

C N N E C T

September 2018

PUD Prepares for Future and Improves Bond Ratings

Moody's and Fitch both confirm outlook stable for PUD

Moody's Investors Service has improved the outlook on its rating for Pend Oreille Public Utility District to "stable" due to the PUD actively mitigating potential risk and building strong financial reserves.

"The ratings affirmation at Baa2 reflects our belief that Pend Oreille County Public Utility District has implemented appropriate risk mitigation measures in response to the potential shutdown of its largest customer," stated Moody's in its press release. "The utility has also established a financial buffer, building up a strong liquidity position in excess of 300 days cash on hand and holding its debt ratio below 50%. These financial safeguards are supportive of the utility's credit profile."

Each year two agencies provide an independent credit rating. The credit rating helps investors determine the financial strength of the entity.

"These ratings are similar to a personal credit score, a higher rating results in lower interest rates and thus lower payments on our bonds," said April Owen, PUD Director of Finance/Auditor.

Fitch Ratings has re-confirmed the PUD's stable outlook with a rating of 'A- Outlook Stable'. The key drivers were attributed to the PUD's increasing liquidity position, providing cash on hand and low-cost power supply resources.



Fun at the Fair

Wattson and the PUD team had so much fun saying hi to you at the Pend Oreille County Fair in August. Thanks to our great community we raised approximately \$155.00 through our raffle and all of that money will go into our Neighbors in Need program. A special thank you to everyone that donated to the raffle: Angela Bartholomaus (Scentsy Rep.), Curt Knapp, GraybaR, Indoff and Pend Oreille Valley Networks, Inc. We also want to give a shout out to our dedicated Customer Service team and other PUD staff that volunteered their time to make the weekend a success.

CONNECT



Aquatic Weeds and Shoreline Management on the Pend Oreille River

If you live or play on the Pend Oreille River, dealing with aquatic plants day after day can be incredibly frustrating. To help landowners deal with aquatic plant infestations and meet the PUD's goals to minimize herbicide use in the river, the PUD works with the County Noxious Weed Control Board to organize an annual aquatic weed workshop. This workshop is free and open to the public, and focuses on providing shoreline landowners information on tools for sale/rent, techniques, permitting requirements, and funding assistance available for non-herbicide aquatic plant management. Attendees also learn about the benefits of maintaining a healthy population of native aquatic plants on a portion of their property.

Highlights from the 2018 workshop included testing and demonstrations of new aquatic weed removal tools, new milfoil specific herbicide, and hands-on training on how to determine if you are dealing with noxious river weeds or beneficial native aquatic plants. This year the workshop featured presenters from the County Weed Board, Department of Ecology, the PUD, and a variety of area contractors who provide many different options to help landowners with nuisance aquatic plants. Make plans to attend the 2019 workshop that will be held during the third week in July. Details on the workshop will be posted on both the PUD and Pend Oreille County Weed Board websites early next spring. If you would like more information



on noxious weed management in the Pend Oreille River, the annual aquatic plant workshop, or the aquatic plant management grant program, please visit our website at: <http://popud.org/projects/milfoil-control>



Stop by our Newport or Box Canyon office during Public Power Week for refreshments, fun and games.

YOUR HOME'S WATER SHUTOFF VALVE

What is it and why it's important ...

Knowing how to turn off your home's water supply can help prevent water damage in the event of a broken pipe or leak. It's recommended that every household member know where the shutoff valve is located and how to use it. In the event of a burst pipe, getting the water shut off quickly could reduce damage considerably. In most cases, the water shutoff valve is located either under the house or in the yard. It's a good idea to check the valve periodically and make sure it's accessible.

ENERGY SAVING TIP:

WHEN USING YOUR DISHWASHER ONLY RUN IT WITH A FULL LOAD.

USE THE ENERGY-SAVING "NO-HEAT DRY" OPTION OR TURN THE DISHWASHER OFF AFTER THE FINAL RINSE AND OPEN THE DOOR TO DRY YOUR DISHES.



TALK TO US!

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