# PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO.1 OF JEFFERSON COUNTY

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-008**

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County, Washington ("the PUD"), adopting a budget billing plan for its customers.

WHEREAS, RCW 35.21.300, paragraph (4) states "All municipal utilities shall offer residential customers the option of a budget billing or equal payment plan. The budget billing or equal payment plan shall be offered low-income customers eligible under the state's plan for low-income energy assistance prepared in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 8624(C)(1) without limiting availability to certain months of the year, without regard to the length of time the customer has occupied the premises, and without regard to whether the customer is the tenant or owner of the premises occupied"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County will implement a budget billing plan as outlined in Exhibit A of this resolution for all of the PUD's water, sewer, telecom, and electrical residential customers.

ADOPTED by the Commission of Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County, Washington, at a regular open meeting held this 19th day of March 2013.

Barney Burke

President

Wayne V. King Vice President

Secretary

## "EXHIBIT A"

## **RESOLUTION 2013 - 008**

#### BUDGET BILLING PLAN

**PURPOSE:** Jefferson County PUD #1 offers a Budget Billing Plan under the provisions of RCW 35.21.300, paragraphs (4) and (5).

# How the Average Payment Plan works:

Average Payment Plan charges are compiled by applying the current rates toward the consumption history for services and equally dividing the total over a 12-month period. This plan spreads the cost of higher winter heating bills through the year. Annually, during June, the PUD will reassess the monthly payments based upon the current balance of the account.

Two examples scenarios are as follows:

- 1. Customers going on Average Payment Plan in the spring with a zero balance: During the summer months, they would likely build a credit toward their future winter bills; while during the winter, the credit may be fully used and reach close to a zero balance in the spring.
- 2. Customers going on Average Payment Plan in the fall with a zero balance: <u>The Average Pay amount will be slightly increased to start in the fall</u>. During the winter months, customers may build a debit balance which will be monitored and changed if needed. The concept is to not have a large balance owing at recalculation time in the spring.

# **Plan Framework**

Plan is available anytime during the year upon customer request.

Plan is available to the owner or tenant of the premises.

Plan is not available for large power accounts.

Small commercial accounts may be considered upon review.

Note: If there is insufficient consumption history, the Average Payment Plan monthly amount will be estimated and reviewed by an assigned CSR every three months to be adjusted accordingly. Initially we do not have any billing history, but the average bill is approximately \$120 per month over the course of the entire year. Therefore the program will start at \$ 120 per month during the spring and \$160 during the fall months. The higher fall rate takes into the annual true up in June.

Customers may participate in both EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) and Average Payment Plan, but need to be assured proper timing for setup. Customers attempting to make extra payments on the Plan may jeopardize the integrity of the Plan and/or their EFT process. Credits posting to the Budget Balance Field can prevent EFT from pulling the correct monthly amount or cause no Budget Amount Due or the wrong Budget Amount.

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Customers who fail to pay the exact amount of the Average Payment Plan may be subject to removal from the Plan.

## How long will my average payment amount remain the same?

All Average Payment Plan accounts are re-calculated annually most often with the June bills. Customers will be advised of their new Average Payment amount by Bill Messaging.

Average Payment Plan accounts may be evaluated at any time during the year by the Customer Services Supervisor by reviewing a monthly query to determine if all average payment customers debit or credit balances are within reason. Specified CSRs may be directed to increase or decrease the customer's Average Payment amount. The customer will be notified of any change

As a general rule, customers will be advised of changes on their recalculated statements by use of Bill Messaging.

Customers may be removed from the Plan by contacting their local PUD office. The billing statement following the removal from the Plan will be the actual balance owed