

FACT SHEET CHELAN TRANSMISSION FIRE HARDENING



WHAT

Results of the customer outreach from the 2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan indicated that “customer-owners were most interested in replacing or rerouting some electric lines to protect against fire and weather risks.” As a result, the PUD conducted a fire risk assessment of the PUD’s high voltage electrical transmission system that was completed in 2017. Improvements to the transmission system between Chelan Falls and Union Valley was one of several potential projects identified in the study.

WHY

The past decade has brought many large wildfires to Chelan County. The wildfire of 2015 in Chelan burned both transmission lines that serve the Lake Chelan Valley. Power was out for over 36 hours while crews restored the first line. The second line took eleven days to restore. Outages of this duration can have impacts to commerce, tourism, healthcare, agriculture and the quality of life of all who live in the Lake Chelan Valley.

TIMELINE

This PUD is seeking community input in 2019 to determine if there is support for a project to fire harden the transmission system serving the Chelan area. If so, design and procurement of parts would occur in 2020 and 2021, with construction planned for 2022.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The PUD is seeking community input and feedback on several options aimed at reducing and even eliminating power outages associated with the transmission system during wildfires. Visit our website for more information.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Website: www.chelanpud.org/firehardening

Contact Jenna Rahm, Customer Outreach Specialist, at jenna.rahm@chelanpud.org or (509) 661-4630.

WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

Chelan PUD hired a consulting firm in 2017 to conduct a fire risk assessment of our transmission system. The study provided us with a list of transmission line segments that are candidates for fire hardening improvements. These improvements will minimize power outages, shorten outage durations, and improve the resiliency and reliability of the PUD’s transmission system.

Factors evaluated include the expected intensity of the fire based on nearby fuel sources, the ability to combat a fire, potential impacts to customers, the ability for crews to access the lines and anticipated time to complete emergency repairs, and potential impacts to the PUD’s hydro generation facilities.

PROPOSED CHELAN TRANSMISSION FIRE HARDENING TIMELINE

