



## **Benton PUD will implement a rate increase effective October 1, 2017**

(Kennewick) Benton PUD Commission approved an overall 1.9% retail rate increase to all customer rate classes effective October 1, 2017. The increase is directly attributed to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA's) 5.4% average wholesale rate increase effective the same day. BPA is the primary provider of power to Benton PUD and its customers.

For a Benton PUD residential customer, the increase will be applied to the residential daily system charge which will increase from 55 cents per day to 62 cents per day. The residential rate per kilowatt-hour (kWh) will remain the same.

For an average Benton PUD residential customer, this will result in an increase in the average monthly bill from approximately \$113.40 to \$115.50 (a 1.9 percent increase).

The median monthly residential bill for comparable Northwest utilities is \$122.

For all other customer classes, the 1.9% increase will apply to daily system charges or demand charges (where applicable).

The need for a revenue increase is directly attributed to BPA's 5.4 percent average wholesale rate increase effective October 1, 2017. BPA's increase impacts Benton PUD by 3.8 percent. BPA's wholesale rates continue to rise primarily due to decreasing wholesale market prices. BPA uses revenues from selling excess energy into the wholesale market to offset rates charged to utilities. Lower wholesale market prices result in lower wholesale market revenues to offset these rates.

Benton PUD's last overall revenue increase was 4.9% in September 2016.

(end)

Benton PUD serves over 53,000 customers electricity and wholesale broadband in Kennewick, Prosser, Finley, Benton City and surrounding areas in Benton County with offices located at 2721 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Kennewick and 250 N. Gap Road in Prosser.

For more information:

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