

C O N N E C T

April 2018

PUD deactivates as TOP, saves money and improves customer service

The Pend Oreille County Public Utility District is no longer a registered Transmission Operator with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The move comes after a multi-year effort by the PUD to more effectively manage risk on behalf of the general service customers.

Under the Federal Energy Power Act of 2005, Congress gave the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) the power to regulate reliability on the bulk power system. All users, owners and operators of the bulk power systems were required to register with the NERC for compliance monitoring by 2007.

The PUD has contracted with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to assume the responsibilities of monitoring transmission operations of the PUD's 58 miles of interconnected transmission lines. The change in the registration will greatly reduce administrative costs resulting from storing and maintaining documentation for compliance audits.

"The PUD's limited amount of high voltage transmission put us in a category of heightened regulation," said Colin Willenbrock, PUD General Manager. "We have successfully managed that risk by implementing a comprehensive reliability compliance program. BPA's offer to assume some of that responsibility only helps us manage that risk."

In the past, the PUD was responsible to meet 398 individual NERC requirements, with the change in registration the obligation lowers to 242 requirements. The frequency of NERC required compliance audits change from one every three years to once every six years. The change in the audit frequency results in significant cost savings and staff preparation time.

"In my time with the industry, I have seen the regulatory landscape change tremendously," said Dan Peterson, PUD Board President. "We are always looking for ways to creatively manage risk in a cost effective way."

Waterfowl nesting enhancement program

As part of the Box Canyon Dam license compliance efforts, the PUD offers technical support to local groups and individual landowners that are interested in enhancing waterfowl nesting habitat in shoreline areas located within the Box Canyon Reservoir. PUD also offers a limited number of structures for cavity nesting waterfowl (such as wood ducks, goldeneye, and merganser), these duck nesting boxes will be available on a first come first serve basis. For either technical as-



sistance or a cavity nest structure contact PUD Wildlife and Habitat Specialist Tommy Petrie at (509)447-6738 or (509)671-6710.

Assistance available for planting cottonwoods, native species

In an effort to improve shoreline conditions along the Box Canyon Reservoir, the PUD is partnering with the Pend Oreille Conservation District to provide landowners with financial assistance for planting cottonwoods and other native riparian species to be determined.

Public, private and tribal landowners and managers with property along the Box Canyon Reservoir are eligible for grants up to \$500.00. Start improving your shoreline today - contact the Pend Oreille Conservation District. Sign up for your FREE site visit online at www.pocd.org, or by phone (509)447-1155.



PUD, PNC settle lawsuit

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District (PUD) and Ponderay Newsprint Company (PNC) have agreed to end all litigation between them. The resolution of these matters allows PNC to continue its focus on producing high quality newsprint and providing jobs to approximately 140 employees in the region. The PUD can likewise focus on its hydroelectric dam improvement project and serving its customers.

The agreement also promotes future

collaboration between PNC and the PUD by providing PNC with long-term energy cost incentives and the PUD with support for marketing its power resources to additional consumers.

"We are happy to have resolved the litigation on mutually agreeable terms and look forward to a stronger working relationship with the District," said Myron Johnson, PNC's general manager.

The PUD's general manager, Colin

Willenbrock, is also pleased that the litigation has concluded. "This conclusion helps keep the PUD's largest customer operating in the County and allows the PUD to make decisions that will ensure the rest of the general service customers continue to receive power at the lowest possible cost."

"I'm very pleased with the outcome," said Dan Peterson, the PUD's Board President. "This is a reasonable win-win for everyone."



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April is National Safe Digging Month

KEEP OUT!

Substations are surrounded by fences for a reason, your protection. Never enter a substation to retrieve balls or other items that may have made it over the fence. Please call the PUD to report any unusual activity or to retrieve a lost item that may be inside the fence.

The Pend Oreille County Public Utility District and the Colville National Forest are requesting feedback from recreationalists about potential camping opportunities along the reservoir near Pioneer Park. The two sites being considered are No Name Lake Campground and Oldtown Rotary Park. We are also requesting suggestions on alternative options and/or sites not mentioned above. Visit our website for more information and to participate in the survey. www.popud.org.

TALK TO US!

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