

7.0 Utilities

7.1 Overview

The Utilities Element identifies the utilities provided to County residents, the service providers for these utilities, the ability of these providers to serve County residents, and goals and policy direction. Utilities include, but are not limited to, electricity, water, sewer, solid waste disposal, telephone, telecommunications, natural gas, cable and satellite television, Internet delivery, and other utilities required in a community in accordance with generally accepted national standards.

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Utilities are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan due to the need for efficient, timely, and cost-effective provision of services. As growth occurs, utilities must be extended or developed to support new development in a timely manner. Within each urban growth area, the affected jurisdictions, and/or special purpose district or association should be consulted to determine the responsible service providers and the timing of the service. Establishing common use corridors is also an important part of future utility extensions. Utility corridors often include electricity, water, fiber optics, other telecommunications medium, and potentially natural gas.

Although Pend Oreille County has a limited role as a utility service provider, the County coordinates with service providers in order to plan for and provide efficient service, anticipate and resolve utility problems, and accommodate future population growth by maintaining current information on the existing and proposed facilities of all utilities service providers. This Utilities Element is designed to support utility providers in meeting their public service obligations to provide service on demand to existing and future customers and to minimize negative impacts resulting from the provision of services on County residents, infrastructure, and the natural environment. [Expansion of the utility systems is a function of the demand for reliable service that people, their land uses, and activities place on the systems.](#) Goals and policies will guide the development of future utilities and will help to ensure that utility extensions are concurrent with anticipated growth.

7.2 Growth Management Act Requirements

The Growth Management Act requires that each Comprehensive Plan include a Utilities Element which addresses, “the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunications lines, and natural gas lines” (RCW 36.70A.070(4)).

7.3 Utility Goals

Utility Goal #1: Encourage local utility providers to evaluate and correct deficiencies, as well as plan for future utility needs and requirements.

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Utility Goal #2: Require that utilities needed to accommodate growth and new development are adequate, and are provided concurrent to the need.

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7.4 Utility Policies

In support of the Utilities Goals, Pend Oreille County will implement the following Utility Policies:

Utility Policy #1: Incorporate by reference, the County Solid Waste Plan, and the PUD #1 5-year Plan, as updated, into this Comprehensive Plan

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Utility Policy #2: Encourage the Public Utility District and other public service providers to review and update their capital facility plans to be consistent with this comprehensive plan.

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Utility Policy #3: Establish standards and application requirements to verify that adequate provisions for water and sewer service, and fire suppression have been made prior to the final approval of land use or building permit applications.

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Utility Policy #4: The Northeast Tri-County Health District should continue to monitor sanitary sewer systems, private wells, and community water systems for compliance with federal, state, and local standards.

Utility Policy #5: Encourage the establishment of community water and sanitary sewer systems, provided that adequate provisions have been made to insure that the systems remain financially viable and self-supporting.

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Utility Policy #6: Support the installation of fiber optic networks and services.

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Utility Policy #7: Support improved cellular and wireless communication services and encourage the installation of facilities that are designed to blend into the surroundings.

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Utility Policy #8: When acquiring right-of way, Pend Oreille County and the State should acquire sufficient land to accommodate desired road improvements as well as to support the coordinated installation of utilities now and in the future.

Utility Policy #9: Require that all right-of-way permits include provisions that include other utilities to collocate facilities in or near the same location in accordance with current applicable safety standards governing utility placement.

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7.5 Existing Conditions and Future Proposals

This section generally describes the existing utilities and providers in Pend Oreille County. The location of specific utilities is maintained in the County GIS system and/or with the individual utility providers in associated plans incorporate into the County Comprehensive Plan by reference. The County has a limited role as a utility service provider, primarily consisting of the solid waste system. All utilities in Pend Oreille County are either operated by public utility districts, private companies, or by cities.

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Several independent federal government agencies, such as the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulate these utilities to protect the public interest. The County cannot prohibit the placement of these utilities, but can adopt standards relating to their siting and impacts associated with these facilities.

