



PRESS RELEASE

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Clallam County PUD To Host Weeklong Demonstration of New Fiber Optic Network

Sequim, WA – **Monday, March 25 through Friday, March 29**, Clallam County PUD will host live demonstrations of the capabilities of the new fiber optic network that will soon light downtown Sequim and Carlsborg Road. Distance learning, IP telephony, electronic white boarding, movies, Auto CAD and video conferencing are some of the hands-on demonstrations planned at **Clallam County Public Utility District 2431 East Highway 101, Port Angeles.**

“We are building the information infrastructure that supports business, education, healthcare and community needs of the future,” said PUD General Manager Dennis Bickford. “We want people to see first hand the tremendous benefits of high speed broadband connections.”

Clallam County PUD telecommunications will operate in pilot mode for the first 12 months after the official lighting on March 29. School Districts, Fire Departments, and municipal buildings are the first likely customers. During the pilot test the, the PUD will assess customer demand and last-mile delivery technologies for the network.

Clallam County PUD currently uses telecommunications to transport data, voice and video traffic. This includes teleconferencing and long distance learning, and IP telephones located on each desktop connected through the data network. Telecommunications helps Clallam County PUD increase productivity and efficiency. The network also offers the potential for electrical grid management via SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) applications and AMR (Automated Meter Reading).

Telecommunications network begins at the Happy Valley Road Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) substation and extends a fully redundant OC-48 fiber ring to Sequim and Port Angeles. Each OC-48 circuit can handle 2.5 Gigabits, or 2.5 billion bits of data per second over two strands of fiber.

“With that capability, you could potentially download a 200-megabit file in less than two seconds. It currently takes a 28.8K dialup connection 100 minutes to do the same thing,” said Fred Mitchell, Clallam County PUD Assistant General Manager.

This effort is the result of Clallam County PUD's membership in a cooperative of PUDs throughout Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho. Work started in 1998 to build a

fiber optic backbone among the member Public Utility Districts that utilize Bonneville Power Authority (BPA) fiber across the Northwest. This main network is referred to as "NoaNet" (Northwest Open Access Network). NoaNet extends the network into Sequim, terminating at the Happy Valley Road BPA substation.

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