



Owner's Manual

Studies to Begin on New Power Generation Projects

The NWCPUD board of directors has approved proposals to study the feasibility of creating two new small scale electric generation projects in partnership with the city of The Dalles.

The first, a proposed micro-hydro project, would use a turbine installed on the the city's potable water transmission line to generate electricity. The existing water line runs along Mill Creek from the Wicks water treatment plant into the city.

The second energy generation project under study involves the use of surplus methane gas from The Dalles First Street wastewater plant.

Equipment at the plant uses heat and bacteria to breakdown solids removed from wastewater. One of the byproducts of this process is methane gas.

Methane, a hydrocarbon gas, is colorless, odorless and flammable. Currently, the excess methane gas produced by the wastewater plant is burned off. A feasibility study to be conducted this summer will help determine the whether the gas can be put to use to produce electric power.

"As we look for opportunities to provide electricity to our customers, we are trying to find different alternatives within the District, says Paul Titus, operations and

engineering director for NWCPUD. Several wastewater treatment plants in Oregon, Washington and California, currently use the methane gas produced at their facilities to generate electricity.

Good for Equipment and the Environment

From candles and milk to lubricants and adhesives, soybeans are showing up in many of the products Americans use every day.

As part of NWCPUD's efforts to provide dependable electricity while reducing the impact it can have on the environment, all new electrical transformers purchased by the PUD will be ordered with soybean-based transformer oil.

A transformer is a piece of equipment that lowers the voltage of electricity so it can be used in residences and businesses. The PUD currently maintains thousands of these units in its service area.

As existing transformers are brought in for refurbishing, they will be drained of a petroleum-based mineral oil and refilled with the soybean product.

Soybean oil is non toxic and non-flammable. The food-grade vegetable oil is biodegradable, making it safe for the environment and the public.

"From an operations standpoint, we expect the Envirotemp FRE™ oil to extend the life and enhance the performance of the PUD's transform-

ers by carrying higher loads during peak demand periods," says Paul Titus, operations and engineering director for NWCPUD.

"From a performance aspect – as well as reducing our dependence on foreign oil as stewards of our environment – although it may cost a little more, making this move is the right thing to do," says board president Bill Ward.

PUD Offers Credit and Debit Card Payment Option

NWCPUD customers can now pay their monthly power bills with a credit or debit card using Paymentus, a third party automated payment service that accepts Visa, MasterCard and eCheck.

PUD customers can access this service by:

- Calling 1-866-417-2941.
- Making a payment online by going to: www.nwasco.com and following the links.

Prefer to take care of business in person? Stop by the PUD office during regular business hours and our staff can assist with the transaction.

When making a payment, customers should be ready with their NWCPUD account number (located on the billing statement), the balance owed and their credit card or banking information.

Paymentus charges \$3.95 per credit card transaction for residential bills

Have questions? Find answers at:

www.nwasco.com

Pure Power: Your Choice for Renewable Energy

With NWCPUD's Pure Power program, our customers have a say in how much environmentally-friendly renewable energy is purchased by the PUD every year.

NWCPUD currently purchases one megawatt of wind power called Environmentally Preferred Power (EPP) from the Bonneville Power Administration. EPP is generated from 100 percent renewable wind power that does not pollute or affect fish or wildlife.

By supporting the use of renewable energy sources, our customers can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

When you purchase one or more blocks of Pure Power, we cannot guarantee electrons generated by a



wind farm will be delivered to your home or business. We can assure you that your contribution pays for more expensive renewable power to be put on the Northwest power grid, offsetting the need to generate more non-renewable energy.

Each 200 kilowatt/hour block of Pure Power costs \$5.00 in addition to your regular electric charges. You can sign up for as many blocks of Pure Power as you wish. The average household uses around 1100 kWh of electricity (five blocks) per month.

After signing up for the program, an additional line item will appear on the bill listing the monthly charge.

For more information, please call 296-2226 or go to our website at: www.nwasco.com.

up to \$300 and \$45 for commercial bills up to \$2,500. Services fees cover payment handling and processing charges.

While many businesses incorporate the cost of credit card fees and service charges in the prices they charge all of their customers, with Paymentus, only those individuals who chose to pay with a credit or debit card are responsible for the service fee.

Paymentus is an independent company providing a service for NWCPUD customers. The utility does not receive any part of the service fee.

PUD customers may also:

- Mail a payment to Northern

Wasco County PUD, 2345 River Road, The Dalles, OR 97058

- Make a payment in person at 2345 River Road, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Use a drop box for payments made after hours. Locations include outside our office at 2345 River Road and downtown The Dalles on East 3rd Street near City Hall.

- Use E-Z Pay which allows funds to be electronically transferred from a checking or savings account at a bank or credit union.

To learn more about using Paymentus, please call our office at 296-2226 or go to our website at: www.nwasco.com.

Community Calendar

JUNE

12

Acoustic Concert Series, featuring Erin Taylor, 7:00 p.m. at The Dalles Civic Auditorium. Tickets \$10 at Klindts Book Sellers and Columbia River Music.

21-22

Relay for Life, fundraiser for American Cancer Society, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at TDWHS Wahtonka campus. For details, call Francene Nash at 541-965-2207.

21

Cascade Singer's British Isles Tour Kick-Off Concert, 7:30 p.m., at Old St. Peter's Landmark, 3rd and Lincoln, The Dalles

21

Music in the Park, free concert featuring Misty River, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at The Dalles City Park, 5th & Union Streets. For details, call 296-2231.

24

Northern Wasco County PUD Board Meeting, 6 p.m., 2345 River Road, The Dalles.

Non-profit community organizations are encouraged to promote events and activities that support, nurture and enhance the quality of life in communities served by Northern Wasco County PUD. To list an item in the community calendar, please call 298-3302.