' either side of lines and 15' above lines. Trimming and removal extends to ground level to reduce fire potential and for line crew access to poles.

How does the weather affect our utility?

According to NOAA, 2023 was the hottest year on record since 1850. Warmer average temps combined with below-average snowpack (51% of average) and springtime rain means explosive early season vegetation growth followed by dry conditions.

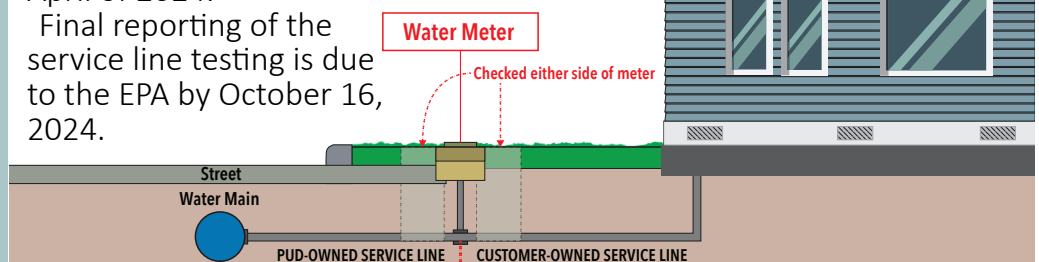
Extremely dry conditions greatly increase wildfire risk. With nearly 400 miles of overhead power lines throughout the county, the PUD must aggressively trim and remove hazard trees to ensure the utility right of ways remain clear.

Lead Service Line Study Underway

In an effort to significantly lower the risk of exposure to lead and copper in our nation's drinking water, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring all water utilities to perform a Lead Service Line Inventory and provide the results.

JPUD has never used lead in our service lines from the main to the meter, however, homes built before 1986 could potentially have lead in the customer-owned section of line between the water meter and the home. The PUD will oversee randomized spot checks of service lines beginning in April of 2024.

Final reporting of the service line testing is due to the EPA by October 16, 2024.



Does the PUD have a trimming cycle?

Yes. We work on a 7-year cycle with the goal of trimming approx 50 miles of right of way each year. This cycle helps minimize line contacts before crews return.

Why cut trees that are not touching lines?

Branches present a hazard even when not touching a line. During windy weather, branches can contact lines, create arcing that may lead to a fire. Branches within and outside the protected zone can break and land on lines. This creates an outage and potentially melts through lines due to overcurrent.

Do crews remove trees as well?

Yes. We hire certified contractors trained to naturally prune or remove trees. When pruning will not work, or if a tree is directly beneath lines and more than 4.5' tall or deemed a 'hazard tree', the tree will be removed. Hazard trees can extend well beyond the PUD right of way. PUD staff work to identify standing dead trees within utility easements and beyond. We also work with property owners on hazard tree removal. Nearly 300 hazard trees are planned for removal in 2024.



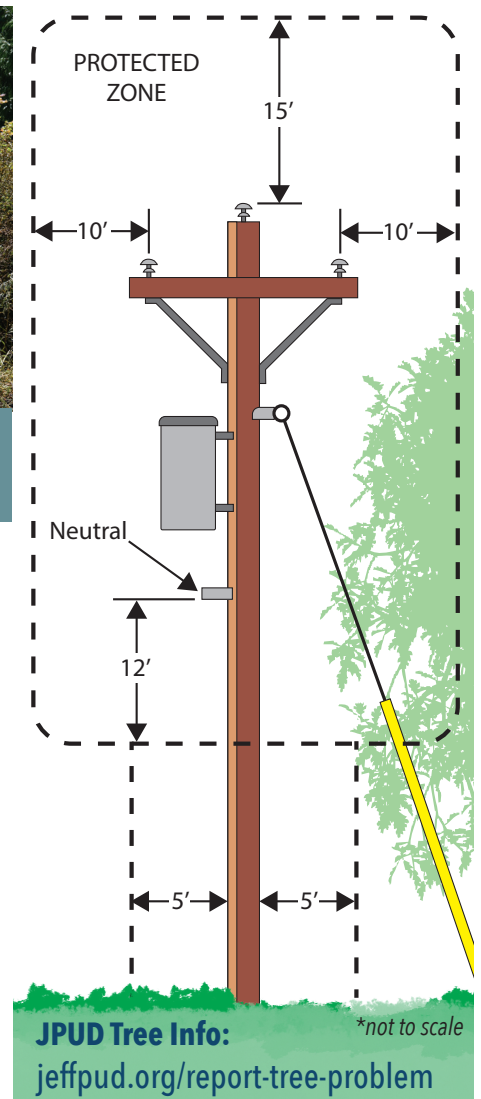
Line crew run new wire after a hazard tree beyond the utility right-of-way severed a line, igniting a brush fire.

Does the PUD have a fire plan?

The PUD is building its Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) to work in-step with its tree trimming policy. Official plans will be submitted to the state by Oct. 31, 2024.

What happens with trimmed trees?

Planned trimmings will be chipped and removed. Trees larger than 8" in diameter will be cut into manageable pieces and will remain on site for local use. When trees cause an outage and are removed from lines, debris will be left for disposal by the property owner.



ACP Begins Program Winddown

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provided discounts for internet service to income-qualified homes. If you receive benefits from the ACP, please be aware that the funds are ending soon. The final fully funded month is April 2024.

Learn more on the Federal Communications Commission's ACP website: fcc.gov/acp

Feasibility Study Funding Awarded

The PUD has been awarded \$172,000 toward a feasibility study to explore in-line hydro power generation. The concept looks at adding three 1-megawatt turbines to water pipelines supplying PT. Generated power would supply a proposed battery backup system for use critical infrastructure such as hospitals and county EOC.



PLANNING A HOME UPGRADE? Rebates are available!

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides rebate incentives to encourage energy savings for homes and businesses. Reduced demand through energy saving helps offset the need for constructing costly new generation facilities. JPUD receives funding from BPA every two years to help customers afford energy saving improvements. Visit our rebates page under the Sustainability tab on jeffpud.org to learn more and see if you qualify today!

