

Start of Fall Wraps Up Productive PUD Construction Season

The spring and summer of 2014 were both busy and productive for the Grays Harbor PUD. Over the past six months, PUD crews completed multiple projects to strengthen and improve the District's power system including pole replacement and substation maintenance. In addition to addressing issues with individual poles, the seasonal work included:

- An overnight outage which allowed substation maintenance and maintenance work on transmission lines on the Elma-McCleary Road, including the replacement of five deteriorating power poles.
- An overnight outage in the Cedarville-Oakville area allowing for maintenance work on transmission lines, including the replacement of several deteriorating power poles and substation maintenance.
- An overnight outage in the Westport-Grayland area allowing for substation maintenance and the replacement of three transmission poles and one distribution switch.
- Testing and maintenance work at several district substations, including Central Park, Axford Prairie, Junction City, Ocean Shores and Copalis Crossing.
- The replacement of several deteriorating power poles on Riverside Avenue in Hoquiam.
- Ongoing line maintenance and pole replacement work on State Route 12 at Baila Dip east of Aberdeen.
- Improving the Ocean Beach Highway transmission and distribution lines by replacing multiple poles.
- Removing two unused and deteriorating transmission lines in Aberdeen and Hoquiam.
- Replacing two poles connecting Electric Park at the PUD headquarters to Woodlawn.

"Reliability is at the heart of Grays Harbor PUD operations," said PUD General Manager Dave Ward. "The spring and summer's work allowed PUD engineers, substation and line crews to strengthen the PUD transmission and distribution system and ensure that we continue to serve our community with the reliable utility services they expect and deserve."



Grays Harbor PUD line crews complete pole replacement work during the July 24 Cedarville outage.



Grays Harbor PUD substation crews complete maintenance work during the July 24 Cedarville outage.



Grays Harbor PUD line crews complete pole replacement work on Riverside Avenue in Hoquiam.



Drive Thru Event, City Proclamations Mark Public Power Week 2014

From October 5-11, the Grays Harbor PUD will join over 2000 other community owned utilities in celebrating Public Power Week. The annual event is celebrating its 28th anniversary and will again allow Grays Harbor and other PUD's across the country to celebrate the benefits of the public power they provide to 47-million customers.

The week will include a drive thru event from 6:00 to 10:00 on the morning of October 8th in the PUD parking lot on Sumner Avenue in Aberdeen. PUD employees will be on hand to answer questions and to hand out complimentary hand crank flashlights and power outage preparedness information, along with free doughnuts from Pickrite Thriftway in Montesano and Starbucks coffee.

In addition to the drive thru event, the mayors of several cities in Grays Harbor issued proclamations recognizing Public Power Week and the special relationship their communities share with the Grays Harbor PUD. These included Aberdeen Mayor Bill Simpson, Hoquiam Mayor Jack Durney, Cosmopolis Mayor Vickie Raines, Montesano Mayor Ken Estes, Westport Mayor Michael Bruce and Ocean Shores Mayor Crystal Dingler.



Montesano Mayor Ken Estes presents a copy of the Public Power Week Proclamation to PUD Commissioner Arie Callaghan.

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

October 2014

Monday - October 6
Monday - October 20

November 2014

Monday - November 3
Monday - November 17

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. **Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.**

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

As Storm Season Approaches, Prepare for Power Outages

Your Grays Harbor PUD is constantly working to prevent outages year round. But even with a well-maintained, reliable system, it is impossible to prevent all outages. Preparing for an outage can help minimize the impact.

Before the power goes out, there are a few things you can do to prepare for outages. Prepare an outage kit including:

- Flashlight
- Fresh batteries
- Battery-operated radio
- Supply of drinking water
- Non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- If you have an automatic garage door opener, learn how to open it manually.
- Protect sensitive electrical equipment with surge suppressors.
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- Candles
- Candle holders
- Non-cordless, landline phone

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT

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PUD Employees, First Responders and Media View Cowlitz PUD Arc Trailer

Electricity is our business. Everyone who works for the Grays Harbor PUD has, at the very least, a rough understanding of how the system works. However, seeing its power up close rather than 40 feet in the air is truly an eye opening experience. In late August, PUD employees, first responders and members of the media saw what can happen when everyday objects such as kites, ladders, saws and shovels come into contact with the power lines of the Cowlitz County PUD Arc Trailer. The trailer, on loan for the day, brought lines and transformers down to eye level and allowed PUD crews to show just why caution and safety are needed when working around power lines. The Grays Harbor PUD is examining the process by which they may build their own Arc Trailer, allowing for future displays at PUD events and at local schools.



Grays Harbor PUD Lineman Derek Lisherness uses a metal bar (above) and a hot dog (below) to demonstrate what happens when contact is made with live electrical wires.



Commissioner's Corner

By Russ Skolrood, District Three Commissioner

Bonneville Power Administration

"Electricity is no longer a luxury. It is a definite necessity. It lights our homes, our places of work and our streets. It turns the wheels of most of our transportation and our factories. In our homes it serves not only for light, but it can become the willing servant of the family in countless ways." Franklin Delano Roosevelt - Portland, Oregon 9/21/32

With those words said, the concept of public power became a reality. On August 20, 1937, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Bonneville Project Act to deliver the massive benefits of Columbia River hydropower - clean, inexpensive electricity - to citizens of the Pacific Northwest. The Bonneville Power Administration is a federal nonprofit agency based in the Pacific Northwest. Although BPA is part of the U.S. Department of Energy, it is self-funding and covers its costs by selling its products and services. BPA markets wholesale electrical power from 31 federal hydro projects in the Columbia River Basin, one non-federal nuclear plant and several other small non-federal power plants. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation operate the dams. About one-third of the electric power used in the Northwest comes from BPA.

BPA also operates and maintains about three-fourths of the high-voltage transmission in its service territory. BPA's service territory includes Idaho, Oregon, Washington, western Montana and small parts of eastern Montana, California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming (BPA website).

At Grays Harbor PUD, BPA is our main power supplier. We purchase power from BPA in two parts, Block and Slice. Block is our set amount of power that we are guaranteed each year based on a percentage of the overall power production from the BPA system that is available no matter what type of water year it is. Slice is the power that we get from the system that is variable depending on what type of water year BPA has to produce excess power above the Block portion.

We rely heavily on BPA to serve our customers with the power that they expect. Because of this reliance you will always hear how our rates are affected by the rates that BPA sets their power at. Grays Harbor PUD has a right to BPA power through what is called "Preference". Preference means that we have first access to BPA power at "cost" so we have the duty to continually monitor and interact with BPA to ensure that they control their costs and provide the services that we are guaranteed.

Over my years as your Commissioner our relationship with BPA has been very dynamic. We have partnered with them on some issues and sued them on others but the main idea behind our relationship is that we rely on them more than any other agency that we work with. We will continue to hold them to the fire to control costs but at the end of the day they are still the best show in town. I hope this letter helps to explain who and what BPA is and how important they are to your PUD.



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