

Hotline

FRANKLIN
PUD

THE POWER IS YOURS
www.franklinpud.com

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Working for You

Commissioners:

Roger Wright, *President*
Bill Gordon, *Vice President*
Stu Nelson, *Secretary*

General Manager:

Scott Rhees

Hotline Editor:

Debbie Bone-Harris
Senior Manager, Public Affairs



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Help Your Neighbors this Holiday Season

Consider a donation to our Helping Hands Program



Franklin PUD's Helping Hands program is designed to help low income families in our service territory pay their electric bill. As the weather gets colder, more electricity is needed to keep homes warm, the lights on, and appliances running. This creates a great hardship for low income families.

This program would not be possible without the generous donations from our community. This year, we teamed up with HAPO Credit Union to kick off the holiday campaign. HAPO has generously donated \$4,000 to help our customers who need help paying their electric bill. Every year our Customer Service

Representatives challenge themselves to raise funds for Helping Hands. The bar has been set high this year as they strive to match HAPO's generous contribution.

We would like to thank you for your donations during the last year, and again ask you to consider making a donation to Helping Hands.

How to make a donation:

- Check the appropriate box on your billing stub to add a donation to your monthly bill payment.
- Stop by our office at 1411 W. Clark Street.
- Mail a check made out to Franklin PUD with "Helping Hands Donation" boldly written on the memo line.

All Helping Hands funds are administered by Community Action Connections (CAC) in Pasco. Recipients must meet income guidelines. For information on receiving assistance from Helping Hands, contact CAC at 509-545-4042, or visit their office located at 720 W. Court Street, Pasco.

Lower Snake River Dams Stakeholder Process

In the fall of 2018, the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force identified the need to further investigate the impacts of removing or breaching the lower Snake River dams (LSRD) as a way to provide more salmon for Southern Resident orcas to eat, even though NOAA Fisheries has stated otherwise. In response to this recommendation, the Washington State Legislature provided funding to the governor's office in the 2019-21 operating budget to establish a process for local, state, tribal and federal leaders and stakeholders to address these issues.

But remember, the federal agencies responsible for the dams including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Bonneville Power Administration are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS was ordered by the U.S. District Court for Oregon and is being conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS will evaluate the operations, maintenance and configurations of the four lower Snake River dams as part of the review of 14 federal projects in the Columbia River System. The draft EIS is scheduled to be publicly available in February 2020. And Washington state is not part of this process.

The Governor's Office has hired Ross Strategic Consulting team to provide "neutral facilitation and evaluation services". They will submit a report detailing the potential positive and negative impacts (social, economic,



environmental) and opportunities gained and lost from the potential breaching or removal of the LSRD, as well as from retaining the dams. Inslee supports this process hearing from diverse voices and collecting a range of views in Washington State. He plans to use this information to help craft his potential recommendations to the federal court-ordered EIS.

Even after spending the \$750,000, the engagement process and report will not recommend whether the LSRD should be removed or breached, or provide recommendations on the best way to address costs and benefits from removing or breaching the dams.

Franklin PUD believes that the federal agencies responsible for running the rivers and dams are the ones who have the legal authority and responsibility for the federal Columbia river system. We need to follow the process established and wait until February 2020, then provide comments and input.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

ROUNDUP

RoundUp makes it easier than ever to donate to Helping Hands. If you choose to enroll in **RoundUp**, your bill will be rounded up to the next nearest dollar each month. For example, if your bill is \$62.38, it will be rounded up to \$63.00. The extra 62 cents will go to Franklin PUD's Helping Hands Program which helps qualified individuals in need within our service territory pay their electric bill.

You can enroll in the RoundUp program by:

- Checking the **RoundUp** box on your payment stub
- Signing into your SmartHub account and enrolling
- Calling Customer Service at 509-547-5591

We hope you consider giving your extra change to help make a difference in our community.

All Helping Hands funds are administered by Community Action Connections located in Pasco.

