

Water Ways



Technology brings customer benefits

Automated meter reading is coming to Chelan County PUD. Water customers will be the first to benefit from this new technology. Bills will be more accurate, and wasteful leaks will be detected earlier.

The PUD expects to award a contract soon for electronic transmitters and related equipment that will allow water meters to be read from a distance. Meter readers will be able to drive or walk past meters, taking accurate reads without opening underground vaults.

This will make it safer and more efficient for meter readers, who have encountered poisonous spiders and snakes in vaults as well as mud, snow, ice and debris that often block access.

Most water bills are estimated during the winter because meter readers can't reach meters. Automated meter reading will eliminate the need for estimates. It will also help the District identify problems, such as a

"Automated meter reading is becoming more common in the utility business. Using automated water meters will help us decide if the next step is installing the equipment to read electric meters. We may be able to do the job faster and more safely, plus it could help us get the power back on sooner."

- John Stoll, Customer Service director

Customers with questions about automated meter reading can reach Stoll at 661-4539 or e-mail johnd@chelanpud.org.

water leak, sooner.

Half of the District's water meters are over 10 years old and will be replaced as part of the project.

Some customers who are now being undercharged for water use due to slow and inaccurate meters may notice an increase in their bills with the new, precise technology.

Plans call for installation to begin this summer and wrap up in 2007. In some cases vaults will have

to be replaced, requiring the use of heavy equipment in some neighborhoods.

Water customers in Ollala Canyon have been on an automated meter reading system for more than two years. The system has been trouble-free and has allowed winter meter readings to take place despite heavy snow in the canyon.

That's a lot of water

Chelan County PUD's water department greeted the new year by putting a new, 1-million-gallon reservoir into service. The West Wenatchee Reservoir serves residents in the upper elevations of the Broadview development, as well as those west of Surry Road on up to Number One Canyon.

The reservoir cost \$1.5 million to build and was the top project for 2005. Other water projects included:

- Outfitting pump stations to accept power from portable diesel generators so pumping can continue during power outages.
- Providing six reservoirs and pump stations with new electronic data control equipment to improve reliability.

- Testing groundwater at Lake Chelan State Park for a new well to serve the park and Chelan Ridge residents. Tests show there is adequate quantity and quality to serve the area. The PUD now draws water from the lake, but new regulations and the expense of treating lake water make groundwater a better choice.
- Installing new water main for Harris Court residents in Wenatchee, which improved the water quality and provided additional fire flow.
- Extending water lines into 10 subdivisions with a total of 232 lots in Wenatchee and Sunnyslope. Costs were covered by developers.

Winter 2006

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Monitor closer to getting PUD water

The state Department of Health has awarded a \$500,000 grant toward extending the PUD's water system to Monitor. Other grant applications are pending, and residents also will help pay for costs through formation of a Local Utility District.

Total project cost is estimated at \$6 million.

The goal is to extend the PUD's existing water system from Sunnyslope west to beyond the Monitor town site. The system would serve about 250 homes along with several businesses and fruit warehouses. The new system would improve the water quality and reliability for residents now using wells.

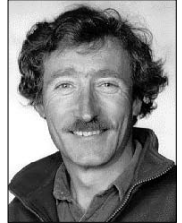
The task force overseeing the effort is made up of representatives from the Monitor Community Council, Chelan County, Chelan-Douglas Health District, Chelan County Port District, state and federal agencies and the PUD.

How to reach us

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

Ciscoe returns to Home Show with co-host Meeghan Black

Ciscoe Morris, host of the popular "Gardening with Ciscoe" program on KING 5 TV, will return to the KPQ Home and Garden Show at 1 p.m. Sunday, March 12. This year Ciscoe is bringing co-host Meeghan Black to add to the fun. Ciscoe will talk about gardening – including Xeriscape gardening – at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center. The PUD will join Ciscoe at the presentation, providing information on the local Xeriscape demonstration garden and water conservation for our area.



Local gardeners have packed the auditorium the last two years to hear Ciscoe's entertaining presentation and get autographs. Come early to grab a good seat.

The home show runs March 10-12.

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