



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Preliminarily Awarded \$12.4 Million in BEAD Broadband Funding

NEWPORT, Wash. – Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD) has been selected for a preliminary award of \$12.4 million through the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, administered in Washington by the State Broadband Office.

The funding, along with \$4.1 million in state matching dollars, is expected to support fiber broadband projects that will extend service to approximately 2,500 homes in Pend Oreille County. Pend Oreille PUD applied for five project areas and received preliminary approval on three, which are located in the southern part of the county.

“This represents a major step forward for our communities,” said Chris Jones, Pend Oreille PUD General Manager. “Reliable, affordable broadband is essential for education, health care, small business, and quality of life. This funding will help us make real progress toward closing the digital divide here in Pend Oreille County.”

The preliminary awards are part of Washington’s \$1.2 billion allocation from the BEAD program, a national effort to expand broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas.

The State Broadband Office will submit its final proposal to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration this month, with federal review expected to conclude later this year. All awards remain preliminary until that process is complete.

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>.