

Hotline

FRANKLIN
PUD

THE POWER IS YOURS
www.franklinpud.com

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Working for You

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Safety is Number One

May is National Electrical Safety Month

As we continue to monitor and control our internal costs and efficiencies, we can never lose sight that safety is our number one priority at Franklin PUD - for both employees and our customers. Almost daily we read about some sort of incident or disaster that could have been avoided.

We have critical infrastructure in all of our substations as well as transformers, power lines, and other equipment that can endanger the public, our employees, and customers. We have recently elevated our awareness of safety so that it's on our minds every day to keep a safe work environment. We have resurrected our Safety Awareness Program whereby employees will be recognized for outstanding acts of safety. We have had safety committees for decades, and we must provide annual reporting to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) which regulates what workers wear to stay safe on the job. In fact, OSHA has a special set of rules for high-voltage electrical workers.

Franklin PUD has a tabletop electrical safety demonstration that we take to schools to educate our students about the dangers of downed power lines, and how to stay safe around electricity.

We've contracted with other utilities in the state when they are in need of help or we need additional support due to a prolonged or severe outage. In addition, we "share" a Utility Safety Coordinator, Stephen Frost (Frosty), between local utilities. He was just awarded the Northwest Public Power Associations (NWPPA) **2016 Career Commitment to Safety Award** for his contributions to developing and implementing an electrical safety training program for first responders so that we can work more closely with the local area fire districts if and when a disaster happens. Frosty created a safety training program that was presented to over 500 firefighters in Benton and Franklin Counties. The training included basic understanding of electricity



Franklin PUD Lineman, Travis Scott practicing good safety

and how it acts under certain conditions, generator hazards, vehicle accidents, and what to do around downed and dangling electrical wires. The safety program was so well received that it has become part of an ongoing refresher training that will be provided to firefighters every 1 - 2 years. In addition, the firefighters will be providing an orientation to their incident command structure for our employees during an emergency response in the near future.

For our customers, immediately report a downed power line to us at 509-542-5300 or call 911.

If you see someone who has been shocked and is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, do not touch the person. Pulling an electric shock victim away could make you a second victim. Warn others to stay away.

If a power line falls across or near your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives. If you must exit, jump clear so no part of your body is touching the car when you land. Keep both feet together and shuffle or hop at least 30 feet from the vehicle.

For more information on safety tips, go to the Electrical Safety Foundation International at www.esfi.org.



No Rate Increase in 2016

The Franklin PUD Commissioners voted unanimously at the March 22, 2016 board meeting not to raise rates in 2016.

In July 2015, consistent with the recommendation of staff and our Rate Advisory Committee (RAC), the Board of Commissioners approved a 3% rate increase effective September 1, 2015 and a second rate increase of up to 5% effective May 1, 2016 with the understanding that the RAC would meet again to discuss and evaluate the PUD's 2015 financial results.

The RAC met this past February and reviewed the revenue requirement assumptions and 2015 financial results. Their recommendation to the Commission, along with staff, was not to implement any rate action in 2016, foregoing the approved 2016 rate increase of up to 5%.

Franklin PUD buys about 85% of its power from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the Pacific Northwest's largest energy marketer. Power costs represent nearly 70% of the annual budget for the utility. Franklin PUD is pleased that no rate action has to be taken in 2016 and we will continue to look for ways to cut internal costs wherever possible to keep rates as low as possible. In addition, we will continue to monitor external programs and provide feedback to BPA on programs that continue to put upward pressure on customer rates.

New SCADA System

Working Towards a More Connected Future

Until recently Franklin PUD leveraged technology which was integrated with Benton PUDs Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. We have now implemented our own SCADA system which is a "dual-redundant" system with an advanced graphical user interface. What this means is that the dual-redundant configuration adds resilience to Franklin PUD's operations and energy distribution systems, contributing to increased reliability and ultimately customer satisfaction.



The new system enhances after-hours monitoring of the grid. Employees are now equipped with secure mobile devices, allowing around-the-clock monitoring of the health of the electric system from outside



Dean Oberlander, Senior Project Engineer - not only our SCADA expert, but an avid fisherman.

the control room. This higher availability of vital information improves coordination and communication of operations personnel during trouble calls.

