



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Administrative Offices - P.O. Box 190 • Newport, WA 99156 • (509) 447-3137 • FAX (509) 447-5824
Box Canyon Hydro Project - P.O. Box 547 • Ione, WA 99139 • (509) 446-3137 • FAX (509) 447-6790

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Media Contact: Amber Gifford
agifford@popud.org / 509-447-9328

Pend Oreille PUD Announces Resignation of Colin Willenbrock as General Manager Commission Intends to Appoint Owen and Holderman as Interim

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (“PUD”) announced today that the Board of Commissioners has accepted the resignation of Colin Willenbrock as General Manager, effective February 8, 2023. Willenbrock has accepted a position as General Counsel of Snohomish County Public Utility District No. 1.

“It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to work with the PUD’s outstanding employees to serve the community that I grew up in,” said Willenbrock. “I know that the utility is in a great position to carry out its important work with excellence.”

Willenbrock will continue to lead the utility until his last day, at which time the Commission intends to appoint April Owen, PUD Director of Finance, and Sarah Holderman, PUD Director of Customer Services, as co-interim General Managers. The Board will begin a national search for a permanent General Manager.

“The PUD’s customers have benefitted greatly from Colin’s leadership amid a period of great change in an increasingly complex energy industry,” said Curt Knapp, president of the three-member board of Commissioners. “He has led with integrity, and his many contributions have helped reinforce our continued commitment to financial prudence, safety, customer service and ongoing improvements to system reliability.”

The Commissioners hired Willenbrock as General Counsel in August 2013. He was later promoted to Assistant General Manager of Power Production before being appointed as General Manager in November 2015. During his tenure, Willenbrock managed the completion of the PUD’s multi-million-dollar Box Canyon plant modernization project, the transition following the closure of its longtime industrial customer, and the negotiation of the amendment to the 2005 FERC license for Box Canyon. He was instrumental in forging strong partnerships with critical stakeholders such as the Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Seattle City Light.

Willenbrock graduated from Newport High School. He earned a Juris Doctor with honors from Gonzaga University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Government from the University of Redlands. He represents the PUD in the Washington Public Utility Districts Association (WPUDA), the Public Power Council (PPC), and on the Board of Directors of the Northwest Open Access Network (NOANET), and the Pacific Northwest Utilities Coordinating Council (PNUCC).

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>.