



Monday, April 3, 2017

PUD to talk smart metering at upcoming events

by Christine Pratt [April 3, 2017, 4:29 p.m.](#)

WENATCHEE — Chelan County PUD officials say they could save money and produce more accurate billings if they replaced customers' current electric meters with "advanced" ones, but first they want to talk to everyone about it.

More than two dozen public outreach meetings, including sessions with business chambers and service clubs, are planned this month to talk about the benefits of the meters. Here's a list of the main meeting places and times:

<> April 8 (Saturday):

8 a.m. to 10 a.m., Wenatchee Community Center, 504 South Chelan Ave., during the "Survive and Thrive Health Camp and Safety Fair.

8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Lake Wenatchee Recreation Center, 14400 Chiwawa Loop Road

8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Beaver Valley Lodge, 18630 Beaver Valley Road, Plain

<> April 11 (Tuesday): 6:30 p.m., Pybus Public Market, 3 N. Worthen St.

<> April 12 (Wednesday): 6:30 p.m., Leavenworth Fire Hall, 228 Chumstick Highway, Leavenworth.

<> April 13 (Thursday), 6:30 p.m., Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, 216 East Woodin Ave., Chelan

Advanced two-way meters, also called AMI or "smart" meters, use a radio frequency, cellular service or fiber-optics to automatically and continuously transmit information about a customer's energy use to the PUD in real time, without the need for a PUD employee to visit a home or enter private property.

The readings are more accurate, PUD officials say, and also let customers track their energy use by computer or smartphone. About 40 percent of all electric meters in the U.S. are advanced, two-way meters.

PUD officials will be hand at each of the outreach sessions to answer questions and address the health concerns, including cancer risk, that some people have about

exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by devices that use radiation or transmit data, like microwave ovens, cell phones, wireless Internet.

The utility currently has about 16,000 one-way digital electric meters and 6,500 one-way digital water meters. These allow meter readers to get a reading once a month just by rolling past the meters in their vehicles.

For more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit chelanpud.org/AdvancedMeters, or call 663-8121.