

DID YOU KNOW?

Life's Essential Element

Water is an essential element of life. It touches every aspect of our lives, from public health to safety to the foundation of our economy.

In the Puget Sound region, Skagit Valley is the most important agricultural valley remaining. And providing access to safe, reliable water helps make our valuable crops grow and flourish. Skagit PUD is a partner in promoting the Genuine Skagit Valley brand that works to distinguish our beautiful valley from other growing regions.



What's the Basic Charge?

If you look at your statement's billing summary, it includes charges in addition to the water consumed during a billing cycle. Skagit PUD uses a combination of a fixed basic charge and a variable charge (volume) for its water rate structure. Fixed charges include the price customers pay as a base charge to help cover costs for maintaining existing infrastructure and repaying loans and bonds used to build that infrastructure. Variable charges are the price the customer pays per volume of water used, which reflect the costs of providing water, such as costs for chemical treatment to provide safe water and energy to move and deliver water.



Skagit Earns 'TOP' Award for Clean Drinking Water

SKAGIT PUD'S Judy Reservoir Water Treatment Plant received a Washington State Office of Drinking Water Treatment Optimization Program (TOP) award in recognition of 20 years of meeting and exceeding strict water quality standards.

Skagit PUD is among only four water treatment plants to receive the 20 year TOP award.

"Achieving consistent, high-quality drinking water like this is a mark of a very dedicated and skilled water treatment plant staff," General Manager George Sidhu said.

Skagit PUD voluntarily participates in the state's program, where water

filtration plants commit to meeting treatment optimization goals for particle removal and

to runoff and other forms of pollution.

Because turbidity (water cloudiness caused by suspended particles) is a readily measured indicator of treatment plant performance, TOP tracks finished water turbidity data for all conventional and direct filtration plants in Washington.

Maintaining low turbidity is critical in protecting consumers from microbial contaminants and safeguarding public health.

From 2001 – 2021, Skagit PUD's finished water turbidity was 0.10 Nephelometric Turbidity Units or less for at least 95% of the time, which met or exceeded TOP's turbidity goal.

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— George Sidhu
General Manager

disinfection that are more stringent than current regulatory requirements.

Surface water, taken from streams and rivers, typically requires more filtration and treatment than groundwater withdrawn by wells because of surface water's greater susceptibility

Rate Increase Reminder

On January 1, 2022, a 5% rate increase went into effect for all Skagit PUD water customers.

Your **PUBLIC** Utility

Three commissioners, elected by the residents of Skagit County, govern Skagit PUD — **Andrew Miller, Joe Lindquist, and Germaine Kornegay**. Each serves six-year terms on a nonpartisan basis.

The PUD Commissioners establish policy, approve budgets and expenditures, establish rates for services, retain the utility management, and provide oversight of the utility. PUDs are self-regulated and, as such, are not regulated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Water service is provided on a non-profit basis, reflecting the actual cost of service.

As with any decision before the board, citizens have numerous opportunities to comment on the utility's actions. As elected commissioners, they ensure that provided services are financially feasible and in the customer's best interests.

As a Skagit PUD customer-owner, you can voice questions or concerns during every commission meeting. The PUD holds open public meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., where members of the public can observe and participate in decisions made by the board. The public may attend in person or via Zoom. Meeting agenda packets, audio recordings, and minutes are available at www.SkagitPUD.org.



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Making your water safe to drink

Why do we treat your water?

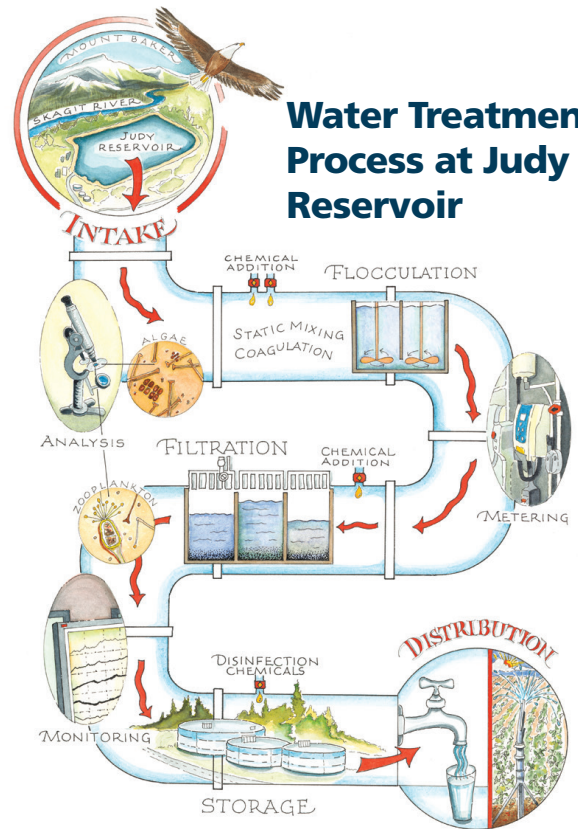
Water treatment is the process of cleaning water. Treatment makes the water safe for people to drink. Because it's a good solvent, water picks up all sorts of natural pollutants. In nature, water is not always clean enough for people to drink.

How it works

Throughout the year, rainwater and melted snow are collected from streams surrounding Judy Reservoir and the Skagit River and then stored in the reservoir for use by customers. The stored water is pumped to the water treatment plant, where impurities are removed, thus ensuring that the water delivered to customers is clean and safe.

Chemicals are added to the water to remove particles and provide disinfection. The water is then gently mixed in open basins that provide for the chemicals to react with the water. The water then passes through one of eight filters. The filter media consists of coal and sand layers supported on gravel. Impurities are trapped in

Water Treatment Process at Judy Reservoir



the filter and removed periodically by pumping water through it in reverse. The filter wash water is temporarily stored in two lagoons before returning to Judy Reservoir.

After filtration, the water is disinfected again and then flows by gravity to three steel storage reservoirs, called clear wells, near the treatment plant. The clean water then flows into the distribution system and eventually arrives at your home safe to drink.



In the flocculation basins, chemicals continue to react with natural particles in the water, allowing them to cling together and become large enough to be removed by the filters.