Solid Waste

The solid waste system is a Countywide, coordinated effort. The County retains ownership of the three solid waste transfer station sites, with recycling facilities. These include the transfer facilities near Newport, Ione, and Usk. Solid waste from each town is hauled to a County transfer station and transported out of the County to Spokane under private contract. See the Capital Facilities Element, the County's Solid Waste Management Plan, and County Transfer Station Operations Plan for more details.

Deleted: The County completed closure of its Ione and Deer Valley landfills in 1995. Solid waste from each town is hauled to a

Sewer Systems

The County does not maintain sewage treatment facilities. The primary method of sewage treatment in the rural parts of the County is through on-site systems provided by private developers, either for individuals or for larger developments. Northeast Tri-County Health and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulate on-site septic systems.

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There are limited areas in the County served by sewer. Most of the Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District and part of Sacheen Lake is served by the Sacheen Lake Water and Sewer District. Each city and town in the County maintains its own sewage treatment facility.

Deleted: on-site sewage disposal systems have been inspected and approved in Pend Oreille County, according to the Northeast Tri-County Health District. The total number of on-site sewage disposal systems is not known. Washington State Department of Health regulations for on site sewer systems form the Level of Service Standards for these facilities.¶

Water Systems

Washington State defines public water systems as all systems serving more than one single-family residence. State health regulations now require that new public water systems serving three or more connections to be operated by a Satellite Management Agency (SMA), where one is available. Group A systems serve 15 or more connections, or 25 or more people per day for 60 or more days per year. Group B water systems are all of the smaller systems that serve more than one single-family residence but are not large enough to be considered a Group A system.

Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1 owns and operates several water systems throughout the County.

Deleted: the Granite Shores: Greenridge Estates, Holiday Shores, Lazy Acres, River Bend Estates, River View Shores, Sandy Shores and Sunnyside Meadows, and Sunvale Acres 4th Addition/Abbie Acres subdivision water systems

Deleted: The water system at Box Canyon Dam is for that facility, while the PUD owns, operates, and maintains the Metaline Falls water system. ¶

The Diamond Lake area is served by the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District. While the County does not supply sewer and water service, the County can permit development within the District only with the approval of the District. The County will coordinate with the District regarding development within its boundaries to ensure that any County action does not create an expectation that service will be provided which is beyond the District's capacity.

Deleted: Population of the area ranges from about 415 in the winter to 1,380 in the summer. Since the area is unincorporated, building and other development permits, as well as roads, and police protection, are under the jurisdiction of Pend Oreille County. While

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Stormwater Management Facilities

Each city and town in the County maintains its own drainage system within its corporate boundaries. WSDOT is responsible for the management of runoff from state highways and the effects of this runoff. There are no regional stormwater collection facilities. Technical basin studies and analyses are needed for the County to develop a storm water management plan.

Deleted: The District has completed the Wellhead Protection Plan, which has been approved by the State Department of Health (DOH). Both District wells are in the same Wellhead Protection Zone. An unresolved issue for the District is to determine the effect of water withdrawals on the level of Diamond Lake. ¶ Additional details on the Diamond Lake Water and Sewer District facilities can be found in the County's Capital Facilities Plan. ...

Developments are required to address storm water run-off onsite. Level of service standards vary depending on terrain, soil type, vulnerability of surface water to contamination, and other factors. The County has an established level of service standard for new development, which requires that new development be designed to accommodate a 25-year, 24-hour storm.

Deleted: New development often has the potential to cause erosion and flooding during major storm events. Such events can cause considerable damage to streams through increased siltation, and to adjacent property through flooding and deposition of mud. GMA requires that standards for stormwater runoff be established, and that such facilities be constructed concurrently with new development. ¶

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Electric Utilities

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Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1

Electric service is provided to Pend Oreille County by the Pend Oreille Public Utility District #1 headquartered in Newport. The PUD owns and operates the Box Canyon Hydroelectric Project, the Calispel Project, and has Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license rights to power from the Boundary Hydroelectric Project, which is owned by the City of Seattle. Energy generated from these projects is distributed to the PUD's consumers along with energy provided from the Bonneville Power Administration and other sources. **Several substations have been constructed to meet existing and future energy needs.**

Deleted: There are currently seven substations in Pend Oreille County. An eighth substation is planned in order...

