Pend Oreille County Public Utility District
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Pend Oreille PUD Pend Oreille PUD Commissions New Fire Suppression System at Box Canyon Dam

IONE, Wash. - Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) has commissioned a new hybrid fire suppression system at Box Canyon Dam, which uses advanced technology to protect the dam's four hydroelectric generating units.

Installed by Spokane Valley-based Patriot Fire Protection LLC, the new Victaulic Vortex system replaces the dam's previous deluge fire suppression system. The technology combines ultra-fine water mist and nitrogen to suppress fires by rapidly absorbing heat and reducing oxygen levels around the fire. The system uses water droplets smaller than white blood cells, allowing it to extinguish fires with minimal water exposure. This helps reduce the risk of water damage to sensitive electrical and mechanical equipment. The system also uses non-toxic agents and is designed to allow people to safely evacuate during an event.

The new system connects to the dam's existing fire detection, alarm and security controls. The installation also reused many of the existing pipe pathways and supports.

The project was identified as one of the PUD's strategic priority initiatives focused on employee safety and protecting critical infrastructure.

"Protecting our employees and the infrastructure our community relies on is a top priority," said Bryant Kramer, Director of Power Production at the PUD. "This project is a great example of investing in technology that not only improves safety for our team but also helps protect the important equipment that keeps Box Canyon Dam operating reliably."

PUD employees from Box Canyon Dam and community partners attended the commissioning on Wednesday, October 28 to mark the completion of the project.

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.