

Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Stehekin Letter. The quarterly letter from Chelan County PUD will cover energy-related topics of interest suggested by Stehekin residents, as well as offer tips on energy efficiency and improvements.

Equipment upgrades will improve power quality

Chelan County PUD has budgeted \$200,000 for a project to improve power quality to Stehekin customers in 2005. The PUD plans to replace the governors on the hydro turbine at the Company Creek power plant and on at least one – and possibly all three – of the diesel generators there. New voltage regulators will be installed as well.

PUD Hydro Engineering Manager John Sagerser said the work is scheduled for the fall of 2005. Work is being timed to begin after Labor Day, once the busy tourism season at Stehekin has wrapped up for the year.

“The main goal is to improve power quality in the valley, which has been hampered by voltage regulation problems and frequency swings,” Sagerser said. The PUD’s electrical system is outfitted with protective equipment to guard against problems caused by excessively low frequency. But the protective equipment causes the generators to shut off when frequency gets too low, which means Stehekin residents lose power. The improvements should reduce these outages, he said.

No outages should be necessary during the work itself, Sagerser added.

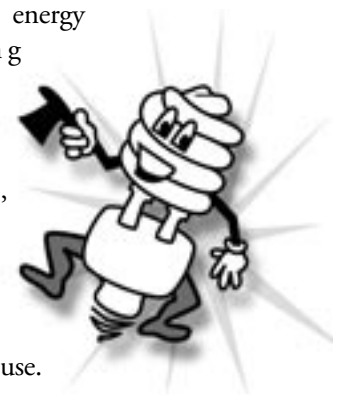
Try CFLs to chase away winter shadows

Stehekin’s setting at the bottom of the forested slopes of the North Cascades makes for breathtaking vistas for much of the year. But that same location brings long, dark days during the winter, resulting in the need for more lighting.

As with any energy consuming device, the longer the hours of operation, the more important it is to be efficient in energy use.

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are one energy-efficient alternative to standard incandescent lighting.

CFL technology has come a long way in the last several years and lamps are now available in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and wattages. CFLs are commonly advertised as lasting ten times longer than equivalent output incandescent lamps and using one-quarter to one-third the energy.



New commissioner takes office

Ann Congdon of Manson was elected to the five-member PUD Board of Commissioners in November. She represents District 3, which includes Stehekin. She replaces Jim Wall, who served on the commission for 22 years. Congdon’s term runs through 2010. Stehekin’s other commissioner is Gary Montague of Wenatchee, serving his second term representing at-large District B. His term runs through 2006. Congdon can be reached at ann.congdon@chelanpud.org. Montague’s e-mail address is garym@chelanpud.org.



Ann Congdon is sworn in as a PUD commissioner on Jan. 3.



Have a burning question?

If you have a question you'd like to see answered in this newsletter, contact Susan Gillin, Customer Service administrator for Energy Services, via mail at P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807, or via e-mail at susang@chelanpud.org.

CFLs: Energy savers

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While you start saving energy as soon as you use the CFLs, the higher purchase price has been a barrier to some. But that's more than made up for in energy savings. Replacing a 60-watt standard bulb that runs 12 hours a day with a 15-watt CFL will save about \$10 per year.

Today's CFLs come in a variety of color temperatures (warm to cool), medium and candelabra-sized bases, and one piece or modular lamp/

ballast combinations. For complete information on how to make the best buy, including links to manufacturers,

contact the PUD's Energy Services Department, 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee 98801. Or visit the Washington

State University Energy Ideas Clearinghouse at www.energyideas.org. (The full link to go directly to information about CFLs is <http://www.energyideas.org/default.cfm?o=h,g,gs,ds&c=z,z,compact%20fluorescent,2012>.)

Replacing a 60-watt standard bulb that runs 12 hours a day with a 15-watt CFL will save about \$10 per year in energy costs.

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