

Your Utility News

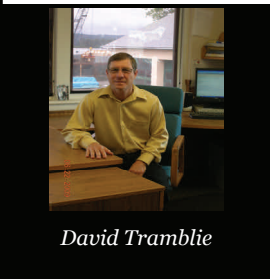
WAHIAKUM PUD

Spring 2020

PO Box 248, 45 River St.
Cathlamet, WA 98612
360-795-3266; 360-465-2171
www.wahkiakumpud.org



Manager's Corner *By David Trambly, General Manager*



David Trambly

As of this writing we are in the midst of a national health emergency. We have taken the suggested advice to isolate our people as much as is practical and still maintain the essential services that we provide. Please just give us a call so we can assist you. Although we are dealing with this health issue we will still respond to electrical and water outages as always in an expedited manner.

We have completed the design work for the Skamokawa Water System consolidation project and are in the permitting stage. Once the permits are approved, we will send the project out for bid. If all goes well this project should be completed by summers end.

We have spent the last few weeks tree trimming in the Skamokawa area. Thank you to everyone who has worked with us to keep our overhead lines clear of hazards. We also intend to sign a contract very soon to begin pole inspections. Our contractor will require access to all of our utility poles and may need to access your property. My intention would be to make sure the contractor has some identification so you will know they are affiliated with Wahkiakum PUD.

NEW PAYMENT OPTION—Quick Pay now available

Wahkiakum PUD now offers **Quick Pay** at www.wahkiakumpud.org. Customers can still choose to select **My Account** to log in, or select **Quick Pay** (no log in required) to quickly apply your payment without logging in. All you will need is your account number, last name and the amount you wish to pay.

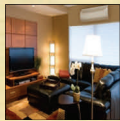
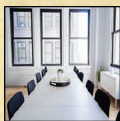
Rebates Are Available!

Looking to make your home or business more comfortable and reduce electric usage? Wahkiakum PUD may be able to assist through our rebate program. Prequalification is required.

Rebate Programs:

- Insulation for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural
- Windows for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural
- Ductless Heat Pumps for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural
- LED Lighting for commercial, industrial and agricultural
- Air Source Heat Pumps for residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural
- (NEW!) Heat Pump Water Heaters for residential and commercial

Visit www.wahkiakumpud.org to learn more.



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, we accept

Visa, MasterCard, Discover & Electronic Check.



Your Commissioners' Meeting Schedule:

8:30am 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 45 River St., Cathlamet

Commissioner's Column

By Gene Healy



"Broadband" is a relative term, understood according to its context. The wider (or broader) the bandwidth of a channel, the greater the data-carrying capacity.

About two years ago elected officials from the Town, County, Port Districts and the PUD along with other business leaders formed the Wahkiakum Broadband Action Committee. The purpose of the group was to evaluate the need and practicality of providing improved broadband service in the eastern part of our county.

The Committee appointed the Wahkiakum County PUD as the lead agency to evaluate the feasibility of building a high speed broadband network in the area. The initial assumption was that this network would be available to every home and business in the service area at an affordable price.

The PUD applied for and was granted up to \$50,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study. CERB, a part of the Washington State Department of Commerce, provided these funds. Matching funds in the amount of \$16,666.00 were provided by Wahkiakum County. NoaNet was chosen as the agency to conduct the actual study.

NoaNet studied demand aggregation using an online survey in May and June of last year with a primary aggregate of data on eastern Wahkiakum County. Within 6 weeks they received 434 responses! There are about 2100 households or businesses in the eastern part of the county. Data collected revealed that there was a high need and interest for improved broadband services throughout the area.

NoaNet's outside plant team drove out the area to understand the specific needs for a local buildout. They then took this data and created buildout options for review. The PUD finished a process to map all of the existing poles in the area into a GIS system. NoaNet staff used the pole mapping data along with information they had collected to create a detailed buildout plan for the area. NoaNet has closed out the requirements for the CERB funded study and has made a preliminary presentation to the PUD staff.

The Committee will continue to further enhance our understanding of the issues associated with this project and will continue with evaluation of and applications for funding assistance.

