

Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County

Fall 2014

## Riverbend Water System Awarded Silver Certificate



Mark "Bubba" Scott accepts award from Jeff Johnson.

Mark "Bubba" Scott recently accepted a Silver Certificate of Achievement for the Riverbend Water System. The award was presented by the Washington State Office of Drinking Water for its Treatment Optimization Program (TOP).

The Riverbend system's water turbidity was 0.10 NTU or less for at least 95 percent of the time, which meets or exceeds the pro-

gram's goal. The silver certificate is awarded to water systems meeting this high standard, as well as other stringent criteria related to public health protection, for five continuous years (2009 through 2013). Riverbend was one of eight to receive an award this year.

Participants in the voluntary program commit to working toward meeting treatment optimization goals for particle removal and disinfection that are more stringent than current regulatory requirements. Because turbidity is a readily measured indicator of treatment plant performance, TOP tracks finished water turbidity data for all conventional and direct filtration plants in Washington.

## Wind Storms Disrupt Granite Sacheen Water System

Severe windstorms on July 23 and August 2 caused extensive damage to Pend Oreille PUD's electrical and fiber optic systems in the southern Pend Oreille County. The Granite Sacheen Water System was without power for one week following each storm.

Due to the loss of pressure at the pump house and the potential for cross contamination, Boil Water Notices were issued, in accordance with the Washington State Department of Health requirements. PUD waterman, Rusty Gill, and other PUD employees delivered bottled water to the water system's customers.



Storm damage, Sacheen Lake



Steve Cona



Rusty Gill

### A message from your water operators

Winter is fast approaching, and we sincerely hope none of our customers experience frozen water pipes this year.

Just in case, we would like to remind everyone that it's very important to take preventative steps now to protect your home from

damage caused from bursting pipes.

The location of their water shut-off valve is something every homeowner should know. In the event of a burst pipe, getting the water shut off quickly could reduce damage considerably. Most shut-off valves are located either under the house or in the yard. If you have trouble locating your shut-off valve, give us a call, and we'll stop by the next time we're at your water system.

*Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season,*

*Steve and Rusty*

## Wellhead Protection

*It's up to all of us.*



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. Everyday practices can harm groundwater, so it's up to us to be agents of change. Americans use about 79.6 billion gallons of groundwater per day, making us the

largest water users in the world. We all have a stake in maintaining groundwater quality and quantity, because 99 percent of available freshwater comes from underground aquifers.

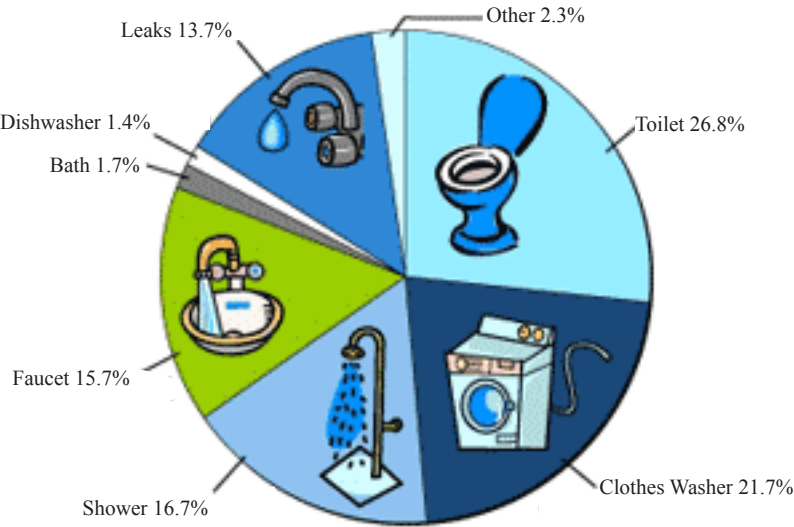
- If you garden, remember that fertilizers, pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides might be soluble in water and leach into the groundwater. Consider using organic compost material and natural pesticides. Spilled pesticides that are poisonous should be cleaned up as completely as possible.
- Waste oil, 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 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 landfill or garbage pick-up operators how you can safely dispose of household chemicals. Water from underground sources forms the primary source of drinking water for an estimated 65 percent of Washington residents. Protecting this valuable resource is everyone's responsibility.

Attention Snowbirds!  
Check your list before heading south.



- ✓ Turn off your water heater
- ✓ Call the PUD to schedule the waterman to turn your water off at the meter. Remember, if you don't have the water turned off, you are responsible for all costs related to leaks and/or broken pipes.
- ✓ Locate and mark the location of your water meter. Knowing where your meter is located can save a lot of time in the event of an emergency, such as frozen or broken pipes. It's also important to locate the water shut off valve in your home.
- ✓ Winterize your vacant house. If you leave your house for several days, take the following steps to protect pipes from freezing: 1) Turn off main shut-off valve. 2) Turn off the electricity to the water heater. If the house is going to be vacant for an extended length of time, the water heater should also be drained. 3) Open indoor and outdoor faucets to drain pipes. 4) Flush toilet once to drain the tank but not the bowl. 5) Leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls.
- ✓ Make sure the PUD has correct contact information, so that you can be reached in case of an emergency.

Indoor Household Water Use



Top Five Causes of a High Water Bill

"How did I use that much water?"  
We hear this question a lot from customers who get an unexpectedly high water bill, and one of these five causes is usually to blame:

1. Running toilet
2. Irrigation system
3. Outdoor spigot/hose leaking or left on
4. Houseguests
5. An activity that used a lot of water, such as washing a car, filling a pool, etc.

You'd be surprised how much water a running toilet can waste (up to 200 gallons a day!), so fix leaks immediately.

You can reach us at:

447-3137  
446-3137 (No. County)  
242-3137 (So. County)  
Hearing Impaired: 1-800-833-6388  
Visit us on the Internet at:  
[www.popud.org](http://www.popud.org)

Commissioners:  
Dan Peterson: 509-671-0289  
Email: [dpeterson@popud.org](mailto:dpeterson@popud.org)  
Curt Knapp: 509-671-1111  
Email: [cknapp@popud.org](mailto:cknapp@popud.org)  
Rick Larson: 509-442-3777  
Email: [rlarson@popud.org](mailto:rlarson@popud.org)



PUD Commissioners (from left to right), Dan Peterson, Curt Knapp, and Rick Larson

WATER RATES  
Effective October 1, 2014

Every year, the financial status of each water system is carefully reviewed by District staff and the Citizens Water Committee, and rates are adjusted accordingly. Residential rates are as follows:

WATER SYSTEM	MINIMAL BASE RATE	MINIMUM GALLONS	@\$0.50 Per 1,000 GLS.	@\$4.00 Per 1,000 GLS.	@ \$8.00 Per 1,000 GLS.
Granite/Sacheen	\$65.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Green Ridge	\$62.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Holiday Shores	\$34.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Lazy Acres	\$30.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Metaline Falls	\$68.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Riverbend	\$80.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	Over 30,000
River View	\$30.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Sandy Shores	\$20.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	
Sunvale	\$45.00	10,000	Next 5,000	Over 15,000	

Note: Each lot is charged the minimum fee for the minimum gallon charge. Minimum gallons are credited for adjoining lots that have no meters installed. Adjoining lots are defined as lots that have adjacent (abutting) property lines with the lot that is receiving the primary billing. Those lots cannot be across a road from the primary lot. Each lot that is metered will receive a billing and will be allowed the minimum gallons. If a non-metered lot is sold, then a meter shall be installed at the expense of the new lot owner. The hook-up fee is \$2,500.00.