

Water Ways



CHELAN COUNTY



Contractors install water pipe under the Monitor Bridge – the most difficult part of the PUD project to bring water to the community

Monitor water project wraps up

Eleven months and 41,000 feet of pipe later, construction has been completed on a project to extend water to Monitor.

Contractor Buno Construction of Snohomish “did a great job” of spanning the historic Monitor Bridge, avoiding irrigation-line breaks, and communicating with neighbors, PUD Project Manager Vern Chamberlain said.

Buno started work in January under a \$3.4 million contract to extend water from the PUD’s main system to residents of Monitor. PUD commissioners formed a Local Utility District to bring water to Monitor residents.

Chamberlain said the most trying part of the project was crossing the Monitor Bridge over the Wenatchee River. The contractor had to position the pipeline to conceal it as much as possible. One lane of traffic over the narrow bridge was blocked during six weeks of installation work. Chamberlain said there was less than six inches to spare between the machinery stationed on the bridge and trucks that needed to pass over it.

Yet “we had few complaints from neighbors,” Chamberlain said.

John Goodwill, water resources engineer, said connections will be made gradually as customers do work on their own property to get ready for water service. Preparations include installing pressure-reducing valves and backflow prevention devices.

Help set goals for small water systems

Customers served by the Dryden, Ollala Canyon, Chelan Ridge and Chelan Falls water systems are invited to review and comment on goals being established under a state water-use regulation.

The Water Use Efficiency Rule requires the PUD to document existing conservation efforts and develop plans for future programs. A plan for the PUD’s larger system serving rural Wenatchee was approved by PUD commissioners and submitted to the state Department of Health last year.

The PUD already has several successful programs in place. But the new requirement serves as an additional impetus to look at ways to most efficiently provide safe, clean drinking water and to help customers conserve wherever possible.

A draft plan is posted on the PUD Web site at www.chelanpud.org. Click on “Customer Services,” then “Water Services,” then “Water Use Efficiency Rule.” Comments can be submitted through the Web site, by phone at 661-4131, or by e-mail to ron.slabaugh@chelanpud.org.

Chelan County PUD commissioners will hold a public hearing to set goals for the four systems at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24, in the boardroom at 327 N. Wenatchee Ave., Wenatchee.

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How to reach us

Conservation and Customer Services:....661-8008
Water Department:661-4254
Web site: www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation

Chelan Falls moves to automated meters

Improved safety for meter readers and help finding leaks are two advantages of new automated meters installed in the Chelan Falls Water District this fall.

The Chelan Falls system is the last of the five systems operated by the PUD to receive automated meters. The PUD operates the Chelan Falls system under contract with the Chelan Falls Water District. The PUD's systems in rural Wenatchee, Chelan Ridge, Dryden and Ollala Canyon received new meters in 2006.

Randy Bryant, foreman, and Shawn Desy, journeyman for the PUD's Water department, installed 150 meters, finishing most of the project in October. In some cases, new vaults have to be placed in the ground to hold new meters. That work won't be completed until spring.

Ron Slabaugh, water resources manager for the PUD, said the project will come in well under its \$125,000 budget.

Automated metering transmits radio signals from a distance. The automated system allows meter readers to drive by homes and businesses; water-use figures are transmitted to a laptop computer in the vehicle.

In the past, water consumption had to be estimated during the winter because snow made it hard to reach the underground vaults where water meters are located. Automated meter reading eliminates the need for estimates while improving safety for meter readers.

Chart your water use

With automated metering, customers can borrow small, in-home monitors to chart their water use. The devices can help customers pinpoint leaks and look for ways to conserve. Call the PUD's Conservation department for more information at 661-8008.

The system provides advantages with leak detection as well. If an excessive amount of water flows through a meter, an alarm alerts system operators to a potential problem.

Chelan Falls customers should note that if water bills seem higher than in the past, it may be due to increased accuracy. PUD staff learned from the 2006 installations that some customers had been undercharged for water use due to inaccurate meters.

In the news: Tucson requires water-harvesting

Tucson, Ariz., has become the first municipality in the country to require developers of commercial properties to harvest rainwater for landscaping. The new water-saving measure – approved by a unanimous vote of the city council – mandates that new developments meet 50 percent of their landscaping water requirements by capturing rainwater. The rule goes into effect June 1, 2010.