

CONNECT



APRIL 2026

Small Electric Rate Adjustment Takes Effect April 1

Beginning April 1, Pend Oreille PUD electric rates will increase slightly as part of a small adjustment approved by the Board of Commissioners in March.

For most customers, the change will be modest. The average household will see an increase of about \$3.25 per month, depending on how much electricity is used. You will see the adjustment reflected in your April bill - with payment due in May.

To put that in perspective, \$3.25 today is about the cost of a cup of coffee or a fountain drink and snack at a convenience store. The adjustment is designed to be small and predictable, so customers aren't faced with larger increases in the future.

Why rates are increasing

Like many organizations, the PUD has seen rising costs in recent years. The price of materials, equipment, labor, and other necessities needed to maintain the electric system has increased significantly due to inflation.

Electric rates help pay for:

- Maintaining power lines, poles, and substations
- Responding to outages and restoring power
- Trimming trees and protecting lines from storms
- Replacing aging equipment
- Meeting state and federal regulatory requirements



These investments ensure the system remains safe, reliable, and ready to serve the community for years to come.

Your PUD chose a smaller increase now to help manage rising costs gradually rather than waiting for and implementing a much larger increase later. Please call the PUD or visit popud.org for more information on the new rate adjustment.

Employee Spotlight: Meet the Water Crew

When people think about Pend Oreille PUD, electricity usually comes to mind first. But the PUD also operates and maintains 9 community water systems across the county, helping make sure residents in several small communities have access to safe, reliable drinking water.

This month, we're spotlighting members of the PUD's water team of Rusty Gill and Andrew Crawford, who help keep those systems running every day.

A typical day for the water crew can include everything from system checks and water sampling to leak detection, pump maintenance, and service orders. With multiple distribution systems and three treatment facilities to oversee, the work is always changing.

"No day is generally typical," Andrew says. "We have several facilities that all need regular checks, maintenance, or repair. It could be water samples, locates, leak detection, or pump maintenance. You never know what the day will bring."

Rusty, who has worked at the PUD for 19 years, says that variety is part of what makes the job rewarding.

"Every day is something different, which keeps the job interesting," he says. "System checks, treatment plant operations, equipment maintenance, troubleshooting, leak repair, there's always something going on."

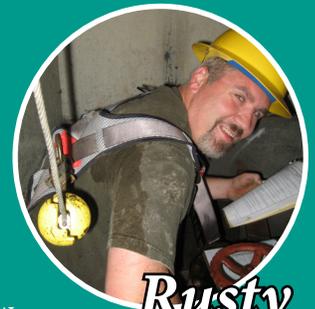
Both say the most meaningful part of the job is serving the community.

"We provide customers and small communities with a constant supply of safe and clean drinking water," Andrew says. "The world's most precious resource."

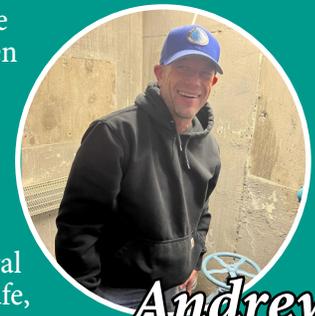
Rusty says the relationships built with customers over the years have been especially rewarding. "I've met and gotten to know some great people," he says.

Outside of work, Andrew enjoys spending time with his family hunting, fishing, riding in the hills, and relaxing around bonfires at home. Rusty spends some of his free time traveling with family, fishing, and playing guitar.

Thanks to the water crew's work behind the scenes, several communities across Pend Oreille County can count on safe, clean water flowing from their taps every day.



Rusty



Andrew

CONNECT



APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Planning a new fence, mailbox, or sprinkler system? Before you dig, call 811. State law requires anyone digging a hole one foot deep or more to contact 811 at least two business days before starting.

The process is simple: notify your local one-call center by calling 811 or submitting an online request, wait for utility operators to mark underground lines, confirm all marks are in place, and then dig carefully around them.

Following these steps helps protect you, your property, and essential utility lines. To learn more or submit a request, visit Call811.com.

5 EASY STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

<p>1. NOTIFY Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.</p> 	<p>2. WAIT Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.</p> 	<p>3. CONFIRM Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.</p> 	<p>4. RESPECT Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.</p> 	<p>5. DIG CAREFULLY If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.</p> 
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SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR LINEMEN: APRIL IS LINEMAN APPRECIATION MONTH

When the lights flicker or the power goes out, it's easy to forget the dedicated team working behind the scenes to restore electricity.

April is Lineman Appreciation Month, and it's the perfect time to recognize those who work at the highest heights and in the toughest conditions to keep our homes and businesses powered.

Help us give a big thank you to our linemen this month. The next time you encounter one, take a moment to show your appreciation, they truly keep the currents flowing!



Save Money with Your PUD's New Energy Efficiency Rebates!

Pend Oreille PUD now offers expanded rebates and incentives for residential customers! Along with existing rebates for ductless heat pumps, smart thermostats, and clothes washers, you can now get cash back for windows, doors, insulation, heat pump water heaters, air-source heat pumps, and ENERGY STAR® appliances.

Installations must be completed on or after January 1, 2026. These upgrades can lower your energy bills and make your home more comfortable. Rebates range from \$20 for appliances up to \$2,200 for heat pump water heaters. Funding is limited, so check eligibility before starting your project.

Learn more and see full rebate details at Pend Oreille PUD's Residential Rebates & Incentives webpage.



CONNECT WITH US!

Main Line: 509.447.3137
North County: 509.446.3137
South County: 509.242.3137
TDD: 800.833.6388



Commissioners:
 Curt Knapp: cknapp@popud.org 509.671.1111
 Dave Rick: drick@popud.org 509.671.7952
 Troy Moody: tmoody@popud.org 509.991.1327
Website: www.popud.org

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Tue, Apr 7
Newport
 Water Rate Hearing
(4/7 at 9:30am)
 Tue, Apr 21
Newport