



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 4, 2022

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

Bonneville Power Administration Authorizes Restart of Newsprint Mill

Newport, Washington – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (the “PUD”) today announced that the Bonneville Power Administration (“BPA”) has authorized the restart of newsprint operations at the former Ponderay Newsprint Company site, if Allrise Capital Inc. so chooses. After Ponderay Newsprint filed for bankruptcy, the site was acquired by a subsidiary of Allrise.

In June 2021, Allrise initially requested a 300-megawatt (“MW”) blended load for both newsprint manufacturing (90 aMW) and cryptomining operations (210 aMW). The PUD submitted Allrise’s request to BPA for required transmission and interconnection studies. Mid-way through the studies, BPA indicated that regional facilities were not expected to support the full 300 MW load at all times of the year. Prior to completing the initial study, BPA agreed to authorize an interim 20 MW of power to the site, but indicated further studies and facility upgrades could be required to support Allrise’s full, blended load. The PUD immediately notified Allrise of this fact, and Allrise amended its study request to exclusively cryptomining operations. BPA completed its initial study, consistent with Allrise’s revised request, and concluded that Allrise could operate 100 MW of cryptomining load.

However, after Allrise representatives recently stated in a public meeting that they could not restart the paper mill due to BPA restrictions, the PUD inquired of BPA whether newsprint operations could be supported. BPA’s Vice President for Transmission Planning and Asset Management, Jeff Cook, quickly responded and clarified that BPA’s transmission staff was “comfortable allowing a load of up to 85MW operating at .97 [power factor] to interconnect to the local system without completing any further upgrades or studies. This load, up to 85MW would be in lieu of the requested 100MW of ‘computer equipment load’, until further study can be completed to evaluate cumulative impacts and interconnection requirements.” In the meantime, BPA continues to study Allrise’s second study request for 600 MW of total load at the site dedicated solely to cryptomining operations.

“Contrary to recent public statements, BPA did not prohibit Allrise from restarting the paper mill,” said PUD General Manager Colin Willenbrock. “BPA simply studied the ultimate request made by Allrise – to start with 100 MW of cryptomining operations. The PUD has communicated the latest information from BPA to Allrise, and we look forward to hearing Allrise’s response.”

About Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District 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>.

#