Catch all the latest with PUD Board Meetings in-person or online. Event calendar on jeffpud.org

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PUD Warehouse Storekeeper, Jesse Bland with a shipment of transformers.



GO PAPERLESS

Use jeffpud.org to pay bills, start service, apply for rebates & check outages on your phone or computer.



Call before you dig



It's free! Call 811 to locate any potential underground power, water, phone or propane lines within 2 business days.

PUD Fiber Registration is Open!

For more info visit jeffpud.org/broadband to check for service in your area!

The Homegrown Team Powering our County

After a decade of electric service and growth the PUD continues to find talented employees from around the country and right here in our own backyard.

Expansion of services, from water to electric to broadband have led to multiple new opportunities and new positions over the last two years.

To meet the service offering growth requires expansion of fleet, facility, and warehouse resources. PUD Warehouse Storekeeper and Chimacum grad, Jesse Bland, helps ensure the utility has what it needs in-house for outages and utility projects. For Bland, joining the PUD has been a reunion of sorts. Born and raised on Marrowstone, Bland grew up alongside many of his PUD coworkers. "Having that background I think makes us all work really well professionally."

A new wave of utility growth is underway, centered around expansion of broadband service. The broadband team added 2 new jobs in December, with 2007 Chimacum grad Kyle Ammerman joining as Broadband IT Support Technician, and PT resident, Jackson Delagarza as Lead Network Technician. Countywide broadband service means new opportunities and new tech-based jobs.

The PUD also added a third line crew in 2023, reducing the need to outsource line work to contract crews during storm season. Keeping work in-house provides flexibility for line crews to build the PUD's pole-mounted fiber network, while also rapidly addressing service reliability projects like expansion of 3-phase power on 49th St. in PT. The expansion of the line crew meant four new positions, including line helper, Savanna Hoffmann.

Hoffmann, a 2022 graduate of PT high school, and recent line school grad joined the team in March of 2024. "I remember seeing the PUD at a local hiring event through the school," said Hoffmann.

Throughout the year PUD staff work with students and the community at events to help customers better understand how their utility works and to explore new positions. Student-centered tours and events focus on paid internship opportunities and professional jobs, post-graduation.



Savanna Hoffmann joined the PUD in the line helper position.

Your Career Path Starts Here!

Great Positions Available

Apply online: jeffpud.org/employment

Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Internship Applications Now Open

Jefferson PUD offers paid summer internships for students looking to explore professional jobs in the utility field. Applications are open until filled.

- **Must be a Jefferson County resident & be enrolled in a college program at the time of application.**
- **Work in engineering, finance, broadband, communications, water systems, and more!**
- **Participate in Energy Northwests Public Power Internship program for more learning and networking opportunities.**
- **Full-time June-September, \$20/hr.**
- **Apply today: jeffpud.org/employment**



Halie Jones
2023 Intern

Glen Dawson
2022 Intern

Leona Lee
2023 Intern

Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Another Clean Audit for JPU D

WA State Auditors determined the PUD complies with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies in all areas examined. Auditors reviewed records between Jan 1- Dec 31, 2022, using a risk-based approach centered on the procurement process, accounts receivable, accounts payable, open public meetings for compliance, and financial conditions.

Auditor staff reviewed PUD procurement policies and provided recommendations for updating internal processes. Auditor reports determined the PUD provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

“The audit process is a great learning opportunity for the utility,” said PUD Finance Director Mike Bailey. “It helps us improve our processes and lets us share information with the Board and the public.”

All PUD financial and audit documents and meeting materials are available on our website under the records/data tab.

Accountability audits focus on adherence to laws and policies. Financial audits look at financial statements and schedules.

Statewide Drought Declared

The WA State Dept of Ecology has declared a statewide drought emergency due to the low snowpack and a dry forecast for spring/summer of 2024. **As of mid-April, statewide snowpack sits at 68%.** In our backyard, the Olympic Mountains received lower still, with snowpack ~50% of normal.

Fortunately for the PUD, all of our water systems rely on lowland precipitation recharging groundwater, not on annual mountain snowpack. Precipitation in the form of rainfall and lowland snow percolates down into aquifers where it moves through and discharges to streams and then tidewater. In between, that water can be pumped and used by us. **Groundwater systems are naturally more resistant to short-term droughts than those dependent on surface water (snowpack).**

That said, the PUD takes drought declarations seriously. Our aquifers may be on a different cycle than systems supplied by snow melt (like the City of Port Townsend, and even the City of Seattle), but they are still impacted by drier conditions.

Remember, every drop counts! Check out our water conservation tips on jeffpud.org/water-wisely.



Jefferson Transit Survey

Our friends at Jefferson Transit want you to take a survey to help develop a Climate Action Plan that provides a roadmap toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting clean and efficient transit options, and enhancing our community's resilience to climate change impacts.

Paper copy of survey available at the following locations:

- Haines Place Transit Center (440 12th St, Port Townsend)
- Four Corners Park and Ride (63 Four Corners Rd, Port Townsend)

For updates and more info visit: jeffersontransit.com/climate-action-plan

Scan with your smart phone to take the survey



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A look at the PUDs Otto Street campus with 191 Otto in the foreground and 193 Otto in the background.

PUD Expands, Purchases Former AP&T Building

June 2024 Newsletter

The PUD Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the Alaska Power & Telecom (AP&T) building at 193 Otto Street during a special meeting on May 13, 2024. The 6,812-square-foot building features 21 office spaces, two network rooms, and a dedicated conference space.

The PUD entered a purchase agreement for the appraised amount of \$1.16M, with an additional \$125k allocated for onsite office equipment. The property was purchased using PUD reserve funds. The building served as AP&T's corporate headquarters from 2002 until its headquarter relocation to Ketchikan, Alaska this year.

"Adding the AP&T building and making an Otto Street campus for the PUD was an easy choice," said PUD General Manager Kevin Streett. "It's a great opportunity to add some much-needed staff space." The new building shares

space with 191 Otto, which was purchased by the PUD in 2022. Streett expects staff to begin occupying the space in June.

PUD staff had explored expansion options for the PUD's 310 headquarters facility, which currently has 24 office spaces. An estimated \$4M remodel would be needed to gain less than 40 office spaces total. The purchase of 191 and 193 Otto Street added nearly the same number of office spaces for half the cost.

