



**KIRKWOOD MEADOWS**  
**PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **December 2011**

#### **Revised Rates**

At a District Meeting held on October 15, 2011, the Board approved Ordinance 11-05 which revises the way that electric and propane rates are charged. The major changes are the establishment of a base rate for both electric and propane services and the inclusion of a monthly meter charge. The reason is that it costs the District money to be able to provide power – whether a home uses any power or not. Charging a monthly base fee is consistent with how the District currently charges for water and wastewater services.

On your attached bill, please note the Base Rate charge for Electric (\$20.00) and Propane (\$5.00). The usage charges have been reduced to \$0.4758 per kilowatt hour for electric and \$0.084 per cubic foot for propane.

The monthly meter charge is to pay for the new remote read electric and propane meters. These meters are currently being installed and will allow for year round access to meter reads and eliminate the need for estimated usage charges. The electric meter charge will be \$2.94 per meter per month and the propane charge will be \$3.20 per meter per month. These charges will appear on your December 2011 invoice.

The District has begun the process to include water services into the remote read program with an estimated summer 2012 installation date.

The District expects cost increases associated with these meters to be largely offset by lower labor costs associated with elimination of manual monthly meter reads.

#### **District Invoices**

One of the goals of the District since the acquisition of Mountain Utilities has been to combine all of our bills for services into one invoice. So, instead of receiving one bill for water, wastewater, solid waste and fire assessment and one bill for electric and propane services, you would receive one invoice which would cover all of the services the District provides.

Right before we began this conversion process, we learned that to qualify for a low interest rate government loan we would have to change to a new software package which conforms to government standards. This new long term loan would be used to pay off our existing short term loan and possibly fund the electric connection to the national grid. Rather than go through the conversion process twice, we have delayed the process until a new software vendor has been selected. We now hope to be able to supply one bill for all services on the new system within the next six months.

#### **Electric/ Propane Update**

The construction of the new Powerhouse has been delayed and is now estimated to be completed in mid-January. The reasons for this change are many and include the delay in receiving the switchgear and Volvo generators. All of the generators, switchgear and major equipment have now arrived and are being placed into service.

In the meantime, the District will continue to operate temporary generators to meet the valley's needs. A generator technician has been supplied by the contractor to be on-site throughout this transition period, and the District has gone to a 24 hour staffing schedule to meet the demands of the ski resort opening and increased loads.

The final touches on the District's Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Study are being completed with certification by the District's Board scheduled for their January 12, 2012 meeting. Final approval could come as early as late February. Once approved, the project will go into the design mode and construction contracts will be solicited with construction slated for 2013 and 2014.

### **One Call Now**

The District Board approved participation in an Emergency Notification System called "One Call Now". This message service delivers local emergency messages via voice, voice to text, SMS text messaging and e-mail to individuals or groups within minutes. If you would like to be part of this complimentary notification system please follow the directions given at [www.kmpud.com](http://www.kmpud.com) and click the "One Call Now" Self Registration & Update Link at the top of the home page. If you should have any questions, please contact Rick Ansel at (209) 258-444 ext 3 or via e-mail at [kvfd@volcano.net](mailto:kvfd@volcano.net).

### **Committee Participation**

The Board is looking for community members willing to serve on various committees to help shape the District's future. If you have the time and energy needed to participate and help your community, or just have questions, please contact any Board member or Michael Sharp at the District.

### **District Communications**

Through the work of the Communications Committee and staff, the District has been able to make recent strides in improving our dissemination of information to the community.

- Board Meetings are aired live on Community Channel 19 and then replayed throughout the month.
- Within the near future Board Meetings will be broadcast live over the internet as well as being available for viewing after the meeting as they are now.
- The majority of Board Meeting Packet information is now posted on the internet 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Please let us know of any comments you might have regarding these improvements or any other items you'd like to see addressed.

### **New Board Members**

The results from the November 8, 2011 Elections have been finalized and the District has two new Board members. Congratulations to new Board members Robert Ende and Standish O'Grady who will begin their four year terms on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

A tremendous thanks to the outgoing Board members Larry Lacey and Frank Majors for their years of dedicated service to the community.

**Happy Holidays from the Board of Directors and staff of the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District!**