

Lake Chelan Reclamation District News



2006 Rate Increase

Irrigation rates will increase by \$2.00 per acre and \$5 per parcel in 2006 for full-rate lands. This is only the second rate increase on the irrigation system in the past 10 years. The rate increases are necessary to fund the significant capital projects both now and in the future that will be required on the irrigation system. The irrigation system is starting to show it's age and the years to come are going to require significant reinvestments into the system if a high level of reliability is to be maintained.

Domestic water and sewer rates are scheduled to stay the same in 2006 as they were in 2005. Most of the major infrastructure projects are done for the time being and growth is helping to pay for the incremental cost factors and debt service payments due for the new facilities.

Irrigation

Base Rate	\$ 98.00/acre	\$40.00 per parcel
Indian Lands	\$ 73.50/acre	\$30.00 per parcel
Laycock Contracts	\$178.18/acre	\$40.00 per parcel
Laycock Lands	\$ 2.50/acre	

Sewer

Base Rate per ERU * \$38.00 per month

Domestic

Base Rate per ERU* (first 700 cubic feet)	\$27.00 per month
Excess Water (over 700 cubic feet)	\$ 3.86 per 100 cf

*ERU stands for Equivalent Residential Unit



Summer Homes; Protect Your Pipes

Some winters we have had a number of unoccupied homes experience frozen pipes during the periods of extreme cold weather. Water lines are much more susceptible to freeze damage when there is no water use. If your house will be mostly unoccupied but you believe you will need water in the winter, we recommend that you have someone check your plumbing and run some water if necessary during extremely cold periods. If you will not need water during the winter months, we recommend that you turn the water off at your shut-off valve and completely drain the house plumbing. We would like to encourage you to install your own shut-off valve outside of the meter box if you do not already have one. Please do not attempt to shut off your service at the meter box yourself. The valves in the meter boxes are the property of the District, and if you break them it may cause us to shut down service to your whole neighborhood.

Special points of interest in this issue.....

- Irrigation Transformers
- Northshore Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project
- Domestic Intake Rehabilitation Project
- Prepare Your Home before the Freeze

Northshore Sewer Interceptor Replacement Project



2005 was a very busy year putting the finishing touches on a major renovation in the sewer interceptor between Manson and Chelan. Work continues on completing some of the final electro-mechanical issues on the lift stations. Odor control work will continue again next spring and summer as we look for combinations of flushing, venting, chemical treatment and filtering makes the system smell the least at different times of the season. Some sewage smells will likely always be present, but when the construction is complete, we will do our best to control the odors so that the intensity and duration of the odors are reduced.

The \$7.4 million dollar project was unique in a lot of ways including the use of a high density polyethylene dual pipeline that is nearly 5 miles long and contains no joints that can leak or cause pollution. Installed in the west bound lanes of SR 150, the system is designed to last for the next several increments of growth.

Domestic Intake Rehabilitation Project

The Manson and Lakeshore Intakes for domestic water have been modernized with three new pumps, new motor control centers and other improvements to the system. The \$510,000 project allows the domestic water system to divert over 6,200 gallons of water per minute from Lake Chelan for the use of existing and future customers to the system. These improvements also allowed the District to fulfill the conditions of two water right permits obtained in 1995 prior to the construction of the Water Treatment Plant.

The improvements give the District significantly more reliability in terms of pumping alternatives from different PUD substations and through separate pipeline systems. This all gives us the ability to serve our customers with clean, safe reliable service under most emergency conditions. These improvements were paid primarily from the impact component of the hookup fees we charge for new connections.



Irrigation Transformers



The irrigation system was installed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation between the years of 1971 and 1975 to serve almost 7,000 acres on the north shore of Lake Chelan. The Lake Chelan Reclamation District is the operating agent for the USBR and is responsible for maintaining the facilities into the future. One component of the system that concerned us was the use of large power transformers that contained the chemical PCB. Although the transformers have never leaked, the District chose to replace the transformer between 2003 and 2005 with modern PCB free transformers that would last trouble-free into the future. The old transformers were removed and sent to a recycling facility in Phoenix, Arizona where the oil could be burned and the metal melted down and recycled. This \$450,000 project was done at the cost of the rate payers along with the technical expertise of Chelan County PUD.

Prepare your home To Welcome old man winter AGAIN

Before the Freeze...

Locate the Shutoff Valve

If pipes burst, water could begin to pour into your house and time would be critical in preventing damage to walls, floors, or carpet. The most likely locations for the shutoff valve are:

- ◆ Where the water supply enters your home
- ◆ Near your clothes washer hookup
- ◆ Near your water heater

Try turning this valve off and on in advance to make sure you've found the right one. Mark it with paint, a tag, or ribbon and make sure everyone in the family knows where it is. If you are unable to locate your shutoff valve, you may want to contact your builder or plumber for assistance.