The PUD currently employs 76 staff members between its water, electric, and broadband divisions. The number of employees is expected to reach 100 before 2030.

The PUD recently added a safety manager, a service technician position for residential and commercial line connections, and a customer service manager.

The PUDs broadband division

continues to grow, adding staff to build and maintain fiber services countywide.

"We're scaling quickly to keep up with our services while ensuring we have adequate workspaces for our team members," said Melanie Des Marais, PUD Human Resources Director. "We aim to be an employer of choice in our community and provide local career opportunities."

Local staff saves the utility money by reducing reliance on contract crews, while improving service reliability and response time.



The new office provides up to 21 offices, plus meeting space.

Pre-Scheduled Electric Rate Increase Begins July 5

The fourth of four rate increases approved by the PUD Board of Commissioners in 2021 goes into effect on July 5th. Rate increases were instituted gradually to reduce short term impacts on ratepayers while helping to cover the cost of providing service and fund maintenance and replacement of the PUD's aging grid.

Effective Date:	July 5, 2021	July 5, 2022	July 5, 2023	July 5, 2024
Basic Charge:				
Single Phase	\$ 21.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 26.00	\$28.50
Three Phase	30.65	34.30	37.95	41.59
Low Income Credit:	(44.84)	(50.18)	(55.51)	(60.85)
Energy Charge per kWh:				
Tier 1 (0 - 600)	\$ 0.0882	\$ 0.0908	\$ 0.0936	\$ 0.0966
Tier 2 (601 - 1,600)	0.1070	0.1102	0.1136	0.1172
Tier 3 (Greater than 1,600)	0.1218	0.1254	0.1293	0.1334

PUD Commission Explores Capacity Charge

The PUD purchased an aging grid, and portions of the grid are at capacity for current customers. New development on those systems risks decreased service reliability for existing customers. The proposed capacity charge would recover costs from new customers, both residential and commercial, with funds going directly toward expanding the existing grid for all customers.

Electric service fees for new construction are dependent upon the service size needed. The 100% max proposed fee for electrical is \$112/kVA, meaning the capital fee for a 200A (48kVA) residential service, would be \$5,376. The PUD commission is exploring a reduced percentage under the 100% max and even further reductions for affordable housing projects.

The current Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) water service charge starts at \$2,000 and is dependent upon service location. The updated 100% max charge for water would be \$4,065 per connection.

Capacity service charge aid general facilities upstream of the customer which are not recovered from existing fees. Revenue from capacity charges will only be used for capital or debt service. The proposal is seeking Board approval for implementation in 2024.

\$200 Energy Credit available to Income-Qualified Households

Nearly 4,000 Jefferson County residents may qualify for funding provided by the Washington Families Clean Energy Credit grant program. Does your home qualify?

Starting in June, Jefferson PUD begins distribution of approx \$750k in funding to assist Jefferson County households with power bills.

The WA State Dept of Commerce announced the grant program aimed at supporting low-income utility customers across the state in May of 2024.

PUD low-income program participants automatically qualify to receive the credit on billing. Customers not enrolled in an income-qualified program should apply. Households must have a gross income at or below 80% of the Jefferson County median income of \$88,300. The 80% threshold is a sliding scale dependent upon the number of residents at the

The Clean Energy Credit program dedicates \$150 million to utilities statewide to aid households with clean energy transitions.

Addressing Capital Questions

PUD staff have visited our nation's capital twice in 2024, representing customer-owners and our public utility counterparts as part of the WPUA and NRECA legislative efforts to bolster infrastructure projects.

PUD representatives met with staffers for Senator Maria Cantwell, Senator Patty Murray, and House Representative Derek Kilmer to discuss both federal and state funding availability.

During the more recent visit, the PUD met with staff for the Undersecretary of the US Navy regarding a project proposal benefiting Indian Island Naval Mag and our local infrastructure. The PUD also met with representatives from RUS (part of the USDA who provided financial backing to purchase our local grid from PSE), and the National Telecom and Information Administration (NTIA) regarding updates on federal funds for the PUD's broadband buildout.



PUD Commissioner Dan Toepper, Finance Director Mike Bailey, and GM Kevin Streett outside the capital building.

service address. Income verification is required prior to the \$200 credit being applied to billing. For more information and to complete an e-verification form visit the PUD's website: jeffpud.org/energy-credits.

The \$200 credit will appear as "Clean Energy Credit" in the electric charges detail section of customer's utility statement. In many cases this will create a credit balance on the customer's electric account.

"Energy costs can have a big impact on low-income households, which is why we've supported our neighbors with assistance programs for more than a decade," said Jean Pepper, JPUD Services Director. "This funding from the Dept of Commerce allows us to help even more and reduces the energy burden where it's needed most."

Application for credits is open now until Sept. 15th.

Beat the summer heat! Learn more about saving energy & check out available rebates on: jeffpud.org/save-energy

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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

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

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**Jefferson County
Public Utility District**

August 2024 Newsletter

The Heart of an Electric Utility

(shown) Line Apprentice Tyler Gale, works atop a PUD transformer.

Transformers are the heart of an electric utility. Whether it's a substation transformer or a pole mounted transformer at the end of a county road, each works hard 24/7/365 to power your home.

Despite differences in scale, utility transformers share several fundamental similarities in their design and function.

Transformers take incoming large voltage and step it up or down depending on need. PUD substation transformers take transmission line voltage (115,000 volts) and reduce it to levels that are safer and more efficient for distribution. Distribution voltage running along utility poles county wide is either 7,200 (single-phase power) or 12,470 volts (three-phase).

7,898
Number of Transformers
Countywide

At the household level voltage is reduced even further. Transformers are either pole mounted or pad-mount.

Internally, transformers consist of windings. The copper is wrapped around a laminated high-grade iron core. On one side is a "primary winding" connected to incoming high voltage. A secondary winding connects to the lower-voltage output. This is where the science happens with

electromagnetic induction.

