

Water Ways



Watchdog your water use

Did you ever want to know how much water you're using during that 7-minute shower? Or how much it takes to run the dishwasher, or wash a load of clothes?

Customers with concerns about excessive water use can borrow a Water Meter Monitor from the PUD. The PUD has a limited number of monitors available for loan to customers for up to two weeks.

The monitors can also be purchased for \$100 each.

The monitor can be installed in a customer's kitchen, living room or other room within sight of the meter. It captures signals from the transmitter installed on the water meter. The monitor displays the current reading on the water meter and can display water use during intervals defined by the customer, such as for one day, or for when a lawn is being watered.

To borrow or buy a monitor, call the PUD at (509) 661-8008.



Conservation planning under way

Conservation is the focus of a new state requirement for water suppliers throughout Washington. The Water Use Efficiency Rule requires Chelan County PUD to document existing conservation efforts and develop plans for future programs.

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

Customers will have an opportunity to comment on the PUD's plans.

A public meeting on plans for the Wenatchee area water system will be held this summer. Plans for the smaller water systems at Dryden, Chelan Ridge and Ollala Canyon will be developed later.

The PUD's Wenatchee area water use efficiency plan will be submitted to the state Department of Health later this year as part of a six-year comprehensive plan that assesses water supplies and anticipates demand and service needs.

More people, more pumps

A low-interest loan from the state Public Works Trust Fund will pay for the bulk of improvements to the Wenatchee area water system beginning this summer. The project includes upgrading pump stations at Hawley Street and Euclid Avenue (where the PUD receives its source water from the regional transmission main), building a new 2-million-gallon reservoir, and constructing 4,300 feet of water transmission pipelines.

Increased growth and aging infrastructure are driving the need for system improvements.

Work on the pump stations should be completed this year. The other two projects are scheduled for construction in 2009 and 2010.

The 2-million-gallon reservoir will replace three 1/2-million-gallon reservoirs on Maiden Lane. All three are more than 50 years old. The new reservoir will be constructed west of, and across the irrigation canal from, the Western Heights Subdivision. The three existing reservoirs are located next to the irrigation canal, south of North Road.

Total project cost is estimated at \$6.2 million, with 85 percent – about \$5.3 million – coming from the Public Works Trust Fund loan. The interest rate is just 0.5 percent over 20 years. The remainder of the project will be paid for by the PUD.

Spring 2007

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Escape to Xeriscape:

Several new plants have been added to the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at Riverfront Park in Wenatchee. You can see all 53 flowering plants and grasses on the PUD's Web site at www.chelanpud.org/xeriscape.html.

Here's an upcoming opportunity to learn more about drought-tolerant landscaping: WSU urban horticulturist Paula Dinius presents "Plants for the North Central Washington Landscape" on Thursday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Rocky Reach Visitor Center theater. Her presentation will include a session on Xeriscape.

How to reach us

Energy Services/Conservation:..... 661-8008

Water Department: 661-4254

Web site: www.chelanpud.org/water-conservation

Xeriscape[™]



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