



# 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**  
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Media Contact: Joe Hathaway  
[jhathaway@popud.org](mailto:jhathaway@popud.org) / 509-447-6354

## **Pend Oreille PUD Board Expands Low-Income Programs, Approves Advanced Meter Opt-Out Fee**

**NEWPORT, WA** – The Board of Commissioners for Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) convened for a regularly scheduled meeting on April 1, 2025, at the PUD’s Newport office. Key actions from the meeting included:

### **Expansion & Changes to Low-Income Assistance Programs**

The PUD has several programs for customers with a household income at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI) or 200% of the federal poverty level. The Board approved the following changes to low-income assistance programs:

- **Senior Discount Increase:** The monthly senior discount will increase from \$5 to \$10 per month.
- **Veteran Discount:** A new monthly discount will be available to honorably discharged veterans who qualify.
- **Neighbors-in-Need Program Expansion:** The Board expanded eligibility for the Neighbors-in-Need assistance program by removing the requirement that customers must be facing disconnection due to non-payment. Removing this requirement allows the PUD to be more proactive in awarding those customers facing hardship a \$250 grant toward their electric bill. The Board approved a \$12,500 contribution to the program this year.

### **Advanced Meter Opt-Out Fee**

Commissioners approved a service fee for those customers wishing to opt out of advanced meter installations. Customers who choose this option will pay:

- A one-time fee of \$100 for opt-out processing.
- A monthly \$30 fee to cover manual meter readings conducted quarterly.

If a manual read is not performed in a given month, bills will be based on estimated usage.

### **Electric System Line Extension Fees and Electric Vehicle Charging Fees**

- **Line Extension Fees:** Commissioners approved adjustments to electric system line extension fees. These fees, which are updated annually, apply only to new customer connections and are separate from existing customers’ electric usage rates.

- **EV Charging Fees:** The Board approved the installation of a fee for the PUD's Metaline Falls electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The rate will include a \$1 per session fee and a \$0.47 per kWh energy charge. The PUD currently operates two EV charging stations: one in Newport (sponsored by the Newport Chamber of Commerce) and one in Metaline Falls (currently unsponsored).

### **Other Items**

The Board accepted the high bid of \$8,523.72 for the PUD's surplus 2007 Ford F-150 Crew Cab truck.

### **Next Board Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Pend Oreille PUD Board meeting will be held on April 15, 2025, at the PUD's Newport office, where the full minutes from the April 1 meeting will be reviewed and approved.

For more information on the approved programs, please call the PUD at 509-447-3137 or visit <http://popud.org>.

### **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>.