

Your Utility News

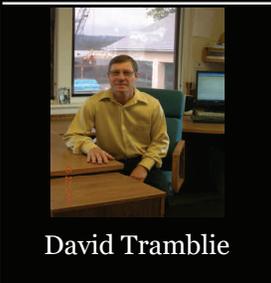
WAHAKIAKUM PUD

Summer 2019

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



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



David Trambie

So far, 2019 has been a productive year for Wahkiakum PUD. We've been busy working on a number of projects this year including rebuilding the substation in Grays River, consolidating water systems in Skamokawa and assessing the need for high speed broadband internet in Wahkiakum County.

The rebuilding of the substation project in Grays River is reaching its final steps to completion. This project has been a successful collaborative effort of Wahkiakum and Pacific County PUD and we anticipate final upgrades will be completed in late

September. The objective of this project was to upgrade all of the equipment at the substation while utilizing a newly created distribution inter-tie with Pacific PUD. When completed, we will have two sources of power in the west end of Wahkiakum County — a critical component in maintaining reliability for our west end customers.

We've been awarded a Washington State grant for the Skamokawa water consolidation project. We anticipate project design and permitting may take a few months; once finished we will solicit contractor bids for construction to complete this project.

This summer the PUD completed the Wahkiakum Broadband Needs Assessment. The assessment concluded that there is a demand for high speed internet. Our next steps will be GIS mapping of infrastructure that might be utilized to install fiber optic cable then assessing costs for broadband distribution throughout Wahkiakum County.

We care about your privacy!

Your privacy is very important to us so we follow the following practices when managing your utility account(s):

- We will not discuss your account with anyone unless you give permission to do so
- We do not share your contact information with third parties for marketing purposes

Do you use a friend, family member or property manager to help manage your utility account? If so, please give Wahkiakum PUD a call and let us know so we can assist them when they call.

NEW!

New Online Payment Option
QUICK PAY Now Available
at www.wahkiakumpud.org

QUICK PAY provides same day payment processing. No login required! Pay with Visa, MasterCard, Discover or e-Check.

The Residential Energy Assistance Program is **MAKING A DIFFERENCE** *for local families in Wahkiakum County*

All Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) donations remain in Wahkiakum County to help local families in need. Donations can be made in the office, by phone, by mail and with your monthly bill-payment.



From Your Commissioners



Lately, the news cycles are alive with the issues involving carbon in our energy system. For the most part, "green energy" is sourced from what is called "energy of opportunity" such as wind and solar. Hydro power is the exception, but is not available to large parts of our infrastructure. The drawback to energy of opportunity is that it requires either expensive storage methods or back-up generation assets to serve the load that would otherwise not be served when the wind doesn't blow or the sun isn't shining.

There is one alternative that has been little discussed in this discourse. Nuclear. Wahkiakum PUD has been involved, by virtue of our seat on the Board of Directors of Energy Northwest, with this alternative energy source for decades. Energy Northwest is the owner and operator of Columbia Generating Station near Tri-Cities. This provides about 20% of all power distributed by the Bonneville Power Administration.

One very exciting thing Energy Northwest is involved with is Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology. The concept is to factory-build small reactors in the 25 megawatt range then truck them close to where the load is, as opposed to site built and costly transmission lines to deliver the power.

Permitting has been acquired for a prototype plant to be built in Idaho in about 6 years and will be operated by Energy Northwest. This is an important technology that has potential for huge world markets. We could be the manufacturing center for a product that would revolutionize the world energy market and the world energy political dynamic.

Robert Jungers, Commissioner

Your Commissioners' Meeting Schedule:

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

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, we accept

Visa, MasterCard, Discover & Electronic Check.



Did you know Wahkiakum PUD offers income eligible **Disabled** or **Senior Citizen Discounts** on residential electric rates?



To apply call Wahkiakum Co Health & Human Services at 360-795-8630 or 800-635-5989 option 4 to speak to the Community Outreach Coordinator.

“Frequently Asked” Corner

I Might Have a Water Leak—What Should I Do?

Do you have high water consumption on your billing statement or perhaps you are experiencing low water pressure and suspect you may have a water leak? American Water Works Association offers some helpful tips on drinktap.org. They suggest shutting off all water-using appliances, faucets and outside watering tools (do not shut off the main water line to your home), and then check to see if the flow indicator on your water meter has completely stopped moving. If the indicator continues to move, you've probably got a leak somewhere.

To test whether the source of the leak is a toilet, they suggest placing a few drops of food coloring in the holding tank. Wait 5 minutes (don't flush the toilet), and if any coloring appears in the toilet bowl, you've found a leak. They also suggest checking your faucets and hot water tank to see if they are dripping – be sure to check under the sink as well. Just one drip per second can leak almost 260 gallons of water down the drain every month! If it's not your faucet, toilet or hot water tank, it may be under your house or outside. If you find an unusual wet spot or pool of water, you may have found your leak.

Now is the time to locate your water shut off valve. You may have a shut off valve located in your water meter box. Water meters are normally located along the property line between your property and the street. Customer shut off valves are there for your convenience to shut off the main water line to your home to do repairs (customers are not authorized to use the PUD's main shut off valve, also located in your water meter box). If you do not have a customer shut off valve, consider hiring a plumber for assistance to get one installed so it is available when you need it.

A leaking faucet that drips one drop of water per second can waste approximately 260 gallons of water every month.

WAHAKIAKUM PUD

Payment Options

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

On The Web

www.wahkiakupud.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	

What are my responsibilities to ensure safe access to utility equipment on my property?

Landscaping can hide or restrict important utility access to equipment for maintenance and repairs, it can make the equipment difficult to locate and over time, trees grow into the lines causing the potential for dangerous situations or extended outages. You can help by avoiding planting near meters, over or under utility lines and ensuring trees and shrubs are planted at least 10 feet from ground mounted transformers. If you have any questions please call us at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171. Thank you!

