

RESOLUTION NO. 1571

**A Resolution of Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County
Amending the "Project Help" Program
Eligibility Criteria and Administrative Guidelines**

WHEREAS, Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County ("the District") has determined that it has customers who, from time to time and due to emergency circumstances, are unable to pay their electric utility bills; and

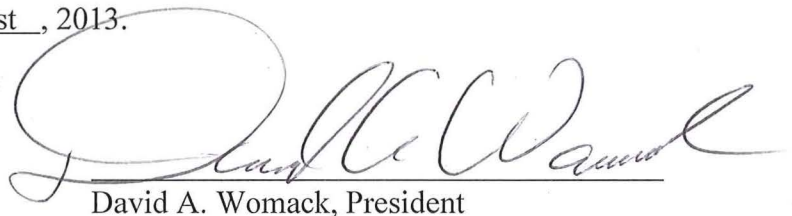
WHEREAS, the District, by Resolution No. 1047, established "Project Help" to provide District customers with the opportunity to voluntarily donate funds to assist needy families and individuals who are unable to pay their electric utility bills and cannot obtain help elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the District entered into an Agreement with the Okanogan County Community Action Council ("OCCAC") to administer the "Project Help" program in accordance with the criteria set forth in Exhibit "A" of that Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the District and OCCAC have revised and amended Exhibit "A" to broaden the number of customers who can qualify for Project Help Assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Public Utility District No. 1 of Okanogan County hereby adopts revised Project Help program guidelines as attached in Exhibit A.

Dated this 27th day of August, 2013.



David A. Womack, President



Steve Houston, Vice President

ATTEST:



Ernest J. Bolz, Secretary

APPROVED as to form:



Michael D. Howe, Legal Counsel

EXHIBIT A

Revised and Amended August 27, 2013

PROJECT HELP ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

General Program Guidelines

In assessing a client/customer's eligibility and need for Project Help assistance, the following guidelines will be taken into account, but not held as rigid limiting parameters. Decisions will be made based upon individual situational merit, coupled with low income guidelines, as determined by the State of Washington and administered by the Okanogan County Community Action Council, who administers the Project Help Program.

1. Project Help funds will be used to solve a problem, not prolong an existing situation. Project Help funds are not intended to be available to client/customer year after year.
2. With respect to emergency benefits, the recommended allowable payment shall be the amount recorded on the billing statement. Contingent upon customer circumstances, a maximum of four (4) months residential billings may be authorized.
3. With respect to deposit relief, low income, first-time customers with proof of participation in a budgeting program (Bounce Back) through Okanogan County Community Action Council will be eligible to have Project Help guarantee the Districts' current standard deposit required for their account. If the customer does not choose to participate in a budgeting program with Community Action, they will be required to pay the 1st half of the utility deposit. Total guarantee of Project Help dollars will not exceed the standard utility deposit required for new customers (\$150.00 on August 2013).
4. Project Help funds will not be available for disconnection/reconnection charges.
5. Project Help funds can only be remitted to the District and not to any other vendor or client/customer.
6. Priority shall be given to the following low income client/customer groups: Any customer experiencing a sudden serious illness or death, major hospitalization, reduction of income or other short-term financial disruption, or being 65 years or older.
7. Project Help customers will be advised and encouraged to enroll in the monthly budget payment plan with the Okanogan County Public Utility District.

Emergency Relief Eligibility Criteria

Project Help may provide emergency relief funds to residential client/customers who meet the following threshold requirements. Priority will be given to assisting client/customers who are in urgent need of assistance and are ineligible for federal and other energy assistance.

1. Be the person named on the District billing;
2. Be a customer of the District for a minimum of three (3) months;
3. Demonstrate a lack of personal or community resources to fully meet their current obligation;
4. Have explored all other means of assistance to meet their needs (i.e. DSHS, Energy Assistance, etc.); and

Deposit Relief Eligibility Criteria

Normal deposits for new electrical residential service, either in part or in whole, can be guaranteed by Project Help funds for households meeting the following criteria:

1. Be in the process of occupying a rental unit within the District's service territory in which the electrical service is his/her responsibility;
2. Be establishing an electric utility account in his/her name with the District for the first time;
3. Have a clearly identified means of meeting the ongoing costs of the electric service after the occupancy has been established;
4. Demonstrate the lack of required funds to pay all or a portion of the required deposit.