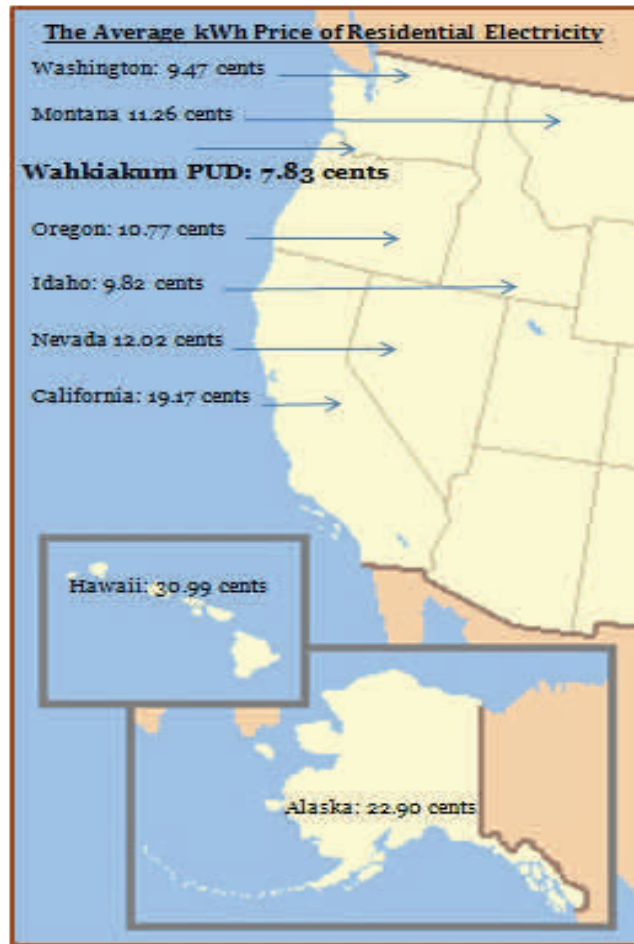
“Frequently Asked” Corner

How do Wahkiakum PUD residential electric rates compare to our surrounding neighbors?

According to data* recently released on February 26, 2020 by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Wahkiakum PUD’s current residential electric kWh rate is lower than Washington State’s averaged residential kWh rate based on the average price of electricity.

In fact, Wahkiakum PUD’s residential electric kWh rate is lower than the averaged residential electric rates of **ALL** our neighboring states including Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, Alaska, Hawaii and it’s even lower than the averaged residential electric kWh rates of the US national average of 12.69 cents per kWh!

*Source: www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a (Table 5.6.A. Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by End-Use Sector, by State, December 2019 (Cents per Kilowatt-hour))



WAHAKIAKUM PUD

Payment Options

Wahkiakum PUD offers the following payment options: checks, e-checks, cash, money orders, debit and credit cards. Payment locations:

On The Web

www.wahkiakumpud.org

Cathlamet Office

Monday—Friday

8:00—4:30 PM (we are closed
12:00—12:30 PM for lunch)

Night Drop

PUD parking lot drop box

Other Payment Options

Make payments over the phone or set up automatic monthly payments. Call customer Service: 360-795-3266
Toll free west-end: 360-465-2171



After Hours Outages

Call Wahkiakum Co Sheriff's at
360-795-3312 or 360-465-2202

Holiday Office Closures



Wahkiakum PUD will be closed to recognize the following holidays:

New Years Day
Martin Luther King Day
President's Day
Memorial Day
Fourth of July
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day



Looking for a way to make a difference?

Donations to the Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) remain in Wahkiakum County to help local families in need. Donations can be made any time. The easiest way is when you pay your monthly bill using the contribution line already included on your monthly statement.

The Budget Payment Plan Averages Out Monthly Billings

Each spring Wahkiakum PUD offers customers an opportunity to sign up for the Budget Payment Plan. This is a leveled payment plan, not a discounted rate program.

Curious if Budget Payment Plan is For You?

- ◇ Account holders must reside at the current location for at least 12 months by April
- ◇ The Budget Payment Plan is a billing arrangement that averages your annual electric bill
- ◇ Your meter is still read each month, so you can monitor actual readings and charges on your bill
- ◇ A new Plan cycle begins on your May statement of each year
- ◇ Requests to enroll must be submitted by no later than April 30
- ◇ Customers may request to be removed from the Plan any time

Current Budget Payment Customers:

- ◇ Your current Plan cycle ends on April's statement when you must pay your account in full
- ◇ No need to re-enroll, the Budget Pay amount automatically recalculates every year in May
- ◇ If you use your bank's Bill Payer service to pay your monthly statements be sure to adjust your bill payer amount once you receive your May statement to reflect your new budget amount

How to Sign Up:

Give the office a call at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 or log into your account on the PUD website at www.wahkiakumpud.org and select Customer Service Programs.

Sign up by April 30th