



WATT'S-UP



A NEWSLETTER FOR CUSTOMERS OF OKANOGAN PUD ISSUE 09-05



Public Power Week • October 4-10, 2009

October 4–10 is Public Power Week and we think it's a good time to remind ourselves of the benefits we receive as customer-owners of Okanogan Co Public Utility District (OKPUD). For more than 125 years public power has been a tradition that works for the more than 45 million customers served by locally owned and operated utilities. Public power systems such as OKPUD provide power on a not-for-profit basis. That means power is provided at the cost of producing and delivering the power.

As owners of the PUD, you elect a board of commissioners who set policy and hire management to operate the utility. This provides local control and gives you a role in shaping your services.

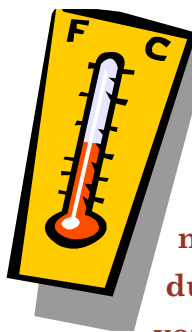
Since 1946, when OKPUD was formed, our mission has been and will continue to be to provide dependable, not-for-profit public utility services governed by, and for the benefit of, our customers in a safe and environmentally friendly manner. We would like to thank you for your continued support.

Commercial Lighting Retrofits

Improve your lighting system to save money.

If you haven't upgraded your lighting system within the last five years, you may be missing out on some significant energy savings. Advances in lighting technology have produced products that can help commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities use energy more efficiently and economically.

Okanogan PUD offers a lighting retrofit program to help owners and leaseholders of commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities upgrade light fixtures and lighting controls to energy efficient technologies. The program offers cash incentives and low-cost financing for installing approved energy-saving upgrades. Call your PUD Energy Services Office at 509.422.8427 or 509.422.8428 for more information.



GET READY FOR WINTER

Adding insulation and sealing up every hole, nook and cranny in your home are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and maximize your energy dollars. Call your PUD Energy Conservation Department at 422-8427 or 422-8428 for information on the energy conservation loan program to help you achieve these measures.

SAFETY TIP

Electrical wires? Telephone wires? Don't guess! Assume any downed wires are energized. Stay away and keep others away. Call your PUD.



INFORMATION FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

FUEL MIX REPORT

The Washington Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (“CTED”) conducts an annual survey of all electric utilities operating within the state in order to determine the generation source of the electric energy sold to the utilities’ respective retail customers. CTED uses this information to develop a statewide database and subsequently provides each electric utility with a “Fuel Mix Report” listing the fuel types utilized in providing their electric service.

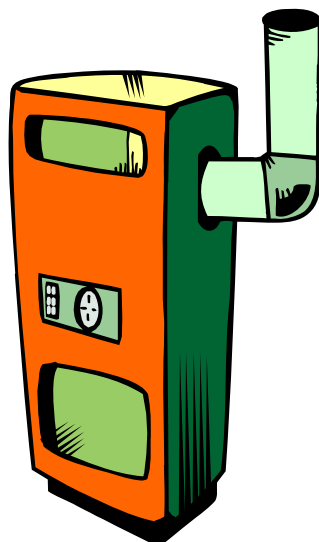
Below is CTED’s report data for Okanogan County PUD covering calendar years 2008 and 2007.

FUEL	2008	2007
Hydro	84.31 %	88.10 %
Nuclear	8.15 %	6.97 %
Wind	3.47 %	0.22 %
Coal	2.76 %	3.25 %
Natural Gas	1.13 %	1.27 %
Biomass	0.08 %	0.09 %
Other	0.07 %	0.07 %
Petroleum	0.03 %	0.03 %
Total	100.00 %	100.00 %

FURNACE TUNE-UP

Now would be the perfect time of the year to get your furnace or heat pump tuned up for winter. Wouldn’t it be reassuring to know that your system is ready to keep you warm this winter! Don’t forget to change those filters too. Dirty filters reduce air flow, causing your system to

work harder than it should to heat and cool your home or business.



SMART METERING PROJECT HAS BEGUN

Beginning this year and continuing into 2010 the District will begin a conversion to smart metering or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). So what is smart metering and why is the District moving in that direction? The advantages of AMI are multiple. District meters can be read remotely by communicating over power lines and the fiber-optic network. This means no meter readers visiting each meter bi-monthly or monthly and no more estimated reads. The District has a desire to move all customers to a monthly read and billing system rather than the bi-monthly that most residential customers have at this time. This will improve the District’s cash flow position as well as prevent a possible large two month bill for customers, especially in colder, high usage months. AMI provides instant information on usage, loads, voltage, meter tampering and outages all of which improves the District’s ability to better serve our customers. Staff will have current information at their finger tips to answer customer questions. Engineering will have current information for transformer loading and other system studies. Each meter will be queried daily for power outages. Stopped meters will be found daily rather than only when the meter reader visits. The result is considerable labor and vehicle savings by not having to send a person and vehicle for meter reading, for re-reads when questions arise, when accounts change hands and other instances when meter reads need to be checked. This project requires the District to change out or modify all meters in the system resulting in a short power outage. Over the next two years customers will be receiving notification as to when we will visit your home or business to accomplish this task. We will work closely with our customers on arranging these outages. For questions please go to the frequently asked questions page at website at <http://www.okanoganpud.org/AMIFAQs.pdf>