Before the Cold Hits

Insulate pipes in your home's crawl spaces and attic. These exposed pipes are most susceptible to freezing. Remember: The more insulation you use, the better protected your pipes will be.

Heat tape or thermostatically-controlled heat cables can be used to wrap pipes. Be sure to use products approved by an independent testing organization, such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc., and only for the use intended (exterior or interior). Closely follow all manufacturers' installation and operation instructions.

Seal leaks that allow cold air inside, near where pipes are located. Look for air leaks around electrical wiring, dryer vents and pipes. Use caulk or insulation to keep the cold out and the heat in. With severe cold, a tiny opening can let in enough cold air to cause a pipe to freeze.

Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets. This reduces the chance of freezing in the short span of pipe just inside the house.

When the Mercury Drops

A trickle of hot and cold water might be all it takes to keep your pipes from freezing. Let warm water drip overnight, preferably from a faucet on an outside wall.

Open cabinet doors to allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under sinks and appliances near exterior walls.

If You're Away

Set the thermostat in your house no lower than 55 degrees.

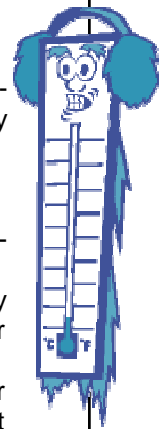
Ask a friend or neighbor to check your house daily to make sure it's warm enough to prevent freezing, or shut off and drain the water system in your house. Don't forget to shut off power to the hot water tank.

What to Do If Your Pipes Freeze

Don't panic! If you can get to the frozen pipe, chances are you'll be able to thaw it yourself. Frozen pipes usually feel extremely cold which helps you to locate the freeze. Use any safe source of heat and apply slowly to avoid bursting. **NEVER USE DIRECT FLAME OR BOILING WATER TO THAW PIPES. THIS COULD CAUSE THEM TO BURST AND FLOOD YOUR HOME.**

Open the faucet closest to the freeze and try one of more of the following ideas. And be patient. It may take several hours for the pipes to thaw.

1. Soak a heavy cloth or towel in hot water and wrap it around the pipe.
2. Slowly pour hot but never boiling water over the cloth. You can heat the water on the stove or in the microwave.
3. Use a portable hair dryer and slowly apply its heat to the pipe.
4. If the freeze is under the sink, put one or two large pots of boiling water inside the cabinet. The steam will help the pipe to thaw.
5. Check your meter. If the bottom is cracked, the meter is frozen. Call the District (509-687-3548). Do NOT try to repair the meter yourself.
6. If the freeze is behind a wall and you can't get to it, you'll probably have to call a plumber to thaw it. You could do it yourself by carefully opening a hole in the wall and getting some heat to freeze. But you'll have to cope with repairs to the wall.





Lake Chelan Reclamation District

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Directors Tackitt & Libbey Re-Elected, No Election Needed

Coy Tackitt and Rocky Libbey filed unopposed for the open directors position on the Lake Chelan Reclamation District Board of Directors. Under irrigation district law, unopposed candidates are automatically elected to the positions without the need for an election. Coy and Rocky will begin their next three-year terms in January of 2006.

DDT & PCBs in Lake Chelan Fish

The Lake Chelan Water Quality Committee is comprised of the City of Chelan, Chelan County, Chelan County PUD, Lake Chelan Sewer District, U.S. Forest Service and Lake Chelan Reclamation District. We have been working diligently with Washington State Department of Ecology to understand the sources, nature and levels of DDT and PCB in fish in both Lake Chelan and Roses Lake. This is a very complex issue and much more information is needed before sound conclusions can be made about the seriousness of the problems we face. Our goal is to keep the public informed during this study process and to determine if there are things we can do as a society that can make a difference in our environment. Stay tuned and we will let you know how things are going.

New Billing and Water Use Statements Are Here

We have been transitioning to a new billing and water use statement this year for irrigation, domestic water and sewage charges. You will no longer receive post card type bills and will now only receive a letter type format billing statement. Some folks have looked at the new billing statement and thought it was simply a water use statement. Look twice before you discard these news statements because it could be your bill in simply a new format. We have a significant number of names, addresses, accounts and turnout information to convert to the new system and some errors are bound to occur. We ask that you are patient with us during this transition and let us know if we have gotten a name or account mixed up in any way. The tremendous number of land transactions that occurred in 2005 added significantly to the confusion.

Water use on the bimonthly and irrigation statements is in cubic feet and will typically show you both your annual allotment and the percentage of the allotment you have used. This is a change from the old days of reporting acre-inches of use. As always, if you have any questions about how to read your statements, please stop by and we will be glad to help. In the long run this transition will help us serve you better.