

THE PIPELINE

ASOTIN COUNTY PUD CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

PUD Commissioners Approve Sewer Authority Ballot Proposition

At the request of Asotin County, the PUD Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in July authorizing the placement of a proposition for sewer authority on the November ballot. On several occasions the County has approached the PUD about assumption of their sewer system. In order to enter into discussions with the County, the PUD Board is required and is requesting permission from its customer-owners to talk with the County about their request.

Approval of the proposition does not mean that the PUD is automatically in the business. It only means that we have authority to enter into the business if the opportunity arises. By law, the PUD could enter into the sewer business through either the purchase or construction of a sewer system. Below we will address a few questions that have been posed by our customers and interested residents.

If authority is approved, what is the next step?

If sewer authority is approved, the PUD will meet with County representatives to begin discussions about all aspects of the sewer system operation. The PUD will conduct a study to determine if ownership of the system is feasible. Rest assured that if assumption of the sewer system is not in the best interest of our customers and the County's sewer patrons, we will NOT assume the system.



Why does the PUD want to be in the sewer business?

We are not sure if we want to be in the sewer business but we believe the County's assumption request is worth evaluating.

Below, Asotin County Commissioner Doug Mattoon and County Engineer Joel Ristau address reasons why the PUD is interested in sewer service.

Will the PUD force patrons to connect to sewer if they assume the system?

The PUD is not in the business of forcing customers to connect to our water system. The same would hold true for the sewer system. Growth will occur and when the opportunity arises for a customer or developer to connect to the sewer system, then the connection will be made. The County controls land use and the PUD would work with them and the County Health Department to determine when a customer or developer is required to connect to the sewer system.

Will the rates increase if the PUD assumes the system?

The PUD cannot know this for certain until a feasibility study is completed, however, preliminary review of recent financial statements show that opportunities for rate stabilization and savings do exist. Because the County's sewer customers are also our water customers, consolidation of billing statements could occur and some administrative and overhead costs could be reduced.

County Commissioner Doug Mattoon:

"One of my goals as County Commissioner has always been to explore opportunities to consolidate services to the community within whatever agency is best equipped to provide those services. Regarding this particular issue, if the customer-owners grant sewer authority to the PUD, then we will be able to enter into discussions to identify the best and most efficient service delivery model for providing this very necessary public service."

County Engineer Joel Ristau:

"The PUD is better positioned than Asotin County to manage, operate, and maintain a utility such as our County sewer system as part of their customary business. There are certainly opportunities to improve efficiency, both administratively and in the field, with PUD's potential assumption of this system. We would relish the opportunity to further explore this possibility."

Ballot Proposition Language

Shall Public Utility District No 1. of Asotin County be authorized to acquire, construct, operate, maintain, and add to sewage systems?



Standby Emergency Generators

In 2005 the Board of Commissioners directed the manager to develop a plan to provide water to customers in the event of an emergency and extended power outage. Though we have never had an extended power outage because of Avista's great service history, we could not afford to be caught unprepared.

The plan called for installation of standby generators at our booster stations and a larger generator at a well site that was in a strategic location. Standby generators were purchased and placed at the Scenic Hills and Rivers Bend Booster Stations in early 2006.

In late 2006 the PUD purchased a used 1.3 megawatt (1,300 kilowatts) standby generator for placement at a well site. The standby generator was installed at our 3,100 gallon per minute Well No. 7 located near the Lincoln Elementary School.



Well No. 7 Standby Emergency Generator

Well No. 7 was chosen because of its strategic location in the system and the amount of water it could produce. In an emergency water would be pumped to the Heights Reservoirs. Booster pumps with standby generators would then pump water to the Scenic Hills and Rivers Bend areas. Water could then be moved by gravity flow from the Heights to lower areas in the system.



After the purchase of a transfer switch, engineering design, construction and placement of the equipment, the generator became operational in August of this year. The total cost of the project was \$300,000. It was a large but worthwhile investment.

Ownership has its Privileges

The PUD is a publicly owned utility. This means you have a say in who gets elected and how the utility is operated. Your elected Board of Commissioners hold public meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 pm at the PUD office located at 1500 Scenic Way — Get Involved!

We are THE source for your water service questions.

Phone: 509-758-1010
 E-mail: info@asotinpod.org
 Website: www.asotinpod.org

We Accept VISA & MasterCard Debit and Credit Card Payments

The PUD accepts payments using VISA, Master Card and debit cards. You can pay in the office or by phone. We also offer an Auto Debit program where your bill is paid automatically from your bank account. Auto Debit authorization forms are available at the PUD office or can be found online at www.asotinpod.org.

Online Payment and E-Statements

The Board of Commissioners recently authorized the development of a program that will allow customers to pay their water bills online using a VISA, Master Card, and debit card. We are also working on a program where customers can receive their billing statements electronically by email. This will be an opportunity to save printing and mailing costs. This cost effective way of delivering billing statements ultimately benefits you through the rates we charge. Our goal is to offer both the online payment and electronic statement program beginning in 2009.