

Reshaping Our Clean Energy Future

A Modernized Energy Independence Act is Needed



The 2015 legislative session kicks off on Monday, January 12th. Franklin PUD, along with many other public power utilities in the State, will be facing uphill challenges as we try to modify the Energy Independence Act (EIA), passed in 2006 as I-937. As expected, discussion is also going to ramp up in the legislature to lower the state's carbon emissions as set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency and in the Governor's Executive Order. Legislation on either of these issues must be analyzed to be sure it limits the negative impacts on the pocketbooks of Washington State residents and Franklin PUD customers.

In November, the Washington PUD Association (WPUDA), which Franklin PUD is a member of, adopted a resolution supporting modification of the EIA while supporting clean energy programs. WPUDA supports a clean energy future that maintains PUDs' exceptionally low carbon footprint, supports local clean energy jobs, provides direct benefits for PUD communities, and keeps rates affordable.

The EIA is based on load growth assumptions that have not materialized, increasing utility costs, putting upward pressure on rates, and creating a surplus of electricity as utilities across Washington invest in renewable resources, in many cases only to meet compliance requirements. The projected over-investment by utilities in the state for unneeded renewable resources may reach an estimated \$3.5 to \$4.5 billion when the renewable mandate increases in 2020 to 15%.

WPUDA, as well as Franklin PUD, recognizes the value of adding an additional compliance path to the EIA that would allow utilities that have enough resources to meet projected customer needs to strategically invest community focused ratepayers dollars in clean energy programs including: energy conservation and efficiency, rooftop solar, development of electric vehicle charging stations, and development of energy storage.

In addition, legislation is needed to modernize the EIA to align the timing of target compliance with the need to purchase energy to serve our customers new loads when they occur. The laws percentage targets would not change - only the timing to reach the targets would be affected so as to match each utility's need for additional energy.

We will be meeting with our State legislators to inform them of our support for clean energy programs, including counting federal hydropower efficiencies towards the EIA goals, and allowing utilities to align the purchase of renewables with the need for power to serve our customers.

Preparing for a Power Outage

While outages are rare, they do happen. Proper planning will help keep you and your family safe until your power is restored.

- Keep a flashlight and extra batteries in an easy to find place.
- If your phone is cordless, have a back up that doesn't need power.
- If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to open your door manually.
- If you use a portable generator, it must be connected through an approved transfer switch that is isolated from Franklin PUD's system for the safety of linemen. Call us if you have questions.
- If you need power for a medical reason, arrange a backup plan to accommodate your needs during an outage.
- Keep the Franklin PUD outage phone number handy. You can reach us any time at 509-542-5300 or 1-800-638-7701. Our crews are available 24/7 to respond.

If an outage does occur, remember to:

- Turn off anything that has a heating element, such as the electrical range, iron or toaster oven.



- Avoid opening your refrigerator or freezer. The contents should be good for at least 24 hours if the door is kept closed.
- Never use barbecues, portable heaters, or generators indoors. They can be toxic.
- DO NOT touch a downed power line. It could carry enough electricity to be fatal. Call Franklin PUD's outage line at 509-542-5300 immediately. A crew will be dispatched.

Essential supplies to have on hand during an outage include:

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery powered radio and extra batteries
- Drinking water
- Manual can opener and non-perishable food
- First aid kit
- Blankets, sleeping bags and warm clothes

Working for You

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REMINDER
New Business Hours
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Outlook on 2015 Rates



Each year Franklin PUD hosts meetings with our Rate Advisory Committee to review our financial position.

The Rate Advisory Committee (RAC) is a unique group formed by Franklin PUD, with the intent to have more public involvement in the process of establishing electric rates. The RAC is comprised of Franklin PUD customers from all of our rate classes (residential, commercial, industrial and irrigation), including representation from some of our senior citizens and Community Action Connection partners, thus representing the interests of all PUD's customers.

The RAC will meet in early spring to review the financial position of the PUD. In 2015 we are planning to do a complete cost of service study to determine the adequacy of rates for cost recovery of all rate classes. Once these activities are completed, we will keep you advised on possible rate actions.

Medical Alert Designation



If your residence has medical life support equipment that relies on electricity, please contact a Customer Service Representative to update your records. More information on Medical Alert Designation can be found on our website under "Programs & Services".

Commissioner's Corner

Myths about Used Nuclear Fuel



Stu Nelson
2015 President

As a member of the Participants Review Board for Energy Northwest, I am struck by the difference between the nuclear waste the Department of Energy is dealing with at Hanford, and what some people call nuclear "waste" from the generation of electricity, like that from Columbia Generating Station in north Richland run by Energy Northwest.

