Belfair Payment Center Moving - Mid January

For customer convenience as well as the safety of our employees and customers, the Belfair Payment Center will be moving approximately two-and-a-half miles from its current location into the downtown business core of Belfair on: **January 22, 2019**

While the warehouse at our current location will still be occupied by line workers and operations staff, it will not be open to the public. Customers wishing to do business with the PUD ON or AFTER JANUARY 22, 2019, will need to visit our new location located in the Olympia Federal Savings Building at: **24081 WA-3 - Belfair, WA**

**Safety:**

Safety is a top priority for PUD 3. The board of commissioners initially made the decision to move the location of the customer service function because of several safety concerns.

One reason was due to the increased traffic on State Route 3 which has resulted in accidents and near misses from vehicles entering and exiting the warehouse.

Another safety concern is with the remote location of the building and proximity to emergency services, the exposure of a skeleton staff to harm was concerning.

Finally, the warehouse building was facing a potential remodel to retrofit a set of unsafe stairs. With this move, our crews, customer service, staff and customers will be safer.

**Convenience:**

For customers coming from the North Shore and other areas of east of Belfair, the downtown central location is ideal. It is also convenient for customers to stop and do business on their way to run other errands in town. In addition, our customer service staff will not require the same level of coverage for functions such as making deposits, checking the post office box, or taking lunches.

**More Options:**

For customers who wish to avoid coming into the office, the new location will also have a payment drop box. You can also visit my.pud.org and manage your account online using SmartHub.
Customers In Need of Assistance

**Low Income Senior Discount**
Seniors, age 61 and over; who are permanent, year-round customers of PUD 3; and whose annual income is $40,000 or less may qualify. The discount amounts to the removal of the daily system charge. Contact the PUD directly to apply.

**Low Income Disabled Discount**
Low-income disabled persons, may also have the daily system charge removed. To qualify, call the Community Action Council (CAC) at (360) 426-9726 to schedule a qualification appointment.

**Federal Low-Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)**
Contact CAC to find out if you qualify for Federal LIHEAP funds. Assistance amounts are based on availability of funds, and are determined by household size, income, heat source and the previous year’s energy usage.

**Project Share**
Through the generosity of donors, low-income families (as certified by CAC) can receive help with a $175 payment on their account.

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**Mason County PUD No. 3**
**Utility Fuel Mix Report**

Legislation passed in 2000 directed electric utilities in Washington to report their fuel mix to customers each year.

The 2016 fuel mix for PUD 3* (reported in 2017) listed as a percentage of the total is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOURCE</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hydroelectric</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Gas</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non-Biogenic</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Biogenic</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biogas</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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**Mason PUD 3 Commissioners Approve Budget**

**No Rate Increase for 2019**

PUD 3 Commissioners adopted a $75.5 million budget for 2019 that does not include an increase in local electricity prices. This is the third straight year that PUD 3 has adopted a budget without a rate increase.

The adopted budget is 5.6 percent higher than 2018. The PUD is forecasting a nearly four percent increase in customer electricity consumption next year. The PUD is also expecting a 4.1 percent increase in the sale of energy. This is because of improving economic forecasts, and new customers coming online through 2019.

The Bonneville Power Administration is expected to increase the price of wholesale energy sold to PUD 3. Even so, PUD staff created a financial plan with no local price impact.

Commissioners and staff developed next year’s proposed budget with a zero-based approach, meaning every function in the utility was analyzed for its needs and costs.

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**Joel Myer Honored with 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award**

The prestigious Lacy Peoples Award was presented to the PUD’s Public Information & Government Relations Manager, Joel Myer, by the Northwest Public Power Association. The award celebrates his lifetime commitment to the public power industry and remarkable work in the areas of marketing and communication.

PUD 3’s manager Annette Creekpaum commented on Myer’s award by saying, “Joel’s ability to build meaningful relationships and communicate complex issues has served the PUD and its customers well by having an impact on legislative issues as well as influencing real change at various levels of the region, state, community, and utility. This award was well deserved and makes us very proud.”
SAFETY RESPONSE & DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
During and after a storm, PUD crews de-energize downed lines and safely assess other damaged parts of the system to reduce potential dangers.

TRANSMISSION LINES
High-voltage transmission towers and lines seldom fail, but can be damaged by severe wind or flooding. One line can serve tens of thousands of people. If one of these lines is damaged, the focus is to restore it first.

SUBSTATIONS
PUD crews check distribution substations, which can serve several thousand homes and businesses, to see if a major outage is occurring because of a problem at the substation or with the transmission line coming into the facility.

MAIN DISTRIBUTION LINES
Main distribution lines carry power from substations to a central point in a neighborhood. When power is restored on these lines, whole neighborhoods may see the lights come back on as long as there are no problems further down the line.

LOCAL DISTRIBUTION LINES
Local distribution lines carry electricity to transformers serving one to several homes or businesses. Crews work on these lines after repairs to the main distribution lines and prioritize locations to get the largest number of customers back in service.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
Once power is restored, the recovery plan is assessed to identify parts of the system that may benefit from upgrades or enhancements to reduce the likelihood of damage in the future.

OUTAGE RECOVERY PLANNING
Getting the power back on safely takes planning. From day one, we create detailed plans for how to safely restore power in a variety of events. We plan how crews will be deployed, how information will be shared with customers, and when to call for additional help.

OUTAGE INFORMATION:
www.facebook.com/masonpud3
twitter.com/pud3
pud3.org/outagemap

To Report a Power Outage:
Download the SmartHub app, visit my.pud3.org, or call: 360-426-8255 available 24/7
PUD 3 Auditorium
Meeting space available for Non-Profit Organizations & Public Agencies

To see if your event or meeting meets our qualifications, or to review the updated policy about auditorium use visit: www.pud3.org/auditorium

PUD 3 Employees Give Back To The Communities They Serve

All-year-long, PUD 3 employees donate and volunteer to many local organizations, including raising $12,654 for United Way of Mason County for 2019.

The holiday season is special around the PUD offices. Each year, The PUD’s volunteer employee association (PUDEA), which coordinates opportunities for employee giving, teams up with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to sponsor foster kids in Mason County and fulfill their Christmas wish lists. This year, employees sponsored 22 foster kids through the program.

Additionally, every November employees donate time and money to shop and deliver fixings for Thanksgiving dinners to families in need – another annual tradition organized by the PUDEA.

These are just a few of the ways our employees serve their neighbors, families, and friends to strengthen and connect our community. We believe our partnerships with local agencies have a lasting impact on our community. PUD 3 is proud to be community-powered.

See if PrePay is Right For You

PUD 3’s PrePay provides an option for customers who do not wish to pay a deposit, receive late fees, or just want more control of their energy use!

To learn more about PrePay, visit: www.pud3.org/prepay, contact Customer Service at (360) 426-8255, or stop by any PUD 3 location.

PUD 3 News

PUD 3 News is a publication of Public Utility District No. 3 of Mason County. It is published periodically to keep the customers of PUD 3 updated on local, regional, and national developments within the power industry.

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