



Pend Oreille County Public Utility District

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Pend Oreille PUD Announces Retirement of General Manager John Janney and Rate Increase Recommendation

NEWPORT, WA. – John Janney, General Manager of Public Utility District No. 1 of Pend Oreille County (PUD), has announced his retirement. Janney informed the PUD Board of Commissioners of his decision, and the Board announced his departure at its February 4 meeting.

Janney, who began as General Manager in December 2023, will remain at the PUD through February 26, 2025. During his tenure, he led the utility through significant operational and financial initiatives, positioning it to navigate industry challenges while working to maintain competitive rates and reliable service for PUD customers.

“This was an incredibly difficult decision, but after much reflection, I know it is the right one for me and my family,” Janney said. “It has been an honor to work alongside such a dedicated team. The people at this PUD care deeply about their mission and the communities they serve, and I have no doubt the utility is in good hands moving forward.”

Before joining the PUD, Janney brought more than 30 years of experience in the energy, utility, and banking sectors, including leadership roles at Chelan County PUD, Grant County PUD, and Klickitat County PUD. He holds a master’s degree in finance from Boston College and a Bachelor of Science in business from the University of Montana.

PUD Board President Dave Rick expressed gratitude for Janney’s leadership. “John stepped into this role with dedication and a clear vision for strengthening the PUD,” Rick said. “His leadership helped guide the organization through important transitions and laid the groundwork for a strong future. We appreciate his service and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.”

PUD Proposes 4.25% Rate Increase for Electric Service

Also at Tuesday’s Board meeting, PUD staff recommended a 4.25% rate increase for electric service, citing rising costs and the need for critical infrastructure investments. The proposal follows a comprehensive financial review and public outreach initiative.

Several rate scenarios were presented, including a no-increase option that could lead to financial shortfalls, a delayed increase in 2026, and alternative adjustments of 4.0% or 5.0%. The Board is set to take action on the proposed increase at its March 4 meeting, with new rates taking effect

on April 1 if approved. The average residential customer would see an increase of about \$5.50 per month.

A public hearing will be held on February 18 at 9:30 a.m. at the PUD's Newport office, giving customers the opportunity to provide input.

“Like our customers, we have seen costs rise significantly in recent years. We know that no one likes to see rates go up, and we don't take this decision lightly,” said April Owen, Director of Finance for the PUD. “However, rising costs of energy, labor, materials, and expensive state regulations are outpacing our existing revenues. This adjustment is necessary to sustain the reliable service our customers expect and ensure we're making the infrastructure investments needed for the future.”

If approved, the increase will help cover rising expenses due to inflation and regulatory compliance costs, as well as fund essential system upgrades, including new substations.

“We've held rates as low as possible for as long as possible,” Owen said. “For years, we've absorbed rising costs, but we've reached a point where that's no longer sustainable. This adjustment ensures we can continue to provide safe, reliable service while planning for the future.”

For more information, please call the PUD at (509) 447-3137 or visit <https://popud.org/top-links/about-your-pud/our-rates>

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>.