

# WATT'S UP

## Newsletter



### Computer System Enhancements

**D**o you remember Y2K? Do you even want to think about it? We feel the same way. The sooner we move on the better off we'll be. One step in this recovery process is the elimination of the District's burdensome Y2K compliant programs. Over the next two to three years we will be upgrading our computer accounting, customer service information, and accounts payable/accounts receivable programs. Some of you may have seen one of the first upgrades. We recently sent out conservation loan invoices generated by the new system and unfortunately there were a few problems. We hope to have these and other problems solved in the near future. Customers can expect some setbacks during this conversion process. We ask for your patience during this process.

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### Brrr — What a Winter !

Windstorms! Snow! Cold temperatures! What a winter we just witnessed. Let's hope it doesn't become a regular occurrence. Now that it's behind us, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our customers for their patience and understanding as we battled to restore power on many separate occasions this winter. As always, a special thanks to the crews for their hard work. Being a lineman is never easy, especially in winter. We would like to offer a special thank you to all the "behind-the-scene" employees at the PUD that did their part to assist during outages. There isn't enough space in this column to thank everyone but you know who you are and we thank you for your efforts. You helped to insure our outages were measured in hours instead of days and weeks like so many other areas of the country this past winter.

### Conservation & Energy Efficiency Programs

The PUD has a number of conservation and energy efficiency programs to assist customers interested in lowering their utility bills. Please contact Energy Services at 422-8427 or 422-8428 for information on the following:

**Conservation Loan Program** - May be used for energy efficiency improvements to homes or businesses or to purchase and install renewable energy systems.

**Energy Audits** - Onsite evaluation of a customer's energy usage and recommendations for improvement. This service is provided free to Okanogan PUD customers.

**Lighting Retrofits** - Lighting retrofits of existing fixtures to energy efficient technologies for commercial and industrial customers.

**Appliance Rebates** - Rebates on the purchase of select energy efficient appliances.

**Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL)** - Reduced prices on CFL's.

**Energy Star Manufactured Housing Rebates** - Rebates for the purchase of energy efficient manufactured housing.

**Insulation/Window Rebates** - Rebates on the installation of insulation and/or highly energy efficient windows.

**Renewable Energy Productions Credits** - Get paid for the electricity your renewable energy system produces.

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## Tree Trimming Update



The PUD is continuing its tree trimming program in 2007 and crews are already working on Pogue Flats near Omak and will soon begin trimming on the Brewster Flats and south valley areas. Tree trimming and right-of-way clearing efforts were very successful in 2006 with a large percentage of the service area trimmed and many customers participating in our Tree Replacement Program. We trimmed well over 2,000 trees and removed nearly 1,000 hazard trees and fast growing trees under powerlines last year and will continue this successful effort in the coming year. Customers are now becoming accustomed to seeing the big orange Asplundh Tree Expert Company trucks working in various neighborhoods and rural areas. Asplundh will continue to provide high quality work and the PUD will

continue to strive for excellent customer service during tree trimming activities this season.

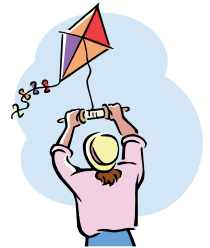
Recent storms in December and January caused outages in many areas in Okanogan County, but those areas where tree trimming efforts were concentrated experienced minimal outages or problems due to trees. We would like to thank our customers for their support of our tree trimming program and we look forward to working with you in 2007. Just a reminder to our rate-payers and all community residents; if you would like FREE wood chips for garden mulch, landscaping or animal bedding, contact the ROW Superintendent at 422-8473. For information about the Tree Replacement Program go the website at [www.okanoganpud.org](http://www.okanoganpud.org) and click on the Tree Trimming link.

## Enloe Dam Update

Enloe Dam, once the major source of electricity for much of Okanogan County, may once again produce power for Okanogan PUD customers. The District has applied for a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate Enloe Dam. A feasibility study conducted last year showed that Enloe Dam could be a cost-effective option for power generation. Before a license is granted numerous environmental, engineering, and safety concerns will need to be studied and addressed before the plant begins producing electricity. Stay tuned for future updates.

## Safety Messages

Never fly kites near powerlines or substations. Do not use wire or string that has a wire core. If your kite gets caught in the powerline, leave it alone and call the PUD for help. Do not touch the kite or string.



In the event of a power outage, never use any type of combustible heat source indoors for cooking or space heating. It will use up the oxygen in the room and replace it with carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly. Play it safe. Stay alive!

Be extremely careful when working with irrigation pipe around overhead wires. Look up and live!

