



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pend Oreille PUD Launches New EV Charging Station in Metaline Falls

New partnership between the PUD and the Town of Metaline Falls supports energy efficiency and sustainability.

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (“PUD”) officially launched a new Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station in Metaline Falls. Customers, tourists and through-travelers can now charge their electric cars for free at the Blink Series 7 EV charging station.

The PUD purchased the charging station and partnered with the Town of Metaline Falls to cover the electricity costs. Over the last three years, the PUD evaluated station utilization of the Newport Administration Building EV pilot program while monitoring energy consumption. The information learned during the pilot helped guide the implementation of the Metaline Falls station and the expansion of EV to the north-end of the county.

“We are excited to expand the electric vehicle charging infrastructure for our customers and the communities we serve,” said Sarah Holderman, the PUD’s Interim General Manager. “Thanks to our partners at the Town of Metaline Falls, we hope this draws folks to visit the great town of Metaline Falls while they charge their vehicles.”

The station is located in front of the Metaline Falls Visitor Center on Washington Street at the end of 5th Avenue. The EV stations are safe, reliable, and easy to use. They are compatible with all plug-in electric and hybrid cars in North America. Blink’s open network allows drivers to view live station status on the Blink and PlugShare mobile apps or get directions using Google Maps.

“The town is excited to sponsor this new facility and we hope to attract additional tourism to the area.” said Metaline Falls Mayor, Tara Leininger. “We are excited to put Metaline Falls on the map in a new way and we invite all community members to check out the EV stations next time you are at the north-end of the County.”

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District:

Pend Oreille PUD was established in 1936 and began operations in 1948. The PUD is governed by three locally elected Commissioners. A General Manager and staff operate the utility within policies set by the Board of Commissioners. The PUD has four operating systems: The electric system distributes electricity to the county, the production system produces power from the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the water system consists of nine individual water distribution

subdivisions, and the community network system provides wholesale broadband communication services. For more information visit: <http://popud.org>.

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Metaline Falls EV Station Grand Opening Event on September 12, 2023:



Pictured from left to right: Past PUD Commissioner - Ric Larson, PUD's Interim General Manager - Sarah Holderman, Metaline Falls Mayor - Tara Leininger, Metaline Falls Maintenance Director - Neil Bennett, Councilwoman - Fran Maxwell, and PUD Commissioner - Dave Rick at the Grand Opening Event.