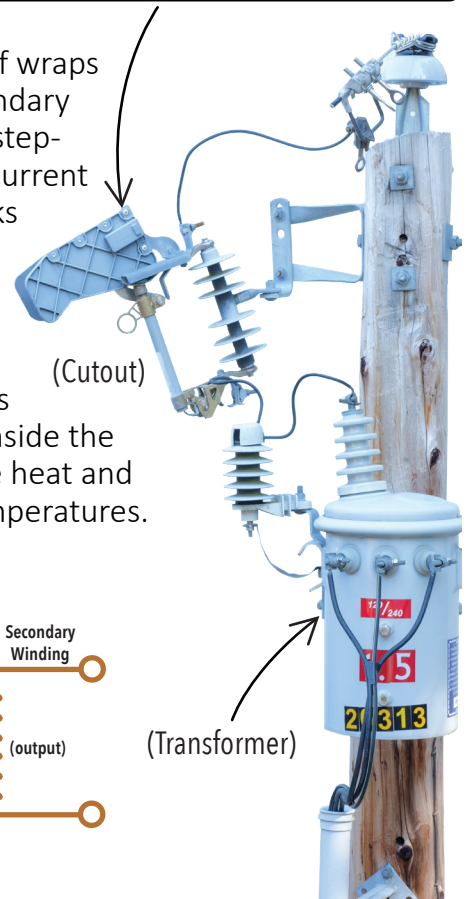
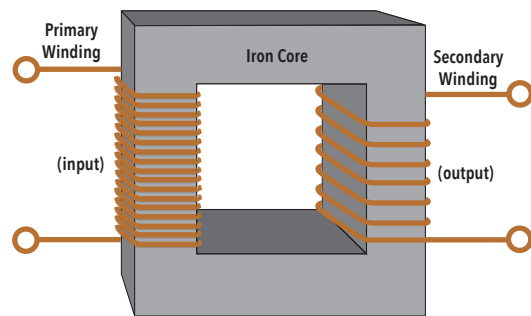
The tightly coiled copper windings create a magnetic field that is corralled by the iron core. The number of copper coil wraps are the key to taking high voltage and reducing it (or visa versa).

The difference in the number of wraps between the primary and secondary winding are what allow you to step-down (or up) voltage, and the current moves between windings thanks to the magnetic field induction (a very efficient transfer of energy).

Transformers are insulated to withstand the electrical stresses and outside environment. Oil inside the transformer is used to dissipate heat and maintain optimal operating temperatures.

A blue or green flash from a pole is often mistaken for a transformer fault. In most cases it is a "cutout" device opening. This device protects a nearby transformer much like a home circuit breaker.

Inside a Transformer



Event Schedule

All County Picnic
Sunday, Aug. 18th, 11am-3pm
HJ Carroll Park

Port Ludlow Opportunity Fair
Tues., Aug. 27th, 4-6pm
Port Ludlow Bay Club

Quilcene Fair & Parade
Sat., Sept. 21st, 10am - 3pm
Quilcene school

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

SCAM ALERT!!!

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be Jefferson PUD (or PSE) and threatening to shut off power if not immediately paid over the phone, **HANG UP!** It's almost certainly a scam.

Remember:
By calling PUD customer service YOU are in control of the conversation.



The PUD will never:

Demand immediate payment over the phone, via text, email, or home visit.

Request credit card, banking, or financial info over the phone, via text, email, or home visit.

Request payment on a prepaid card.

Shut off service without providing written notice at least 7 days in advance.

How to stay safe:

Call us directly to discuss options if you are behind on your bill.

Download the SmartHub App to check your real-time balance and usage anytime on mobile or desktop.

NEVER give utility account or payment info over the phone unless you call our customer service line directly at (360) 385-5800.

CALL US. Please call our customer service line to report any potential spam calls.

FIBER UPDATE: Installs Underway! Register Today!

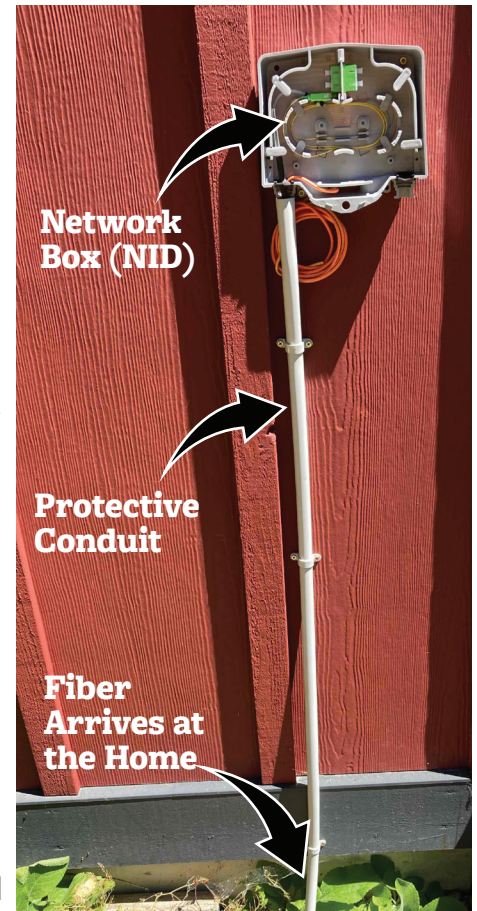
We are running out of no-charge fiber installations in our Quilcene-to-Gardiner grant funded buildout area known as the Olympic Fiber Corridor (OFC) so be sure to register soon! We have already reached registration thresholds for our Jefferson North, Discovery Bay East, and Inbetweens grant areas.

Once the threshold is reached, a \$750 construction cost-share applies for any new registrations. The cost-share can be covered as a one-time payment or in monthly installments over 36 months with a \$100 deposit.

The PUD's fiber buildout represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for dedicated fiber to the home. After our grant buildout is complete the cost of fiber construction to the home could range from \$3,000-\$10,000.

Our Southeast Jefferson grant area (blue area on mapping) is also filling up fast!

Registering takes only minutes. Log on to jeffpud.org/broadband today.



A splicing contract crew will place a network box on the outside of the home.

In-home connection by PUD fiber techs will occur in fall and winter of 2024 for Inbetweens and OFC fiber subscribers.

\$200 Energy Credits Now Available!