People often confuse nuclear defense waste with used fuel and waste from commercially operated nuclear energy facilities, such as used fuel stored at Columbia Generating Station. But there is a key difference.

Unlike high-level radioactive liquid waste at Hanford, used commercial reactor fuel is, and always will remain, a solid ceramic pellet.

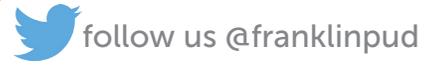
Used fuel at Columbia is safely and securely stored on site in extremely robust structures. The dry storage containers are built of steel, steel-reinforced concrete or steel-enclosed

concrete. They are designed to protect the public against severe natural events and sabotage.

Additionally, the dry storage casks at Columbia Generating Station occupy only a small area of land. The used nuclear fuel storage area at Columbia consists of 36 casks on two concrete pads. That's about half the used fuel from nearly 30 years of producing tremendous amounts of energy. If you took the solid used fuel, it would fit inside a typical convenience store. If this fuel were recycled, the amount needed to be stored long-term would likely fit inside the soda cooler in the same convenience store.

Other countries successfully recycle their used fuel. France has been doing so for decades. If the U.S. followed suite, we would have a fuel source to last hundreds of years.

Columbia Generating Station has produced safe, reliable, cost-effective power since 1984. While we wait for a national repository for all U.S. used nuclear fuel, the used fuel from Columbia will continue to be safely and securely stored on site.



Phone Scam Targets Small Businesses



Franklin PUD continues to warn customers of possible telephone scams. There have been a number of recent examples where customers have been targeted by callers claiming they work for Franklin PUD and the customer is past due on their electric bill. Scammers ask for personal credit card information to avoid disconnection. Franklin PUD customers should be cautious of unsolicited calls requesting personal information and should never provide their social security number, credit card number or banking information to a caller unless that customer initiated the contact with the PUD.

If customers are unsure whether a call is actually from Franklin PUD, they should hang up and call Franklin PUD Customer Service at (509) 547-5591.

Saving Energy on Entertainment



Many homes boast TV's and sound systems that can rival many movie theaters. People can save hundreds of dollars a year by watching movies at home rather than going to the local theater.

Fortunately, there are simple steps to save even more money by managing the power consumption of your home entertainment system.

Many of the devices in your home entertainment and computer systems use energy when they are turned off. This is commonly called parasitic load or vampire load. According to Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the average home loses 8% of its monthly energy consumption to these energy vampires. Your devices use power when turned off because the electronics inside the devices are still working.

To slay these energy vampires, try plugging household electronics, such as personal computers, monitors, printers, DVD and video game players into power strips. Not only do power strips protect sensitive electric components from power surges, but you can quickly turn off several items at once. A variation on the power strip is the new smart power strip.

Smart power strips allow you to plug devices into a specially marked section of the power strip so the rest of the power strip still has power when turned off. This allows you to turn off parts of a home entertainment system without losing the ability to record programs to a DVR or having to reprogram the TV every time you want to watch a show. The ingenious design shuts down power to electronics that go into standby mode when not in use. Printers, DVD players, computers, and certain TVs can all create a phantom power drain that increases your energy usage. Think of it as a ghost buster of phantom energy drains. Be sure to check any device you purchase for details.

Entertaining doesn't have to drain your budget. The money saved by eliminating the energy vampires in your home may be enough to go out and see a movie.

customers, is mandated by the State of Washington through RCW 19.29A.090.

The amount you pay is above and beyond what you already pay for renewable energy already included in Franklin PUD rates.

For more information on this program, visit our website at www.franklinpud.com/conservation/generationgreen.

Residential Home and Appliance Rebates



Shopping for a new appliance or an upgrade for your home such as insulation, a new heat pump or new windows? We're here to help with rebates. Visit www.franklinpud.com and click on Conservation/Rebate Programs for a listing of our appliance and home rebates.

Fuel Mix Disclosure

Generation Type	% of Total Generation	
	WA State	Actual
Biomass	0.05%	
Coal	1.21%	
Hydro	86.88%	77.78%
Market Purchases		6.22%
Natural Gas	1.43%	3.56%
Nuclear	9.97%	8.88%
Petroleum	0.01%	
Waste	0.02%	
Wind	0.43%	3.53%
Other		0.03%
Total	100%	100%

Source: WA State Dept. of Commerce Utility Fuel Mix Report for 2013 for WA State. Franklin PUD's actual generation is also shown for 2013.



Franklin PUD offers Generation Green, a "green power" program to give our customers an opportunity to purchase renewable energy generated from qualified alternative energy resources. This program, which provides a **voluntary option** to