Substation line diagrams, alarms, and distribution network maps can be accessed through the application. In the event of an outage or service issue, these applications can assist Franklin PUD in making better decisions more quickly and effectively responding to our customers. The system enables Franklin PUD to gain immediate operational benefits, while creating a foundation to address future requirements.

IMPORTANT FACTS*

Electric Distribution System:

Miles of distribution line	964
Customers per mile/distribution line	26
Number of substations	20
2015 system load (aMW)	123

MWh Sold:

Residential	336,224
Commercial	382,830
Irrigation	143,234
Industrial	176,040
Street Lights	5,277
2015 total MWh sold	1,043,605

* Numbers are for year ending 2015

Commissioner's Corner

Engaging Our Community Partners



Stu Nelson
2016 Secretary

Franklin PUD, and public power in general, has a roadmap to the future that engages our community while we examine new risks and opportunities poised to target the electric utility industry. Our future involves more distributed generation projects with our customers, a new community solar project, realigning rates with economic costs, managing new external risks and keeping open communication with our customers and community.

Like our new Strategic Direction that we recently adopted, we need to continue efforts that create a platform for customers to help shape our energy future. There are so many state and federal legislative pressures that are constantly being brought up regarding our industry that we need to stay abreast of. We need to lead the way - not follow others. We continue to hear about modernizing the

"electric grid" and meeting customer demand for solar and other distributed energy resources. Currently we have about 55 customers that have solar on their homes and are molding our energy future as distributed energy pioneers.

As you read this article, we will have just completed our new community solar project that includes 117 customer participants. This new "solar carport" structure in our south parking lot at the Administration building is one example of Franklin PUD leading the way in our community while including customers in our energy future. See photos at right during the construction phase of the solar project.

You are our customer-owners and you have a say in what we do. I invite you to attend one of our monthly Commission meetings that are held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. in our auditorium. Come and let your voice be heard to be part of the solution, come be part of the new energy horizon, and let us hear from you how to make a difference for our community.

CURRENT RATES - Effective 9/1/15

Full rate schedules are available on our website at www.franklinpud.com

Residential	Basic	Energy	
Single Phase	\$34.00	\$0.0635	
Three Phase	\$58.72	\$0.0635	
Small General	Basic	Energy	
All customers	\$38.00	\$0.0715	
Medium General	Basic	Energy	Demand
Apr-Aug	\$49.84	\$0.0350	\$7.93
Sept-March	\$49.84	\$0.0443	\$7.93
Large General	Basic	Energy	Demand
Apr- Aug	\$66.53	\$0.0351	\$8.11
Sept - March	\$66.53	\$0.0437	\$8.11
Small Irrigation (Metered)		Energy	Horsepower
Apr - Aug		\$0.0308	\$4.95
Sept - March		\$0.0505	\$4.95
Large Irrigation (Metered)		Energy	Demand
Apr - Aug		\$0.0307	\$9.14
Sept - Oct		\$0.0420	\$9.14
Nov - March		\$0.0506	\$9.14
Industrial	Basic	Energy	Demand
Apr - Aug	\$467.53	\$0.0349	\$8.33
Sept - March	\$467.53	\$0.0438	\$8.33

New Large Industrial

Effective August 28, 2012 >3,000 kW - determined by contract

voluntary option to customers, is mandated by the State of Washington through RCW 19.29A.090.

The amount you pay is above and beyond what you already pay for renewable energy already included in Franklin PUD rates.

For more information on this program, visit our website at www.franklinpud.com/conservation/generationgreen.



Franklin PUD offers Generation Green, a "green power" program to give our customers an opportunity to purchase renewable energy generated from qualified alternative energy resources. This program, which provides a

Community Solar Project

The Construction Phase

We will be hosting a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, May 25th at 11:00 a.m. for the new project. More information will be posted on the website and through the media for those customers not receiving the newsletter in time for the event.



First solar panel being placed on the parking structure!



Fuel Mix Disclosure

A report of where your power comes from

Generation Type	% of Total Generation	
	WA State*	Actual
Coal	3%	
Hydro	82%	79%
Market Purchases		6%
Natural Gas	3%	2%
Nuclear	9%	9%
Wind	3%	3%
Other		1%
Total	100%	100%

Source: WA State Dept. of Commerce Utility Fuel Mix Report for 2014. Franklin PUD's actual generation is also shown for 2014.