JPUD has partnered with the WA State Dept of Commerce to help distribute a one-time \$200 energy bill credit for eligible households while funds are available. The PUD received \$750,000 in funds, supported by the WA Climate Commitment Act, to help low-to moderate-income families. Registration takes about 30 seconds. Visit wacleanenergycredits.com to learn more. **Registration closes Sept. 15th!**

PUD regular Board meetings are held at 4pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are both in-person and online. For all meetings, plus upcoming events, visit the event calendar on our homepage.

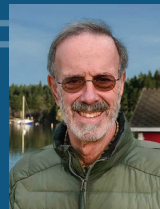


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WATER-to-WATTS: How Our Power is Made

This month's newsletter brought to you by our summer interns

More than 85% of electricity in Jefferson County comes from hydroelectric sources. Our power is generated by utilities, federal agencies and providers such as Energy Northwest (nuclear energy) across the northwest with the power travelling via Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission lines and substations. The vast majority of our power stems from the series of 11 dams along the Columbia River, one of which is the Rocky Reach Dam in East Wenatchee.

Front Row Seats to Power Generation

Each year, Jefferson PUD partners with Energy Northwest's Public Power Internship program to provide college students with an inside look at utility operations. The PUD's summer interns, Max Allworth-Miles (broadband department) and Isaac Gurney (engineering department), along with fellow utility interns from across the state, received an in-depth tour of Chelan PUD's Rocky Reach Dam.

Rocky Reach, which began commercial power generation in late-1961, has undergone notable changes over the decades to keep pace with demand. In 1964 the Columbia River Treaty was ratified to reduce the risk of flooding to cities, to aid regional growth, and to increase hydroelectric power production. To meet this urban growth Chelan PUD added four new generators to Rocky Reach, bringing

its generator count to eleven. Recently, turbines at the dam have seen upgrades that lead to more efficient generation.

Producing your Power

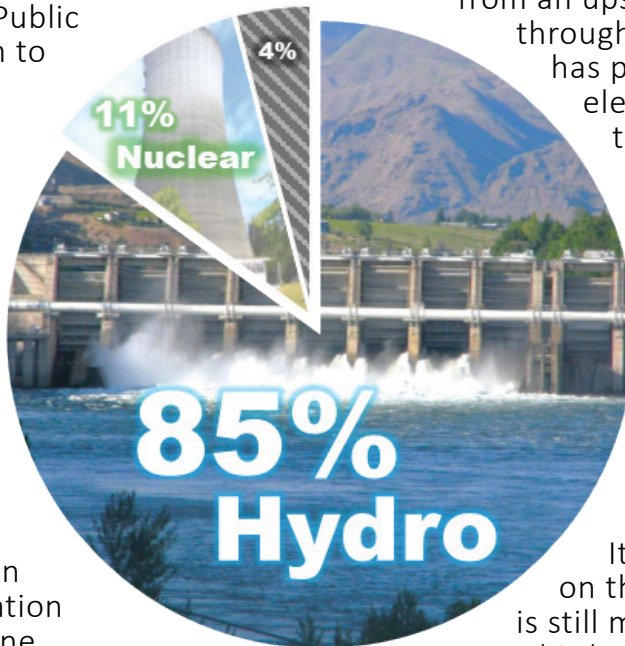
Hydroelectricity is generated by spilling water from an upstream reservoir on the river, through a dam. The water in this reservoir has potential energy because of its elevation relative to the water beyond the dam. When water is released, it flows through the dam, spinning a series of giant turbines, like those of a boat propeller. Each turbine is connected to a generator, so as they spin, so do the rotors of the generators, creating electricity. Once the electricity is generated, it travels from the dam via transmission lines to waiting substations and then to your homes.

It may be one of the smaller dams on the Columbia River, but Rocky Reach is still massive. The dam is nearly one-third of a mile in length and 125 feet high. Fun fact: Just one of its eleven 1,349 megawatt generators can make more than enough power to supply all of Jefferson County with electricity year-round. It's an incredible feat to construct, especially in the 1950s. The total cost of Rocky Reach in 1956 was \$273.1M dollars (\$3.1B in today's cost).

Continued on next page



A view inside the Rocky Reach dam powerhouse.



* BPA has an unspecified 4%

15,000 miles

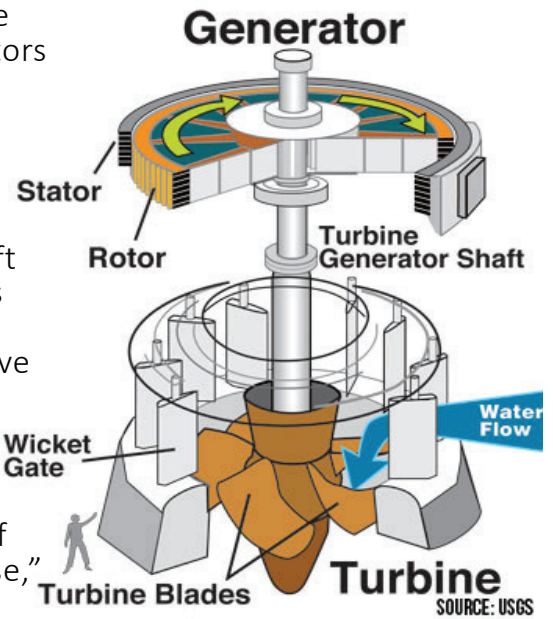
Total length of BPA transmission lines across its service territory.



The PUD team experienced the enormous Rocky Reach generators up close. To maintain a long lifespan, generators undergo regular maintenance. Inside, interns were just feet away from a section of the rapidly spinning turbine generator shaft connecting water-driven blades with the rotor.

A dam powerhouse is a cohesive mix of old and new technology where engineers continually upgrade aging infrastructure for future demand.

“It’s shocking to see the size of some of this equipment up close,” said Gurney. “The scale they’re working at is super impressive.”



A Rocky Reach engineer explains the top of the turbine assembly, known as the Kaplan Head. The Kaplan Head adjusts the pitch of the turbine blades rotating 50 feet below.

Meet Our Summer Interns

Jefferson PUD is proud to provide paid internships for college students to explore the utility field. Interested in careers in the utility field? Visit jeffpud.org/employment for current positions and check back for intern opportunities!