Deleted: near-term energy load growth, and could be built near the intersection of Highway 2 and Highway 211 to serve the south part of the Pend Oreille County as growth occurs.existing and future

The PUD serves **9,135 electric customers and maintains lines and equipment stretching over 1,425 miles of rural land.** The PUD's Box Canyon Dam can produce a maximum of approximately **90 Megawatts**, and the PUD has rights for up to 48 Megawatts, at cost, from Seattle City Light's Boundary Dam.

Commented [o9]: <https://popud.org/services/electric-service/>

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The PUD is a part of the regional power grid and therefore has access to other sources of electricity, though the way in which the grid will help to provide power and the cost of that power will be governed by the terms of deregulation in the power industry. The PUD always maintains exchange agreements with other power producers.

Deleted: Currently, the general service load, defined as all residential, business, and industrial loads¹ within the County borders is approximately 50 megawatts. In addition to this demand, the PUD's largest customer, the Ponderay Newsprint Company, has an electric power demand of approximately 100 megawatts. The Ponderay Newsprint Company receives its electrical power from the PUD, and the PUD must purchase power in the market to satisfy Ponderay Newsprint Company's demand. ¶

The general electrical service provided by the PUD, is served with the lowest cost power generation available to the PUD. Future large industrial customers with a demand greater than 2 MW will not be fully entitled to the inexpensive resources available to the general service customers since the PUD has a limit of 2 megawatts peak for new industrial users, after which such users will pay higher rates. By virtue of contracts with the Ponderay Newsprint Company, those customers will also purchase additional power resources other than those owned by the PUD.¶

Seattle City Light

Seattle City Light (SCL) owns and operates the Boundary Project, SCL's largest generating station, which was built in 1967. **The project's authorized licensed capacity is 1,003.253 megawatts (MW). This license includes measures to mitigate the impacts of Boundary's operations on the surrounding environment. These measures address recreation, aquatic, terrestrial, cultural, and wildlife resources and benefit the environment and the communities in and around Boundary.** The project boundaries include over 800 acres within which the dam, powerhouse, support structures, roads, and the reservoir banks upstream of the project are located. License requirements include full power compensation for the reduction of output, called encroachment, from the Box Canyon Dam to the Boundary Project construction. This compensation includes the sale of power at cost to Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1. Boundary Dam is operated for peak load-following and providing operating reserves, meaning water is most often released during the day and the reservoir refills at night. Bonneville Power Administration owns the Boundary Substation transmission switchyard, however, SCL owns, operates, and maintains some of the equipment in the yard. The Abercrombie Mountain and Mt. Spokane microwave towers are outside the project boundaries, but are also maintained by Boundary crews.

Deleted: The PUD has considered the addition of a combustion turbine (CT) to its power production. The PUD is a part of the

Deleted: New substations were commissioned in 1998-Box Canyon, Cusick, Pine Street (Newport), and Usk-all of which are under supervisory control via the PUD's new fiber optic system.¶

Deleted: In 1986 two additional generators were declared commercially operable. This facility has a peak production of 1,051 megawatts, providing approximately 40% of SCL's power requirements The project's authorized licensed capacity is 1,003.253

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Natural Gas

There is no natural gas service available in Pend Oreille County. LPG is available from several vendors in the area.

Telecommunications

Telecommunication refers to the electronic transmission of information by means such as telephone, radio, television, optical cable, satellite, and other technologies. The

telecommunications industry is constantly changing, diversifying, and redefining the way in which we exchange information.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 establishes national guidelines for enabling equitable competition in all telecommunication markets, including the local telephone market, and identifies respective roles of the Federal Communications Commission and the states to accomplish the transition.

