

Joint media release

## **COWLITZ PUD – LOWER COLUMBIA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM**

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**Contact:** Dave Andrew – Cowlitz PUD, (360) 577-7502, Alan Rose – CAP, (360) 425-3430, ext. 280

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### **Cowlitz PUD Launches 2010-11 Rate Discount Programs for Low-Income Senior and Disabled Customers**

Low-income senior (age 65+) and disabled customers of Cowlitz PUD can now make an appointment with Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP) to determine if they qualify for a discounted electric rate in 2010-2011.

CAP manages the low-income discount programs for the PUD. Customers can apply for a discounted electric rate by calling CAP at (360) 425-3430, ext. 231 through November 5.

The PUD offers discounted electric rates ranging from 5 to 25 percent for qualified low-income customers who are age 65 or older — or are disabled and earn a disability income. During 2009-2010, a total of 703 PUD customers qualified for a discounted electric rate.

“Participation in the rate discount programs grows a little every year and we want to see that trend continue. We encourage all seniors or disabled customers who believe they may qualify to contact CAP or the PUD to find out more,” PUD Board of Commissioners President Ned Piper said.

To be eligible for either rate discount program an applicant must have had Cowlitz PUD electric service for the past 12 months at their current residence and meet certain income requirements based on household size. A qualified senior or disabled customer in a one- or two-person household, with a gross annual household income under \$14,750, would receive a 25-percent discount.

A higher income threshold is applied for customers with larger households. All program requirements and qualifying income levels are available at [www.cowlitzpud.org](http://www.cowlitzpud.org) or by contacting CAP or Cowlitz PUD. Customers can only participate in one of the rate discount programs, even if they meet the requirements of both.

Questions about the rate discount programs can be directed to CAP at (360) 425-3430, ext. 231 or to Cowlitz PUD at (360) 423-2210 or WA toll free (800) 631-1131.

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