Isaac Gurney
Engineering Dept.

Isaac is a 2023 PT High School grad attending University of Washington on a Data Science track. Isaac worked with the PUD engineering team on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to create a graphics-based project app for water and electricity system mapping. When he’s not working alongside PUD engineers in the office and field, Isaac enjoys playing soccer, mountain biking, weight training, and thrifting. His work has helped organize and better manage PUD data for easier access by engineering staff.



Max Allworth-Miles
Broadband Dept.

Max Allworth-Miles graduated from PT High School in 2022 and is majoring in Computer Science at Cal Poly. During his internship, Max helped create new customer interfaces for the Broadband department. The software helps improve the broadband customer experience and makes organizing workloads easier for staff. Max is an avid rock climber, making the most of his summer home by scaling the sheer climbing walls along the Elwha River, or traversing ridges while backpacking the Olympics.



JPUD partners with Energy Northwest to provide students with an immersive internship opportunity.

Events Calendar

2025 PUD Budget Hearing

PUD staff and commissioners continue budget discussions as a primer for the upcoming 2025 budget hearing planned for October 7th at 5pm and can be attended in-person or online.

Fiber Kick-off Event: Sept 21st

Join PUD staff, plus local and regional supporters of PUD broadband at the Quilcene Fair & Parade as we celebrate connecting rural customers to our high-speed fiber broadband network!

WIPES: Know before you flush!

Baby wipes do not break down like toilet paper, no matter what the packaging implies. Wipes can clump together, creating blockages in your pipes or larger systemwide backups. These clumps are referred to as “fatbergs” in the sewer industry due to buildup of household waste on the non-biodegrading wipes. Blockages can lead to expensive repairs for the utility and homeowners! **Please dispose of wipes in the trash can!**

Fall is coming!
Insulation rebates are available from the PUD!, more info: jeffpud.org/rebates

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October 2024 Newsletter

Line crew work on the removal & replacement of 3 regulators at the Dana Roberts Substation in PT. Several large scale electric projects like this are planned for PUD substations in 2025.

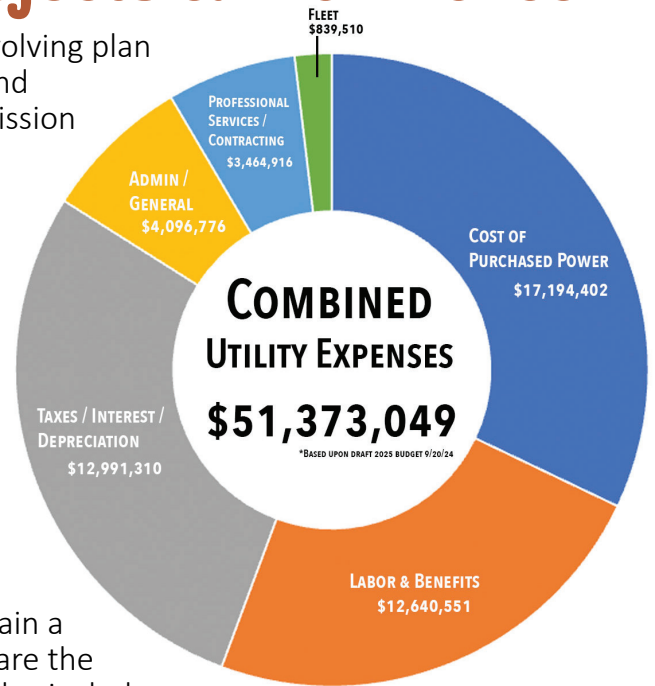
2025: Balancing Growth, Projects & Workforce

As is the case every year, the PUD’s draft annual budget is an evolving plan that undergoes many iterations. Finance Director Mike Bailey and General Manager Kevin Street first began presenting the commission components of the budget at meetings in late-July. The draft budget was reviewed in-full by the commission in August prior to its mandated posting to the PUD’s website in early-Sept. Updates and reviews were presented at additional September commission meetings prior to the PUD’s annual budget hearing Oct. 7th, where the public is invited to give testimony. The final budget must be approved by the commission on or before November 30th.

Purchased power makes up 34% of the total 2025 budgeted expenses. The 2025 electric work plan includes several large-scale, long-term projects including a new substation off Mill Rd in PT, and expansion of the Quilcene and Port Ludlow substations. The PUD has also budgeted for 18 new or vacant positions utility wide in 2025. Vegetation management will remain a top priority with \$1M in funding allocated. Trees and branches are the number one cause of outages in our county. The 2025 budget also includes more spending and emphasis on safety internally and externally. As in prior years, there is no proposed increase to the PUD’s annual property tax assessment.

2025 will see an infusion of \$11.3M in grant funds for rural broadband construction. The PUD team and contractors have turned the corner on the two largest buildout areas which are planned for completion in early-2025. Up next, the Jefferson North and Discovery Bay East grant projects which begin in early-2025.

PUD staff are part of an ongoing rate study by the FCS Group who are reviewing all aspects of the utility to determine potential rate adjustments in 2025. The FCS formal rate study will be presented to the board in late-2024. The only rate increases in the 2025 are for septic and sewer service which were set through 2026.



Capital Projects Category	Expenses
Electric Work Plan	\$12,725,000
Water Work Plan	\$3,647,551
Broadband Work Plan	\$15,172,062
Fleet	\$240,000
Facilities & Warehouse	\$142,500
Other (Info tech, Tools, etc.)	\$285,000
Total	\$32,212,113

Learn more: jeffpud.org/finances

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

\$646K in Energy Credits Distributed

As of Sept 15th, 3,232 Jefferson County households received a \$200 clean energy credit on their monthly electric bills.

A total of \$646,400 was distributed by the PUD in just over two months. Funding for the program came from the WA State Climate Commitment Act. The goal of the program was to help income-qualified families offset the cost of their energy bills, reducing the energy burden. Households enrolled with JPUD's payment assistance programs were auto enrolled to receive energy credits.

Information about the energy credit program was provided by the State of Washington and should not be interpreted as utility support or opposition to any measure relating to the Climate Commitment Act.