Commissioner's Corner

The Future of BPA



Roger Wright
2019 President

Franklin PUD buys 85% of our power from Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). We do not generate any of our own power and have relied on BPA for decades. A recent wave of news stories confuses the issues of BPA's long-term competitiveness with a misinformed narrative about BPA being in immediate financial peril. BPA is not facing a near-term financial solvency issue.

Franklin PUD works closely with the Public Power Council and its members and together we have been diligent about cutting BPA costs, including helping reduce planned program spending by \$66 million in the most recent rate cycle. The mission of the Public Power Council is to preserve and protect the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System for consumer-owned utilities like Franklin PUD. There is more to be done in working with BPA and its partners on

cost management, and we will continue to interact with our BPA account representative and other regional organizations like PPC in that pursuit.

All of the region's consumer-owned utilities have a legal and historic first right to federal power at cost, called "preference power". Thanks to its long-term power contracts with preference customers like Franklin PUD, BPA is able to meet all of its financial obligations and the agency maintains strong credit ratings with the major credit ratings agencies. This includes hundreds of millions of dollars in repayment of the investment in the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) to the U.S. Treasury each year.

We believe it is important that our customers are aware of this misinformed narrative about BPA's financial position, and that we help to set the record straight. In the big picture, we want to be fully focused on the strategic path we are pursuing to make BPA a more competitive and viable option for providing our power now and in future contracts.

RiverFest - Our Rivers, Our Way of Life

RiverFest 2019 brought businesses, community organizations and people of all walks of life together in Kennewick, Washington on the Columbia River on September 7th to showcase the benefits of the federal Columbia River Power system and highlight the four lower Snake River dams. This family event featured over 65 interactive booths and exhibits representing agriculture, transportation, energy, recreation, retail, fisheries, sport fishing, and economic development, telling their stories of how the river system helps improves their lives and the region.



A tug from Portland came up to Tri-Cities, kayak companies offered rides, the Coast Guard and Pasco Fire Department offered tours and a "rain-gutter regatta". Building mini-boats to race was also very popular. The Bonneville Power Administration, Corps of Engineers, and Pacific Northwest Waterways



Association were all there providing fun and facts about the Columbia and Snake river system. All the local utilities including Benton PUD, Franklin PUD, Benton REA, Energy Northwest, Inland Power, Big Bend Electric and the City of Richland Energy Services showcased the energy and power attributes that our river system provides the region. The Benton Conservation District hosted the "Salmon Storytelling Theater" and a "salmon maze" that featured the life cycle of salmon, educating attendees on how 80% of a salmon's life is spent in the ocean. Attendees toured the inside of an over-the-top sized salmon to learn about their habitat.

With over 4,500 in attendance for the 2nd annual event, it was another smash hit for the region.



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 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, go to our website at www.franklinpud.com/index.php/energy-efficiency/generation-green/.



Farewell!

After 16 years writing this newsletter, it's time to put down the pen and move into the next phase of my life. I'm retiring on November 30, 2019 and just want to say what a fabulous career it's been working at Franklin PUD. My peers are a joy to work with and we've accomplished a lot. I hope all of our customers continue to stay engaged with the topics that are critical to your energy future.

Now it's time for grandbabies, hot rods, sand rails and sewing - what could be better?!

Franklin PUD + McClintock STEM

Franklin PUD became a PEAK! partner with the Pasco School District for the 2019/2020 school year. We were paired with McClintock STEM Elementary School which allows us to connect schools, families and our community with safety and educational messages.



We look forward to a very successful year with our student customers!

Check Your Hot Water Settings



We want to remind you to set your water heaters no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit to help prevent severe burns and excessive energy use.

If you are a landlord and own residential units, the law requires you to set the temperature no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Fuel Mix Disclosure

A report of where your power comes from. *% of Total Generation*

COAL	-
HYDRO	85%
NATURAL GAS	5%
NUCLEAR	8%
OTHER	2%

100%

OTHER may include, but not limited to: Biomass generation; geothermal generation; landfill gas generation; oil generation; solar generation; waste incineration; or wind generation.
*Source: WA State 2017 Fuel Mix Disclosure Report, WA State Dept. of Commerce

