



# Okanogon County Electric Co-op Newsletter

October 2017

## Office Info:

Winter Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri.  
8 am - 4:30 pm

Our customer service call center is available 24/7/365 to handle most electric & propane concerns.

(509) 996-2228

## OCEC Board:

**Chuck Armstrong**  
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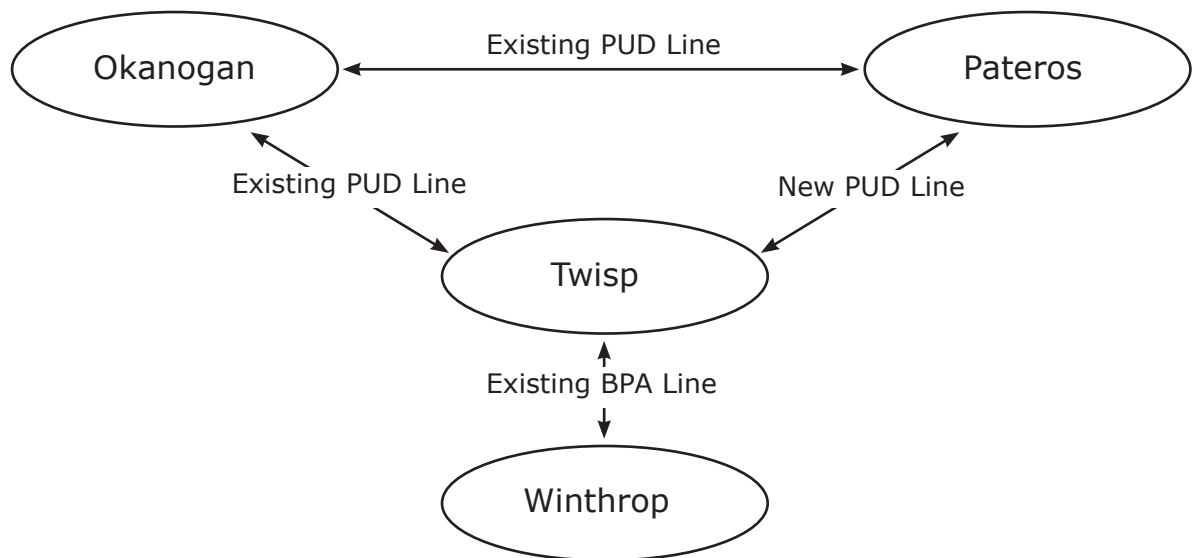
## Contacts:

**General Manager**  
David Gottula  
(dgottula@oceec.coop)

**Information**  
(info@oceec.coop)

## Update on the Transmission System Serving the Methow Valley

In the early 1990's a long-range plan was developed to provide "looped" electrical service to the Methow Valley. The concept of a "looped" system means that three lines operate together to provide more consistent service in the case of an outage on one of the lines. Okanogon PUD is currently in the process of constructing a line from Pateros to Twisp to "close the loop" providing redundant electrical service to residents of Okanogon, Pateros and Twisp. Winthrop ultimately will be fed out of a dedicated breaker in the Twisp Substation.



### *The Ultimate Concept of the Transmission System Serving the Methow*

The new Pateros to Twisp line is expected to be finished in 2018.

Bonneville Power Administration and Okanogon PUD are currently working on a plan to move the connection point of the Twisp-Winthrop transmission line from its current connection point on the Okanogon-Twisp line to its own dedicated breaker in the Twisp substation. It is hoped that this will be accomplished in 2019. When this work is finished, Winthrop will realize the full benefits of the looped system.

If you have any questions, please call General Manger, David Gottula at 509-996-2228.



# Before You Dig the Methow, Call Washington 811



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

## What is Washington 811?

A FREE service paid for by buried utility operators. To Find Out What is Buried Before You:

- Install a fence • Build a deck • Plant trees • Build a shed • Dig a well or septic tank
- Install Sprinkler Systems • Install private utilities to a shop, barn, garage, greenhouse, etc

## How do I start?

Two business days before you start digging:

CALL 811 to speak to a live person that will take down your project details; it takes about 10 minutes. OR - BYPASS the call center and complete the process online via Itic; an Option that Allows You to Enter Your Call Before You Dig request Online from any device that gives you access to the internet.

## What Happens Next?

The Utility Companies will send a worker to locate their buried lines (for FREE) that might be near your proposed digging area. They will only mark the lines they own. They will not mark any private lines, such as: lines going to fire pits, BBQ's, fountains, spas, yard lights, out buildings, etc.

Each utility company will mark their lines (for FREE) using paint, chalk, flags or whiskers using a standard color code shown below:

What will this cost me? - Nothing! The entire process is paid for by the Utility Companies to help PREVENT DAMAGE to their buried lines.

Do I need a permit to call 811 to get buried lines located and marked? – NO!

How long will the process take? - Except in cases of extreme acts of nature, workers will be out within 2 business days (not including weekends or holidays) after you call 811 or complete the process online.

### Colors of Marking Paint:

- White: Proposed Excavation
- Pink: Temp Survey Markings
- Red: Electric Power Lines
- Yellow: Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum, or Gaseous Materials
- Orange: Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
- Blue: Potable Water
- Purple: Reclaimed Water & Irrigation
- Green: Sewer and Drain Lines

## OCEI Hires New Employee

Okanogan County Energy, Inc. is excited to have Dan Ayers join our Propane team! Dan is a long time Methow Valley resident and lives in Winthrop.