Metering Project Nears Completion

Contract crews from Wenatchee-based National Metering and Technical Services are finalizing the PUD's county-wide advanced metering replacement efforts.

To date, PUD crews have replaced more than 16,000 electric meters countywide, with 4,800 additional meters planned for changeout before the end of the year. The PUD's substation metering team began the project in the fall of 2022. Openings in other departments have led to a reduction in the meter team size this past summer, as well as metering staff being used for utility locate services and outage-related flagging operations countywide.

ARE YOU SIGNED UP FOR SMARTHUB?

As a PUD customer-owner, you are preregistered for SmartHub. Are you taking advantage of all its benefits?

Your SmartHub portal allows you to view near-real time energy usages from anywhere via the mobile app. You can also view your payment history, set up auto-pay and paperless billing, and pay a utility bill anytime. SmartHub features powerful app-based outage reporting tools to help our dispatch system guide line crews to the scene, and you can sign up to receive notifications of your choosing.

Getting Started

Log on to jeffpud.org and click the SmartHub Login button on the main page. Click "Register Now" and complete the account information. Registering requires an email address, utility account number, and the name on the account. You can also visit our customer service lobby for assistance.



Celebrating Project Milestones at the Quilcene Fair

On September 21st, JPUD celebrated the halfway point on its \$20M project to build 10-Gigabit fiber internet to 1,200 rural residences between Quilcene, Gardiner, and Chimacum. PUD

commissioners and staff were joined by project contractors and state legislators, in a not-so-classic ribbon-cutting ceremony, where a length of fiber optic cable and a pair of bolt cutters were used to

mark the occasion.

The PUD has built fiber to more than 800 homes to date, with plans to reach 4,000 homes across 5 grant-funded project areas by 2028.



Eric Moore
North Sky
Comm.

Ben Humphrey
Finley Engineering

Chris Konechne
Finley Engineering

Ken Collins
Commissioner
Dist. 2

Dan Toepper
Commissioner
Dist. 3

Steve Tharinger
WA State Rep
24th Dist

Mike Chapman
WA State Rep
24th Dist

Catch all the latest budget and meeting discussion with our easy-to-use archive on jeffpud.org/files

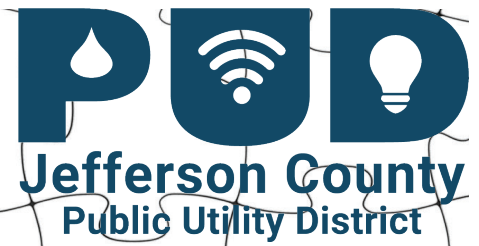
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**November 2024
Newsletter**



*Don't let your money go
right out the window!*

The Right Fit

Piecing together the energy efficiency puzzle
(and saving money, too!)

Keeping the inside of an older home comfortable is a bit of a puzzle—one that can be solved by piecing together key efficiency upgrades while saving money through rebates in the process. Over time the investment in your home can save you hundreds or even thousands on electric bills, while also helping conserve energy on our growing grid.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) provides the PUD \$900,000 in funding every 2 years to be distributed as rebates for energy efficiency upgrades by customers. Since 2019 funding has helped an average of 405 local projects annually.

Rebate incentives help cover upgrades for older homes including energy efficient appliances, heat pumps (up to \$1,200), heat pump water heaters, insulation upgrades, window replacements, and weatherization. Ducted and ductless heat pumps offer some of the biggest savings and are 3-4 times more efficient than conventional

models and can save thousands over the life of the unit. Likewise, the BPA offers up to \$1,100 on qualified heat pump water heaters (which are up to 50% more efficient than traditional water heaters). Water heating is

the second largest source of energy use in the home. Rebate restrictions do apply, and you can view a full list of available rebates and a list of participating installers by visiting: jeffpud.org/rebates. The energy cost burden impacts low-income homeowners the most and additional rebates are available for income-qualified households.

Rebates: A Grassroots Approach to Large-Scale Energy Conservation

Paying customers to not use power may seem like an odd business plan for a power provider, but the power saved annually easily outweighs the immense expense of new substations, transmission lines, and generation facilities. For utilities, infrastructure cost is passed to utility customers in the form of higher wholesale power rates which, in turn, affect rates. Jefferson PUD hosted the regional BPA energy efficiency roundtable in October which brought together BPA program managers and western Washington utility providers. Discussions help the BPA and utility energy efficiency teams gauge program effectiveness and future goals. JPUD General Manager, Kevin Streett kicked off the event noting, "We have a lot of infrastructure needs here in Jefferson County to keep up with demand—every dollar saved on efficiency projects, big or small, counts."

Home efficiency upgrades are an important piece of the energy puzzle for our region, and you can save on your project now!

**Electricity demand in
Washington state is
expected to grow by 30%
over the next decade.**



BPA offers big rebates on energy efficient heat pumps, both ducted (top image) and zonal ductless.

More info: jeffpud.org/rebates

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

Do we have a leak?

What to do if you think you have a water leak and ways to prevent them.

Hose Spigots & Faucet Covers

Install foam faucet covers to each hose bib. Hose covers extend the heat from the home slightly to keep the hose spigot from freezing. Installing anti-siphon spigots also reduces line freeze.

How can I detect if my home has leaks?

One of the best methods for identifying water leaks (if you are on a PUD water system) is to use your SmartHub portal under the water tab. SmartHub allows you to see monthly usage totals and gallons-per-day and lets you compare it with the previous year and beyond. This data is key to identifying if a leak has occurred. Notice a big difference in usage? Call our customer service at (360) 385-5800 and ask for our water team!

Where is your water meter?

It's a great idea to know where your water meter is located (your water provider can let you know if you cannot find it) and understand the basics of checking your meter. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

Outage Essentials

Flashlights

Have multiple flashlights and extra batteries on-hand and at known locations throughout the home. Check batteries every 6 months.

Portable Phone Charger

Adding a portable battery to your emergency kit ensures your essential electronics stay charged for updates. Always remember to keep your battery charged and ready!

Fridge & Freezers

An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about 4 hours, and an unopened freezer will keep foods frozen for 24-48 hours. Try not to open either until power returns.

