



GM Steve Wright A strategic plan pays off



Steve Wright

Two unexpected events put big strains on PUD finances and on our employees this past year.

We discovered significant damage to our largest generating units at our largest

hydropower facility

(Rocky Reach Dam). Then, there was the fallout from the fracture in Grant County PUD's Wanapum Dam downstream from Rock Island.

Recently PUD commissioners approved a long-term plan for repairing the Rocky Reach units at an estimated cost of \$42 million to \$45 million. We also see

impacts at Rock Island due to reduced generating capability as well as unanticipated costs for modifying fish ladders and extending boat ramps because the Wanapum reservoir was lowered.

Despite these unexpected, and significant costs, you've heard us say we do not expect a need for a rate increase. It's reasonable to ask, "How can that be?"

In large measure, it's because of the PUD's current strategic plan developed in 2010. It emphasized getting the District's financial house in order. By the time I arrived a year ago, the work to put the plan in place was well underway. The District had increased financial reserves to protect against unexpected events. And, new power sales contracts have added revenue from the power we sell into energy markets.

Now we can clearly see the wisdom of those decisions. We still expect to produce positive net revenue in the coming years without a rate increase.

We are committed to maintaining and even strengthening the financial health of the PUD. Earlier this year, the PUD Board of Commissioners affirmed our financial principles and set a target for maintaining reserves and achieving debt reduction that is a modest acceleration from last year's budget.

Although the problems at the dams have increased costs, the strategy of having the PUD positioned to withstand unexpected negative events is working. We intend to build an even stronger foundation of financial health.

The take-away? We can maintain stable rates, assuming we don't have more negative surprises, and the District's valuable assets are being protected. I don't mean to imply that we know and have thought of everything – the past year has been humbling.

However, as we work on our new strategic plan, know that we'll keep the policies that have served us so well and, we will look for ways to do even better.

Celebrate public power Oct. 5-11

It's a good time to Rediscover **YOUR PUD!** Join us to celebrate the benefits of public power with Chelan PUD from **noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11**, at Pybus Market in Wenatchee. Prizes, presentations with community partners and useful tips on topics from being ready for winter storms to hooking a fall Chinook.

Public Power Week is a yearly recognition of the more than 2,000 community-owned electric utilities across the country that serve more than 47 million people: about 14 percent of the nation's electricity consumers.

Check our website for the schedule and join us for Chelan PUD day at Pybus Market.



Rediscover Your PUD

Oct. 26 – Fall Roundup at Rocky Reach Dam. Wear your costume and be treated to free, family fun from 1-4 p.m.

Rebates! Get your rebates

You save and we save when our customer-owners buy energy-efficient appliances. Look for cash back on refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and heat pumps that are Energy Star rated (or otherwise qualified) as efficient.

See our website for details on all the rebates at chelanpud.org > Energy Conservation.

Homeward bound

Record numbers of sockeye and near-record numbers of summer Chinook have traveled past Rock Island and Rocky Reach dams this year on their way to spawn in native waters.

Chelan PUD fish experts are pleased with the strong returns as they reflect on the success of extending fish ladders at Rock Island Dam to provide upriver access even with the impact of the lower reservoir downstream behind Wanapum Dam due to the spillway fracture.

More than 1.3 million salmon and steelhead have traveled past Rock Island and Rocky Reach through mid-September.



Don't fall for a scam call

Customers need to know Chelan PUD won't ever call you and threaten to shut off your power and demand immediate payment.

We are receiving an alarming increase in reports of these calls. Sadly, some customers have followed the scammers' demands and paid \$300, \$600 or more using a Green Dot card. **Don't let that happen to you.**



We want to help customers protect themselves by arming you with the facts:

- PUD staff only make bill **calls 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** on weekdays
- We **don't** shut off power in the evenings or on weekends
- Chelan PUD **does not accept Green Dot** cards for payment

If you get a call that doesn't sound right, hang up and call us. We're here 24/7 at (509) 663-8121.

No sea víctima de fraude. Visite nuestra página de internet www.chelanpud.org > "Customer Services" para encontrar información para protegerse.



CHELAN COUNTY

Let's talk: We want to hear from you. Talk to us on Facebook.com/ChelanPUD

Find us on Twitter @ChelanPUD • Email us at contactus@chelanpud.org

Give us a ring at (509) 663-8121 or toll-free, (888) 663-8121.



DPENDORSEMENT LINE
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ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE

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STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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WENATCHEE, WA
PERMIT NO. 300

CHELAN COUNTY PUD
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WENATCHEE, WA 98807-1231



Time to talk 2015 budget

We've had such great response from community members with the strategic plan, we are looking for your comments on our 2015 budget, too.

Our focus is on investing in our assets and doing more to strengthen our financial outlook as we prepare for setting our course by the outcome of the strategic plan efforts.

Send us your thoughts on plans for 2015. Write to

us at 2015budget@chelanpud.org.
And, find out more at www.chelanpud.org.

Great response moves strategic planning to next step

Teams of community members and PUD employees are evaluating the 1,100-plus ideas submitted as we move into the next phase of creating the plan that will guide Chelan PUD decisions for 2015-2019 and beyond.

Read the comments and learn more about the criteria used to evaluate each idea on Chelan PUD's strategic planning website, ourpublicpower.org.

Everybody plays

There's something for all ages at Walla Walla Point Park's new play area. From an accessible swing to workout gear for adults, the new equipment is a great place to enjoy time outdoors with the family.

Thank you for the 130 ideas and comments we received on what makes for powerful fun in PUD parks.

