

Work begins on power plant improvements

Preliminary work is under way to replace the governors on the hydro turbine and install new voltage regulators at the Company Creek power plant. The upgrades will improve power quality in the valley, meaning fewer cases of dim lights and slow clocks.

Jim Gray, PUD Hydro Operations supervisor, said work will be completed by the end of September.

In the meantime, PUD staff is hoping to secure additional rights from the state Department of Ecology (DOE) to use more water from the creek to generate power. That would mean running the back-up diesel generators less often. The PUD will notify Stehekin residents when the DOE calls for public comments on the PUD's water-rights application.

Gray said auto-start technology that will be added to the large diesel units will make for more efficient operation this winter. Run times for the units had been increasing, he noted, but

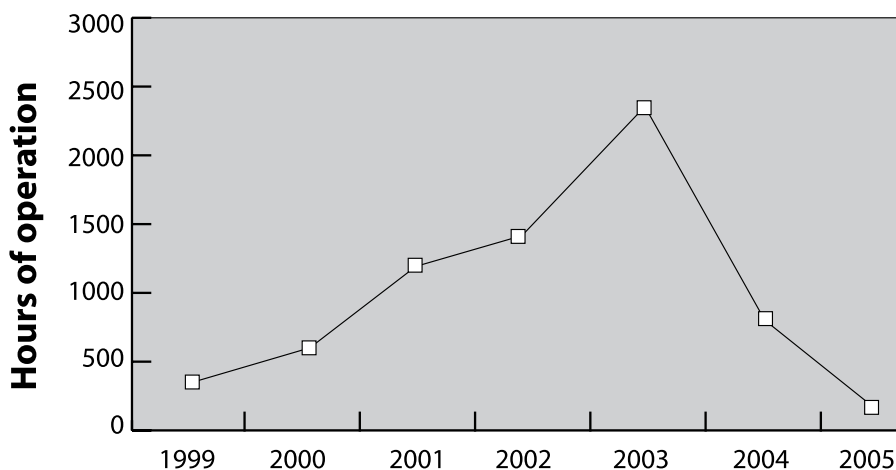


Hydro Operations Supervisor Jim Gray shares some good news with Stehekin residents at a community meeting July 12: Work at the power plant will improve power quality.

are beginning to fall back down. He said much of the credit for that goes to plant operator Bob Nielsen.

Gray noted, however, that due to low

snowpack, the creek will shrink "to a trickle" this fall and the diesel units may be used more than usual.



Use of the back-up diesel units at the Company Creek power plant had been increasing but is going down again. (Note: Figures for 2005 are for the first six months only.)

Avoid the load

Peak loads at the Company Creek powerhouse occur from 7 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. daily. Stehekin customers can help reduce the need to operate the back-up diesel units by cutting back on electrical use during those hours.

Options explored for moving overhead lines underground

Chelan County PUD is letting Stehekin customers know of a possible opportunity to move some overhead lines underground by sharing a trench that may be constructed by the private telephone company WeavTel. However, this does not mean that the PUD is endorsing the WeavTel proposal.

Kirk Hudson, director of Distribution Services for the PUD, offered that clarification at a public meeting July 12 at the Stehekin Community Hall. About 20 residents attended the meeting.

Hudson said the PUD's offer to look at moving lines underground is in keeping with recommendations made

by a citizen committee this spring. The committee urged the PUD to:

- Communicate any potential conversion opportunities to its customers
- Allow neighborhoods to form a legally binding group to decide whether they want to convert overhead lines to underground, and
- Ask residents to pay for construction themselves, with help from the PUD to find outside funding.

The PUD mailed a letter and questionnaire to Stehekin residents asking for input on moving lines underground from the boat landing

to the bakery. Estimated cost of that conversion is \$500,000. If you did not receive a letter or you wish to comment further, contact Customer Service Supervisor Scot Erickson at 661-4343; by mail at P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee 98807; or e-mail at erickson@chelanpud.org.

Jackie Tupling, Chelan community relations manager, will be in Stehekin within the next two weeks to discuss this issue with interested residents. Jackie can be reached at 661-4380, jackiel@chelanpud.org, or 1034 E. Woodin Ave., Chelan 98816

How to reach us

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Mail can be addressed to any of the above individuals at P.O. Box 1231, Wenatchee, WA 98807

The life span of a span

The life span of underground cable is about 30 years, compared to a life span of up to 70 years for overhead cable. The reason? Heat trapped in the underground conduit causes the cable insulation to deteriorate, eventually forcing a fault in the line.

In the fall issue:

Could a tankless water heater save you money?

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