WATER NEWS

Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County

Spring 2017

Rusty Gill named Water System Operator of the Year

PUD Water Systems Operator, Rusty Gill, received the 2016 Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Water System Operator of the Year Award at the annual conference and trade show in February.

Rusty has been taking care of PUD water systems since 2006. "He is an exemplary water systems operator, who consistently demonstrates outstanding customer service and expert water system operation skills", said Mark "Bubba" Scott, Water Systems Manager.

Evergreen Rural Water's Executive Director, Tracey Hunter, presented the award, which is given each year to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of an individual, who is directly or indirectly responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of a water system.

Rusty has been with Pend Oreille PUD since 2006 and is responsible for the operations of the nine water systems operated by the PUD. That responsibility includes the maintenance and upkeep of two surface water systems and nine wells.

The Evergreen Rural Water Association of Washington is a non-profit organization that provides training and technical assistance to water and wastewater systems throughout the state.

System Updates

Small System Preconstruction Grant applications have been submitted to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) for the following improvement projects:

Greenridge - Feasibility study for an iron treatment system, to be followed by one or more pilot studies of approved iron removal systems.

Riverview - Feasibility study for an arsenic treatment system, to be followed by one or more pilot studies of approved arsenic removal systems.

Sunvale - Preliminary engineering, environmental requirements, cultural assessment, permits, and preparation of bid documents, which will result in a shovel ready project awaiting DWSRF funding. The project is approximately 4,620 feet of water distribution main line at the intersection of East and West Joyner. The project will replace 2-1/2" pipe with 8-inch pipe.

Citizens Water Committee

The current members of the Citizens Water Committee are as follows: **Granite/Sacheen** - William Child, **Metaline Falls** - Sue Huntley, **Sandy Shores** - Al Mix, **Riverbend** - Gene Stone, **Sunvale Acres** - Jim Owens, **Greenridge** - Jim Deaton, **Riverview** - Dan Tiede and Kevin Fitzpatrick, **Holiday Shores** - Claudia Bjorklund

Currently, the Lazy Acres Water System has no representative. Persons interested in filling this position are encouraged to contact Mark "Bubba" Scott at (509) 447-6375.

Wellhead Protection . . . It's up to all of us.

Wellhead protection is a proactive approach to preventing contamination of groundwater used for drinking water supplies. Groundwater can be impacted by improper storage, handling, and disposal of wastes and hazardous chemicals.

Protecting our water supply by preventing contaminants from reaching wells has never been more important. The following tips will help protect your home and property.

- If you garden, remember that fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides might be soluble in water and leach into the groundwater. Consider using organic compost material and natural pesticides. Spilled pesticides that are poisonous should be cleaned up as quickly and completely as possible.
- Waste oil, paint thinners, and solvents pose a high health risk to ground water pumped out of a well. Do not dispose of solvents, degreasers, waste oil, cleaning fluids, gasoline, paint thinners, or radiator fluid by pouring them into sinks, toilets, or by burying them in the ground. When working on your car, pick up any spills with absorbent material, place in a ziplock bag, and dispose of it properly. Ask your landfill or waste pick-up operator how to dispose of it.
- Chemicals or fuel oil improperly stored and/or exposed to the elements can pose a threat to drinking water. Store chemicals in sound containers off the ground. Periodically check containers for corrosion, and replace if necessary. Ask your landfill or garbage pick-up operator how you can safely dispose of household chemicals.

Water from underground sources is the primary source of drinking water for an estimated 65 percent of Washington residents. Protecting this valuable resource is everyone's responsibility.

Cross Connection Control Survey

Protecting our drinking WATER QUALITY is a job we share.

Backflow test results due by July 17, 2017.

A cross-connection is any physical connection whereby the drinking water supply (PUD water system) is connected, directly or indirectly, with any non-drinkable water supply (sprinkler system, boiler, fire suppression system or private well), which contains or may contain, contaminated water. Non-drinkable water can potentially contaminate the water supply as a result of backflow. Backflow occurs when the normal direction of flow is reversed, generally through the loss of pressure from a water main break or the use of a fire hydrant for fire fighting.

In order to prevent the occurrence of backflow, the District and the State of Washington Department of Health regulations require the installation of backflow prevention devices on all non-drinking water systems. Backflow devices help prevent potentially contaminated water from entering the public drinking water supply.

If you have a system connected to the public drinking water supply but do not have a backflow prevention device, one must be installed. Backflow devices must be those approved by the State of Washington for installation. Backflow devices are installed and owned by the homeowner, and it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure that the backflow prevention devices are in satisfactory operating condition at all times.

If you have a backflow device installed, please be advised that the device needs to be inspected by a certified contractor and the report sent to the PUD by July 17, 2017. Please contact the Water Department at (509) 447-6375 or (509) 446-3137 for more information.

You can reach us at:

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242-3137 (So. County)
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-833-6388
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PUD Commissioners (from left to right), Curt Knapp, Rick Larson, and Dan Peterson

Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

1. Adjust sprinklers so that they're watering your lawn and garden, and not the street or sidewalk.
2. Water early in the morning (before 10 a.m.) or later in the evening (after 6 p.m.).
3. Water established lawns about 1 inch per week (a bit more during hot, dry weather).
4. Add a shut-off nozzle to your garden hose and save about 5-7 gallons each minute your hose is on.
5. Adjust your mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn provides shade to the roots and helps retain soil moisture, so your lawn requires less water.
6. Inspect your overall irrigation system for leaks, broken lines, or blockage in the lines. A well maintained system will save you money, water, and time.
7. Verify that your home is leak-free, because many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1338, better known as the Municipal Water Law, to address the increasing demand on our state's water resources. The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty and flexibility to help them meet future demand. The legislature directed the Department of Health to adopt an enforceable Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program. Using water efficiently helps water systems protect against temporary water service interruptions during peak usage, long-term, or repeated water disruptions due to limited water supply, and contamination of the water supply due to leaky pipes.

Through a collaborative process with its customers in December 2016, the PUD re-established water efficiency goals of reducing water usage and leakage. Following are the 2016 water use statistics for the community water systems affected by the Municipal Water Supply-Efficiency Requirements Act:

Water System	Number of Connections	Gallons of Water Produced	Gallons of Water Sold	Distribution System Leakage
Metaline Falls	185	17,532,378	16,100,306	8.2%
Riverbend	78	3,310,556	2,987,015	9.8%
Sandy Shores	71	3,934,600	4,044,140	-.02%
Sunvale	65	2,497,900	2,450,045	1.9%

The negative number in the Unaccounted for Water column is due to the size of the master meter in the pumphouse, which doesn't register low flows under 9 gallons per minute, as compared to home water meter registers, which measure 1/2 gallon or less per minute.