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## **Connecting Grays Harbor County With the World**

Look up and you will most likely see your PUD's power lines spanning the landscape of Grays Harbor County, but the lines that carry electricity to homes and businesses aren't the only PUD lines you may notice. Your PUD has been investing in a fiber optic network since 1998 and continues to expand the network within our service area. The network not only provides the PUD with a resource that is critical to the operation of the electrical system, it provides an additional benefit as well. It makes high-speed telecommunications accessible to many areas of the District that might not otherwise have this service available.

## **Investing in Technology for the Benefit of Our Customers and Community**

Why would Grays Harbor PUD want to invest in high-speed telecommunications? The fiber optic network is a critical communications tool for the PUD. We rely on the system for energy management and load control. It gives us the ability to communicate instantly with our substations. The operational need for the electrical system creates an added benefit for the community; it brings high-speed telecommunications to areas that may not normally have access to this technology. As the PUD installs fiber optic cable, it makes high-speed communications accessible to businesses, residents, and public agencies such as fire and police departments and schools. The PUD doesn't offer retail services to end-users, but serves as a wholesale provider, selling extra capacity to companies that provide retail services to end-user customers, such as high-speed internet.

## **About Grays Harbor PUD's Fiber Optic Network**

Grays Harbor PUD's fiber optic network includes over 150 miles of line. The utility's extra capacity from this system is made available by the Utility on a low-cost wholesale basis to companies who can provide end-user access to the communications network. The providers, utilizing the network, are able to offer a wide variety of services to the community such as Internet connectivity, high-speed communications and data transmission. Grays Harbor PUD only offers access to this communications on a wholesale basis to companies such as Internet Service Providers, Incumbent and Competitive Local Exchange Carriers, and cable TV companies that provide retail services. It is not in the PUD's business plan to offer retail services to the end home user and, in fact, State Law prohibits the PUD from offering this service to the end home user.