Skagit PUD
PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

PIPELINE

September/October 2023

NEWSLETTER FOR SKAGIT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

DID YOU KNOW?

Judy Tours Available

Did you know that Skagit PUD offers school group tours of Judy Reservoir, its water treatment plant, and a visit to a stream within the watershed?

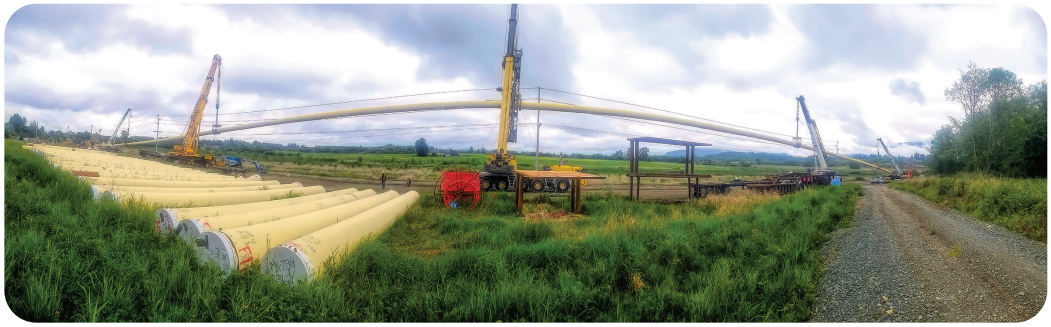
Transportation reimbursement is available for schools served by Skagit PUD water, and includes the bus driver fee plus mileage. The tour is recommended for students ages nine (4th-grade) and up. The program focuses on an exploration of water's role in our environment and society, with an emphasis on the importance of a safe and reliable water supply.

Large school groups visiting the Water Treatment Plant should plan for 1.5 – 2 hours.

For more info about the Judy Reservoir tour, please visit SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 848-4477.

Pipeline Project Wraps Up

New Line Provides Long-Term Reliable Water Source to Communities



One of the major challenges for the transmission line project was installing 1,900 feet of pipeline under Nookachamps Creek and the Barney Lake Conservation Area in Mount Vernon. The contractor bored a tunnel 60 feet deep and threaded the entire welded length through the hole enlisting cranes with pipe rollers.

After two years of construction, Phase II of the Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon Transmission Pipeline Project is coming to a close in October. The $40 million project involved the installation of 5.3 miles of 36-inch diameter welded steel transmission pipeline from the Water Treatment Plant at Judy Reservoir to East College Way in Mount Vernon.

Skagit PUD recognizes that this project impacted numerous property owners and drivers along the pipeline's route. The PUD and general contractor Scarsella Brothers greatly appreciated everyone's patience and cooperation during construction.

In 2010, Phase I of the project was completed for $4.2 million. Phase I was 1.6 miles long and followed the Kulshan Avenue right-of-way in Mount Vernon, where a 36-inch diameter ductile iron pipeline connects to an existing transmission line at North LaVenture Road.

The original 24-inch diameter concrete cylinder pipe was installed in the early 1960s. Large sections of the old transmission line were virtually inaccessible most of the year due to surface and high groundwater levels along the route where it crossed the valley floor. Several significant line breaks in recent years confirmed that the pipe's useful life was ending.

Benefits of the new transmission pipeline include:

- Providing a long-term safe and reliable potable water source for our communities.
- Ensuring adequate water flow and capacity for future growth.
- Reducing the water system's seismic risk.
- Eliminating costly emergency repairs.
- Preventing water loss.

Phase II was partly funded through the Washington State Public Works Board program and the Washington State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

▲ *A welder works on the pipeline section that crosses the Nookachamps Creek's East Fork. The PUD constructed a 200-foot single-span pedestrian bridge to support the pipeline over the creek. The bridge will be available for future use as part of Skagit County Parks & Recreation's planned Centennial Trail extension.*

Shower Better This Fall

Are you looking for a low-tech, low-maintenance way to conserve water and save money this fall? Consider installing a new showerhead.

Did you know that a five-minute shower uses less water than filling the bathtub? The average shower lasts eight minutes. Since a standard showerhead has a water flow of 2.5 gallons per minute, each shower uses 20 gallons of water!

For only $11, Skagit PUD sells a water efficiency kit with a multi-mode massage showerhead and ultra-efficient faucet aerators. Install these items today for more efficient and enjoyable showering with better faucet flow.

For more information about simple water-saving ideas, please visit SkagitPUD.org or call (360) 424-7104.

PUD Breaks Ground on New Admin Building

Architectural drawing of Skagit PUD's new two-story, 23,000-square-foot administration building.

Construction is underway on Skagit PUD's Campus Replacement Administration Building Project. Comer General Contractors from Mill Creek was awarded the contract in August.

Back in 2017, the PUD hired Driftmier Architects to help determine the PUD's need for a future headquarters facility. After exploring the feasibility of remodeling its existing facilities and options for relocation, the PUD Board of Commissioners determined that a new building was the most cost effective and efficient path forward.

The new two-story, 23,000-square-foot building will house the Administrative, Engineering, Customer Service, IT, and Finance departments, as well as the board room, meeting rooms, and other supporting spaces. The facility is designed to accommodate future expansion for the relocation of the Operations department.

"In 2019, we started doing schematic designs of how we could redevelop this site to make it work for us," General Manager George Sidhu said.

"We thought we had a good plan, but then the economics of the pandemic and wild inflation over the past few years changed our plans. But we adapted, and we kept moving forward."

The PUD intends to occupy most of its existing facility but seeks a tenant for the building's 8,500 square feet of vacated office space on the north side.

The new administration building is slated to open in early 2025. The projected total cost is $22.2 million.

During construction, customers conducting business on the PUD's campus may experience heavy equipment traffic near its Freeway Drive entrance. Please use caution.

Skagit River Diversion Offline for Repairs

In 2012, the Skagit River Diversion (SRD) was constructed and put into service to pump water from the Skagit River up to Judy Reservoir. The SRD operates with five 900-horsepower pumps, each capable of pumping 7,500 gallons per minute of water.

Skagit River Diversion Pump Station

The SRD was designed to have a power supply from Puget Sound Energy delivered to the station via a 5,000 kVa transformer. However, the transformer was recently found to be failing and taken offline.

Procuring an industrial-rated replacement transformer and installing it is expected to take several months. Without the transformer, the PUD can't operate the pumps at the SRD and will only have a raw water supply to Judy Reservoir once the mountain streams produce water again in the fall and winter.

In the interim, some customers may notice differences in the taste and odor of their water due to changing conditions at Judy Reservoir and the PUD taking water from the city of Anacortes, which uses a different treatment process.

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