

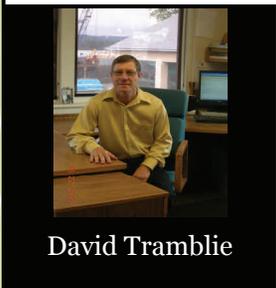
Your Utility News

Wahkiakum PUD
PO Box 248, 45 River Street
Cathlamet, WA 98612
360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171

Spring 2015



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



David Trambie

Safety is always paramount here at Wahkiakum PUD. So to keep our employees safe and to ensure we stay current on the various public utility industry hazards, we hold monthly safety meetings where we review various topics to help keep safety awareness fresh on all of our minds. But because we consider public safety just as important, we would like to bring your awareness to the many miles of overhead and underground utility lines that run throughout Wahkiakum County.

To help reduce the hazards of working around those unseen utilities running underground we encourage everyone to review our article on the back page before digging and ask you call 811 before every dig. It is also imperative that our customers understand the importance of avoiding touching all downed power lines. They may *look safe* if lying on the ground but any line on the ground may be very hazardous. We work diligently at remaining safe here at Wahkiakum PUD and ask your assistance by notifying the utility if you see overhead power lines touching tree limbs, downed power lines and calling 811 before every dig.

Go Green! Electronic Billing & Payment Options Available Now

E-bill Electronic Billing *(new!)*

It's paperless, convenient, green, secure, and free to use! Benefits:

- ◆ Help reduce paper and waste
- ◆ Receive monthly email notification when your bill is ready
- ◆ Access your entire bill anytime, anywhere



Once you enroll you'll get an email each month letting you know your statement is ready to view and the statement balance. Participants will also receive notification that payment has been received and if account is past due.

Automatic Electronic Payment Options are Available!

Use your Visa, MasterCard or Discover to make payments in our office, on our website (www.wahkiakumpud.org) or call and set up automatic payments.

There is no service charge for E-billing or Electronic Payments.

Call 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 and ask to sign up today!

FOR RENT

Property Owners, are you thinking of renting out your home? Ask us about setting up a Landlord Agreement so utilities stay active in between tenants! We can also assist you by helping your tenant set up utilities in their own name — just provide your tenants with a signed rental agreement or statement giving them permission to get utilities then send them our way!

Have you lived in your home 12 months?

If so, ask about our Budget Pay Plan! The Budget Payment Plan is an equal monthly payment plan and begins with the May billing statement. Sign up by April 30th.

From Your Commissioners



Thoughts from Commissioner Dennis Reid

IS YOUR PUD GREEN?

Yes. Your PUD is green and getting greener. On a normal year the power used by the Wahkiakum PUD is approximately 95% from green sources, with 85% coming from hydro power and 10% from nuclear power. The other 5% is power that BPA has to purchase on the open market and could come from coal or gas powered generators.

The PUD is using less power by promoting conservation through rebates for things such as insulation, windows, and ductless heat pumps. The PUD is also in the process of converting street lights and security lights to LED's which should last 10+ years and use less energy.

And, Wahkiakum PUD has had it's first rate payer install a solar system, thereby using less power from the grid.

Please, remember that you are always welcome to attend the PUD board meetings. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at dreid@wahkiakumpud.org or at 795-3589.

Your Commissioners'

Meeting Schedule:

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

\$\$ Rebates are available

for ductless heat pumps, windows and insulation! Learn more at www.wahkiakumpud.org!



“Frequently Asked” Corner

Q. I’m planning to do some digging at my property—how can I be sure I do it safely?

Damage prevention starts with one phone call — 811 before every dig. This number serves as an easy-to-remember phone number for the homeowners and professional contractors who call it. We found the following answers to the most frequently asked questions about 811 by visiting www.call811.com.



Q: Why should I call 811 before every dig?

A: Don't gamble with your safety — whether you're a do-it-yourselfer planning a weekend project or a professional contractor for a home improvement job, one phone call to 811 will get your underground utility lines marked for free. Knowing where underground utility lines are buried before you dig will help protect you from injury and prevent damages to utilities, service disruptions and potential fines and repair costs.

Q: Is this a new service that replaces the existing One Call Center I have been contacting?

A: With more than 62 one-call numbers across the country, 811 eliminates the confusion of multiple "Call Before You Dig" numbers by providing one simple number you can call to get your lines marked.

Q: Do the colors of the paint and flags indicate anything in particular?

A: Yes. Each color indicates a universal color to what is buried below ground: Red – Electric; Orange – Communications/Telephone/CATV; Blue – Potable Water; Green – Sewer/Drainage; Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line; Purple – Reclaimed Water; White – Premark site of intended excavation.

Q: How far in advance do I need to call?

A: State laws vary from 48 – 72 hours, most excluding weekends and legal holidays. Please call 811 directly, and the customer service representative will be able to provide specific information.

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.

WAHKIAKUM PUD

Payment Options

Wahkiakum PUD offers the following payment options: check, cash, money orders and Visa, MasterCard & Discover cards. Payment locations:

24/7 Payment Sites

Payments are accepted 24 hrs/7 in our payment drop box located at the Cathlamet PUD Office parking lot and on our website at www.wahkiakumpud.org

Cathlamet Office (45 River St)



To assist you, the PUD is open Monday through Friday 8:00–4:30 PM

(lunch closure from 12:00-12:30 PM). Customers can also make payments over the phone and set up automatic payments. Call 360-795-3266 (west-end customers can call toll free 360-465-2171)

After Hours Outages

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

Holiday Office Closures

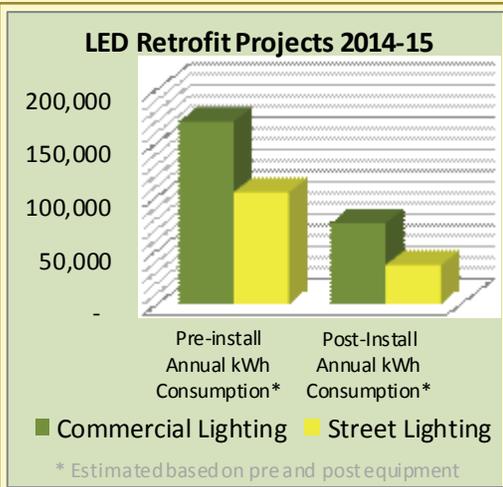


Wahkiakum PUD will be closed to recognize the following holidays:

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

Wahkiakum PUD is Lighting The Way in Energy Efficiency!

Wahkiakum PUD's mission is to provide the most reliable electric and water service at the most reasonable cost along with quality customer service to the District's rate-payers, so why does promoting energy efficiency make sense for a public utility? It may seem counterintuitive that a public utility would want to encourage its customers to use less of the product it is providing, but when comparing the cost of building a new power plant or even purchasing additional power in the marketplace to meet the future energy demands, energy efficiency measures like improved lighting can be viewed as a smart resource for reducing customer demand and helping our community meet its future energy needs.



Inefficient high pressure sodium lamp



New energy efficient LED lamp

Local energy efficiency lighting strategies implemented in 2014-15 to convert inefficient high pressure sodium and fluorescent lighting to energy efficient LED lighting will result in significant energy savings in Wahkiakum County.



Looking For a Way to Make a Difference ?

Our Residential Energy Assistance Program (REAP) is accepting donations now. All donations remain in Wahkiakum County to help families in need.

For more information visit www.wahkiakumpud.org.