

Hydropower back on in Stehekin

But be prepared for outages until new equipment is ready

A repaired turbine runner was installed at the Stehekin hydro plant in mid-October, reducing the need to use diesel generators this winter.

Diesel generators had been used to produce power since April. Cracks discovered in the turbine runner raised safety concerns, and PUD commissioners approved emergency negotiations with contractors to replace the runner.

However, a new runner will not be available until spring 2008. To avoid relying entirely on diesel generators through the upcoming winter, it was decided to repair the old turbine runner and use it until a new unit is completed.

A 200-kilowatt generator borrowed from the PUD's Water Department was rewired to the proper voltage and brought to Stehekin in early October as a backup. The District plans to buy and install two new diesel generators to provide further backup in January.

In 2008, PUD staff will begin meeting to develop a long-range plan for Stehekin operations. Community meetings will be part of that planning effort. We'll



Journeyman Mechanic Jack Brown inspects the Stehekin power plant's refurbished Pelton wheel. The repaired wheel, or turbine runner, has been placed back in service temporarily until a new runner can be cast.

keep you posted.

Be ready for outages

Stehekin residents should be aware that until the new turbine runner is manufactured and installed at the powerhouse next spring, power may be less dependable than in previous winters. The PUD does its best to provide reliable electric service, but customers should be prepared for possible lengthy outages.

Due to their remote location, most Stehekin customers are well-equipped for emergencies. But now is a good time to evaluate your emergency toolkit and gather essentials including flashlights, batteries, a portable radio, water and food. Have an emergency plan for staying warm, cooking, or heating water in case the power is out for an extended period.

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If the lights go out...

Here are top tips for dealing with power outages from the PUD and the American Red Cross:

- Use battery-powered flashlights and lanterns for emergency lighting. Don't use candles.
- Turn off electrical equipment you were using when the power went out.
- Avoid opening the refrigerator and freezer.
- Listen to local radio for updated information.
- Never run a generator inside a home or garage.
- If you use a generator, connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Do not connect a generator to a home's electrical system.

More information on preparing for outages is available on the Red Cross Web site at www.redcross.org

During outages, updated information is posted on the PUD's Web site: www.chelanpud.org. Customers with phone service sometimes find they can dial a friend or family member who still has power and ask that person to provide information from the PUD site.

More on using a generator

If you are considering buying a generator, get advice from a licensed electrician. Make sure the generator is listed with Underwriter's Laboratories or a similar organization. Always keep the generator outdoors; never operate it inside. Do not hook up a generator directly to your home wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator. Connecting a cord from the generator to a point on the permanent wiring system and backfeeding power to your home is unsafe.

CFLs still available

In an effort to cut energy use, the PUD distributed free compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to Stehekin customers in July. Bob Nielsen, Stehekin operations attendant, still has some bulbs available. Installing compact fluorescent lamps in place of standard incandescent bulbs can offer substantial savings that stack up quickly. CFLs use about two-thirds less energy than a standard incandescent bulb and last up to 10 times longer.



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