In Pend Oreille County, telecommunication utilities include wire telephone, cellular (wireless) telephone, cable and satellite television, wire and satellite Internet, and fiber optic cable. However, these services are more readily available to those living or working close to the cities and towns. The remote and more rural areas of the County are challenged in accessing many of these telecommunication services, with service particularly limited in the northern parts of the County.

Local telephone and cellular service is provided by a variety of service providers, relying upon facilities located around the County.

Cable providers generally accompany electrical and telephone lines in urban areas, utilizing a common easement. Cable services are provided in and around Newport, Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls.

There are also numerous Internet providers available to the residents of Pend Oreille County.

Future Considerations

As discussed above, utility providers extend their services based on projected demand. There are many areas, particularly in the northern part of the County, where some utility services are more limited. The County will support the location of additional utilities in public rights of way and utility corridors, as applicable, to meet existing and future service demands.

Deleted: Telephone ¶

Deleted: Pend Oreille Telephone, Verizon (formerly General Telephone and Electric), and Qwest (formerly US West). Pend Oreille Telephone serves more than 1,800 residential and about 250 business customers in the area of the County approximately north of Dalkena and comprising the towns of Usk, Cusick, Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Pend Oreille Telephone has switching facilities in Cusick, Ione, and Metaline Falls, and provides local-call Internet service to its telephone subscribers. Pend Oreille Telephone also provides Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) services to consumers in infrastructure capable areas, typically a few thousand feet from a central office. Pend Oreille Telephone completed a fiber optic link between Cusick and Ione in 1999, will be upgrading to digital facilities within the 6-year planning period, and will eventually connect Cusick and Newport with fiber optic cable. ¶
Verizon also serves approximately 3,000 residential lines and approximately 400and business lines in the area of the County south of Dalkena but north of Highway 2, with the 447 exchange only, which includes Newport. The Verizon switching facility is located in downtown Newport. In 1999 Verizon completed a 12-strand fiber optic link between Newport and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho along Highway 41 via Spirit Lake, Idaho. Long-term plans are to complete a fiber optic ring connecting Newport, Sandpoint, and Coeur d'Alene. Verizon also provides DSL services to consumers in infrastructure capable areas, typically in the Newport area. ¶
Qwest also provides telephone service for the 292 prefix in the south part of the County to approximately 540 households, which is about 8% of the telephones in the County. ¶
Cellular Phone Service¶

Cellular licensees operate according to guidelines administered by the Federal Communications Commission. Cellular service allows people to utilize mobile telephone communication through wireless radios, which send and receive signals from a network of receivers located at various cellular communication sites. These sites are generally located on special towers, tall poles, or atop buildings and covers several miles, depending on the terrain and the number of customers. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the ...

Deleted: Cellular Phone Service¶
Cellular licensees operate according to guidelines administered by the Federal Communications Commission. Cellular service allows people to utilize mobile telephone communication through wireless radios, which send and receive signals from a network of receivers located at various cellular communication sites. These sites are ...

Deleted: The three cable providers in the County are: Community Cable, Concept Cable TV, and USA Media. ¶
Community Cable serves about 400 customers in the towns of Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Future plans are to utilize fiber optic facilities, expand the number of channels, and provide broadband Internet service.¶ ...

Deleted: Community Cable serves about 400 customers in the Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Future plans are to utilize fiber optic facilities, expand the number of channels, and provide broadband Internet service.¶ ...

Deleted: Four of these providers in the County are Pend Oreille Valley Network (POVN), Pend Oreille Telephone Company (POTC), Earthnet, and recently the Counties first Cable Modem provider, Concept Cable. POVN provides service for approximately the south half of the County, while POTC serves toll-free its ...

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Deleted: Major provider for electricity and water utility, Pend Oreille County PUD updates their capacity on a periodic basis and work with the County to address projected demand. The County