One of the benefits of belonging to a community-owned, not-for-profit utility is receiving more reliable electric service. In fact, it’s part of the PUD 3 promise: to “always provide safe, reliable, economical service, 24/7.” So, when a 50-year storm hits like the one Mason County saw in February, it really puts that mission to the test.

At the height of the storm, the PUD had 9,000 of its 34,000 customers without power. The total number of customers who experienced a power outage throughout the duration of the storm was approximately 12,000. With only five line crews and two tree-trimming crews, the outage command center was challenged with dividing up the man power and calling in other qualified employees to systematically begin removing trees that took out lines from the weight of the snow, repairing the damage to the lines, and ultimately restoring power.

PUD customers were extremely patient as the process to restore power left some customers without power for up to four days. This is due to the necessary steps to recover from an outage. Crews must work from the substation outward. Meaning that the source of power must be operational before they can clear obstructions and repair main transmission lines. Once primary distribution lines are fixed, the utility focuses on repairing the lines that will bring the largest number of customers back on line. Finally, as crews become available from that work, they begin restoring the single outages affecting a smaller number of customers. Each of these steps take time.

Many customers took advantage of SmartHub (available from the app store or my.pud3.org) and monitored the progress on the PUD’s outage map. Facebook and Twitter are also valuable tools when looking for outage updates. Visit PUD 3’s website for more information on how to
Mason Evergreen Power Program Allows PUD 3 Customers to Support the Use & Development of Added Renewable Energy

PUD 3’s energy is 98 percent carbon free. Customers can further green up their energy supply by participating in the voluntary Mason Evergreen Power program.

When customers sign up for this voluntary program, they can purchase blocks of green power for an additional fee beyond their normal electric bill or make 100 percent purchases of renewable energy on a per kilowatt-hour basis.

Green power purchases may be made in 100 kilowatt-hour blocks, at a cost of one dollar per block, per month in addition to the base rate. The purchase of each block does not replace a customer’s current consumption of electricity.

Customers may choose the 100 percent purchase level for an additional one cent per kilowatt hour. The typical consumer using 1,000 kWh per month would pay an additional $10 on their bill to support green power efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

PUD 3’s source of green power is the Nine Canyon Wind project in Eastern Washington. Washington State law requires utilities to offer these optional programs.

More details are available at www.pud3.org/rates or call: 360-426-8255.

Storm (continued)

prepare for an outage and what to do when the power goes out.

We take pride in being recognized as one of the most reliable utilities in the nation. We’re a diamond level Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3) designated by the American Public Power Association. We work hard to maintain that accreditation. However, mostly we are proud to be a community-owned utility and appreciate the support and gratitude we receive from our community and customers during these challenging events. We will continue to focus on our promise and fulfilling our mission.

PUD 3 was presented with its fourteenth consecutive international recognition for the quality and completeness of its financial reporting.

The PUD received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the International Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. The PUD is one of only three public utility districts in Washington State to apply for association recognition for its financial reporting.

The program recognizes organizations that go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports. The program specifically celebrates those participants that show a spirit of transparency and full disclosure.

In addition to 14 consecutive GFOA awards, the utility’s operations are inspected annually by the Washington State Auditor’s Office. The PUD has not been subject to a finding in over 39 years.
Manager Elected to Leadership Role

Annette Creekpaum, PUD 3 manager, was elected to serve as the Public Power Council’s Vice-Chair, Administration and Budget.

Creekpaum was elected to the leadership post during the January 10 meeting of the PPC’s Executive Committee.

PPC Executive Director Scott Corwin said, “PPC is in great hands with this impressive lineup of Officers and Board Members. This team is well-positioned to give a strong voice to utilities of all shapes and sizes around the Northwest who purchase power or transmission from the Federal Columbia River Power System.”

The Public Power Council is a not for profit association that represents about 100 consumer-owned electric utilities in the Pacific Northwest on issues regarding the Federal Columbia River Power System. It also serves as a forum to discuss and build consensus around energy and utility issues.

PUD 3 Seeks State Funding for Rural Broadband Expansion

Last September, PUD 3 was awarded funds for a competitive, low interest rural broadband grant/loan from the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization board (CERB).

The Washington State Legislature recognizes the importance of broadband services for the economic and social well being of rural communities. Last year, they set aside money to help expand high speed internet to poorly served areas of the state.

We know the interest for rural broadband is great, so we have applied for a second round of funds from CERB. It may help us move faster to set up more Fiberhoods in unserved and underserved neighborhoods.

If the application is successful, 675 homes, businesses, and anchor institutions in six areas will benefit: Mission Lake (TriLakes), Panther Lake (TriLakes), Tiger Lake (TriLakes), Dana Drive & Brisco Point (Harstine Island), Phillips Road (Lynch Road Area), and Totten Shores (Lynch Road Area).

The limit for each application is $2 million. PUD 3’s application is for $2,689,260. The low interest loan would be repaid through the existing Fiberhood program.

We’ll know if we are awarded funds in early summer of 2019. Construction is expected to take about four years.

Regardless of what happens with our loan application to the CERB Rural Broadband Program, you can tell if your neighborhood is eligible to use the Fiberhood process to get connected to the PUD’s fiber network.

Learn more about Fiberhoods on our website: www.pud3.org/fiberhood. Fiberhoods in the first round of CERB funding are in the engineering, network design, and make-ready work phase. PUD 3 will start with southwest Mason County; including Fish Hatchery, Ford Loop Road, Matlock-Brady Road, Satsop Maple Glen, Haven Drive, and the Schafer Park Area.

If you’re in an existing Fiberhood area, you can work with your neighbors to make gigabit broadband at your home a reality. Although the fiber optic network is not available in all areas, we’re motivated by our value of being future-focused to continually make progress!

PUD 3 SmartHub
A Powerful Assortment of Information

You’ve heard it before...
“PUD’s SmartHub is more than just a way to pay your bill!”

But, did you know there are several tools available to help you manage your account?

YOU CAN:
• Update your account information
• View payment history
• Change notification preferences
• Enroll in paperless billing
• Schedule future payments
• Sign-up for Round-Up
• Manage PrePay accounts
• Report an outage
• View the PUD’s outage map
• Check your home’s energy usage (monthly, daily, and hourly)
• Pay your bill, and much more!

Sign up Today! Download the SmartHub app, or visit my.pud3.org

To Report a Power Outage:
Download the SmartHub app, visit my.pud3.org, or call: 360-426-8255 available 24/7
Call Before You Dig
Call 811 Before Digging To Keep You & Underground Utilities Safe

Before you reach for the shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, the national call-before-you-dig number. Call 811 before any digging project, from simple landscaping projects such as planting trees or shrubs to building a deck or installing a mailbox.

The process is simple. It’s free to call 811, and makes it easy for the local one-call center to notify all appropriate utility companies.

Call at least 48 hours prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked. When calling, be prepared to describe the location and description of the digging project.

Calling before you dig prevents damage to underground facilities, service interruptions and injury.

Work safely this season. Know what’s below. Call before you dig.

(For more information on underground locates or to submit a locate request online visit: www.callbeforeyoudig.org)