Keep up to Date

Follow Jefferson PUD on Facebook & Nextdoor for all the latest outage updates.

Have you signed up for paperless billing? It's quick and easy with your SmartHub account!

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2025 BUDGET: Approved

PUD budget season has come and gone with the board approving a \$54.7M 2025 budget. Here are some key takeaway's. Full budget available on: jeffpud.org/budget

- **RESP Loan** - A \$5M loan was approved by the Board to provide on-bill financing for residential energy efficiency projects with rollout planned for early-2025.
- **Capacity Charge** - Finalization of a new service connection capacity charge is underway. Funds generated aid essential infrastructure projects.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Plan: Approved** - The Wildfire Plan was submitted to the WA State Dept of Natural Resources and acts as a working document to address fire safety concerns and plan mitigation efforts such as tree trimming and clearing.
- **Rate Study** - The FCS Group is currently reviewing PUD infrastructure work plans for recommendations.

Generator Safety

Generators can be a great addition to your home during outage situations and proper use is essential for your safety and the safety of line crews!

Do Not Plug a Generator into Wall Outlets

Generators plugged into wall outlets present electrocution risks to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. Plugging into wall outlets bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices, potentially destroying electronics or starting a fire.

Add a Professionally-Installed Transfer Switch

For the main home system, have a UL-listed, double-throw transfer switch professionally installed. The transfer switch keeps your generator from backfeeding power to the grid and protects against damage when power is restored.

Proper use of Extension Cords

The longer the extension cord and the larger the electrical load, the larger the diameter of the wire must be. Undersized cords can damage an appliance or lead to fire.



Always TURN OFF before refueling!

Line Down? Don't stick around!

72
Number of line-down
situations PUD crews
repaired in 2023

You cannot tell if a downed powerline is live, no matter the voltage.

LINE DOWN? CALL THE PUD or CALL 9-1-1!

Our crews are on call 24/7 and are trained to handle them. Call us immediately at (360) 385-5800. If you or someone you know is injured or in danger, call 9-1-1.

STAY BACK FROM DOWNED POWER LINES!

Keep yourself, children, or pets as far away from downed power lines as possible. Stay *at least* 50 feet from the wire.

DO NOT CLEAR TREES TOUCHING LINES!

Assume all power lines are live and can kill if touched. Don't push away downed lines with another object. Non-conductive materials like wood or cloth can conduct electricity if slightly wet. Don't cut up fallen trees if entangled in power lines. Live trees in contact with power lines can also carry current.

DON'T DRIVE OVER DOWNED LINES!

Downed lines can spark, or they can become tangled in the wheel or axle. If a wire comes in contact with the vehicle, *do not* try to exit the vehicle.

DON'T TRY TO ASSIST OTHERS!

If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, *do not* touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 9-1-1 for help.

DON'T MOVE DOWNED POWER LINES YOURSELF!

Even if they are blocking your driveway. Whether it is a power line or potentially a communication line, call the PUD or 9-1-1. Don't risk dying to get to work on time.

Report it!

From a safe location, call the PUD at **(360) 385-5800** or 9-1-1 to report the downed line.

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW: UNDERGROUND LINES

Always call the the *free* 8-1-1 locate service prior to digging! 8-1-1 alerts all power, water, and telecom companies so they can mark potential utility conflicts. If you contact a line **STAY AWAY** and call the PUD!

A bird on a power lines does not get shocked because it is not touching the ground or any other grounded object.

POSTING SIGNS TO POLES IS ILLEGAL AND ENDANGERS LINE CREWS! Sharp objects can tear a line workers protective gear, allowing a pathway for power to travel if a line has energized a pole!

Broken Pole?
Let us know!



Report tree-line contacts: jeffpud.org/report-tree-problem/

PUD GM Announces Retirement

PUD General Manager Kevin Streett announced his plans to retire in June of 2025 during the Nov 19th regular board meeting.

Streett was the first employee hired to help build the PUD's electric division in 2012 when he began as Line Superintendent. He was promoted to Assistant General Manager in 2017, and General Manager in 2019.

During his tenure with the PUD the workforce and his duties have grown to oversee 76 employees and a \$53M annual budget.

"It's been quite the challenge, from taking on the grid, building our team, and modernizing it to meet our future needs," said Streett. "I think we've done a great job for our neighbors."

During the meeting, HR Director Melanie Des Marais noted the Jefferson PUD Board will work with an executive search firm to find future GM candidates beginning in the New Year. The PUD Board will make the final hiring determination for the General Manager position.



Kevin Streett

PUD Awarded Utility Assistance Grant

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, the PUD will provide in-house energy-assistance grant funding for income-qualified households facing hardship.

The PUD received \$10,000 in funding from United Good Neighbors to assist customers facing power, water or wastewater service disconnection. Customers can apply to receive a one-time grant of up to \$500.

"Our team is always looking for ways to help at-risk neighbors facing high energy burdens," said Jean Pepper, JPUD Services Director. "It's great to get this program off the ground."

Assistance is available on a first come, first serve basis until all funding has been distributed for the year. More info: jeffpud.org/assistance

Neighbors Helping Neighbors – The Rainy Day Fund

The cost of home heating during the winter months is a challenge for many at-risk customers.

The Rainy Day Fund is built one donation at a time. Customers provide a one-time donation or round-up to the nearest dollar on their monthly utility statement. To help, simply check the box on your bill or online via your SmartHub account to round-up.

Funds are distributed by local partners OlyCap and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Since 2017, Jefferson County PUD customers have provided more than \$2.3M toward utility

bill assistance. In 2023, the Rainy Day Fund raised \$28,270, and customers have donated \$22,932 to date in 2024.

If you're struggling with the cost of energy this winter, please visit jeffpud.org/assistance or speak with our Customer Service Programs Specialist for more information about available income-qualified assistance.

250

Number of customers enrolled who round-up \$1 or more each month!



WE ARE HIRING!

Our team is growing as we expand our service offerings! Jefferson PUD provides great pay, a leading benefits and retirement package, and a professional workforce here to support our community! More info: jeffpud.org/employment

Have you signed up for auto pay? It's quick and easy with your SmartHub account!

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