

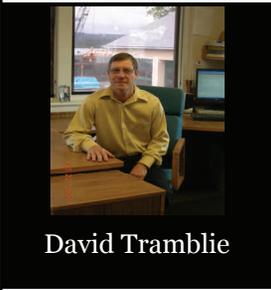
# Your Utility News

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

Fall 2014



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



David Trambie

Conservation of our natural resources has been and continues to be a vital endeavor for electric and water utilities today. Through a partnership with our energy provider, Wahkiakum PUD's energy efficiency program was designed to help us in these conservation efforts. Each year our utility invests nearly \$50,000 back into our community to help offset the costs for these energy saving measures.

Over the past several years the majority of our conservation efforts have been focused on single family homes and local businesses. Most recently, we partnered with Wahkiakum School District on a large energy efficiency project designed to reduce their consumption by over 200,000 kWh annually, helping the district to reduce their utility costs and indirectly benefiting all of the school district tax payers. We are now exploring retrofitting LED lighting throughout the county. This simple improvement of selecting more efficient lighting as well as our other conservation efforts are helping to reduce our energy consumption district wide as well as helping our utility to achieve our mission to provide the most reliable electric and water service at the most reasonable cost along with quality customer service to the District's ratepayers.

## From Your Commissioners



*Tidbits from Commissioner Robert Jungers*

Wahkiakum PUD is one of 28 founding members of a joint operating agency called Energy Northwest. The mission of the agency is to research, develop and provide energy generating resources for the Pacific Northwest. To that end, we own and operate numerous generation assets:

**Columbia Generating Station:** this a Boiling Water Reactor nuclear plant near Richland, WA and provides approx. 10% of all the electricity generated in WA St.;

**Packwood Lake Hydro:** this produces renewable power at far less cost and environmental impact than other common renewables;

**Nine Canyon Wind Farm:** these wind turbines are just south of Kennewick; and  
**Various pilot solar projects.**

We are also involved in breakthrough research in partnership with NuScale Power to develop Small Modular Reactors. The basic concept is to manufacture small (25 Mw) nuclear fired generators in a factory under controlled conditions and procedures, as opposed to on-site custom designed and built reactors. The potential for cost reduction and safety enhancement are enormous. This also has the potential to greatly reduce congestion on the transmission grid.

We are very proud to be an active part of this progressive and pro-active organization working to serve our future energy needs responsibly and economically.

## 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 receive notification that payment has been received and if account is past due.

### Electronic Payment Options are Available

Use your Visa, MasterCard or Discover to make payments in our office, over the phone, on our website ([www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org)) or call to set up automatic payments.

**Call 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 and ask to sign up for e-billing today!**

**In an effort to reduce excessive energy consumption and prevent severe burns, and pursuant to chapter 19.27 RCW, Wahkiakum PUD recommends:**

- ◆ Water heaters be set no higher than 120° F (or the minimum setting if the thermostat cannot be set as low as 120° F)
- ◆ Thermostats of an individual water heater furnished in a residential unit leased or rented in Washington State to new tenants shall be set no higher than 120° F (or the minimum setting if the thermostat cannot be set as low as 120° F)

## Identity Theft and Protecting Your Identity

*Wahkiakum PUD will not call you to ask for your credit card number by phone. If we need to update our records, you will receive a mailed letter asking you to call the PUD.*

## Your Commissioners' Meeting Schedule:

8:30am 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each

**Rebates are still available for ductless heat pumps, windows and insulation! To learn more, visit [www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org)!**



## “Frequently Asked” Corner

### Q. Surge protectors—do they last forever?

This question comes up each winter as customers try to cope with the stormy, winter weather but after all the lightning and thunder we have had this summer we thought it might be worth exploring now. When doing an internet search on various search engines we came upon a fairly straightforward article on ehow.com providing the following guidelines that might provide the answer to this important household question. Here’s what ehow.com had to say on surge protectors:

#### How often should you replace a surge protector?

While some surge protectors will completely stop working after they no longer provide surge protection, many silently continue to function as a power strip while leaving your devices open to electrical surges. Surge protectors with higher joule ratings will last longer and protect from more intense surges, but even high-end protectors need replacement after they absorb their rated amount of electricity.

#### How Surge Protectors Work

Electrical surges can occur due to turning large appliances on or off, or from external factors such as lightning. Surge protectors absorb excess electricity, preventing it from reaching the attached devices. As a surge protector works, it bears the brunt of the damage from the surge so that your more expensive devices do not.

#### Surge Protector Lifespan

Every surge protector can absorb a different amount of energy, rated in joules. With no easy way to identify how many joules are contained in a particular surge, you can't calculate how much endurance your surge protector has left. Using a protector with built-in status lights provides a way to ascertain when it needs replacement. If the "Protected" light goes out, the strip requires replacement, even if it still provides power. Some models also include an alarm that sounds at the end of the protector's life. Regardless of how many surges your protector has absorbed, you might want to replace it after the manufacturer's warranty expires, as some warranties cover electrical damage sustained by attached devices.

*Every surge protector can absorb a different amount of energy, rated in joules (a unit of energy).*

# WAHAKIAKUM PUD

## Payment Options

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

### On The Web

[www.wahkiakumpud.org](http://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



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

## 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!



## Fall Is the Time to Prepare for Winter Conditions

Electrical outages or water line breaks can occur from a variety of conditions — harsh weather, wind, ice forming on the lines, freezing temperatures or even floods. Knowing these tips ahead of time will help prepare for a variety of potential emergencies.

### Preparing before the outage:

- Know the location and how to shut off electrical circuit breakers in your home
- Insulate your water pipes and outside faucets to protect from freezing
- Be aware of the location of your shut off valve for your water
- Find out ahead of time how to manually override an electric garage door
- Have a standard (not cordless) phone or cell phone ready
- Install surge protectors on appliances and electronic devices
- Locate your flashlights and have plenty of batteries on hand
- Have alternate power supply available if you rely on life support equipment

### If an outage occurs:

- If there's an electric outage, check your circuit breakers
- Report the outage at 360-795-3266 or 360-465-2171 (after hours call Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office at 360-795-3312 or 360-465-2202)
- Leave one light switch on so you'll know when electricity has been restored
- Unplug all unnecessary sensitive electronics to protect from surges
- Turn off or disconnect any appliances (like stoves) or electronics

**Our crews work hard to restore utility services as quickly as possible, but if outages do occur, these simple steps may help us all be prepared.**



## 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



## 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](http://www.wahkiakumpud.org).