

## Commissioners

Linda Oosterman – District 1  
Russell E. Olsen – District 2  
Chris Stearns – District 3



Providing safe, reliable, affordable, and sustainable service.

November 4, 2022

CUSTOMER  
ADDRESS  
CITY

Subject: Update on Additional Water Connections at the Timberline Village (628) Water System  
Property Address: ADDRESS

Dear Mr. \_\_\_\_\_:

On October 1, 2017, Thurston PUD assumed ownership and operations of 140 water systems from H&R Waterworks. The Timberline Village was one of these water systems. While H&R owned the water system, more connections than were authorized by the Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW), were connected to the system. On December 12, 2018, the DOH-ODW changed the operational capability of the Timberline water system from a green permit to a blue permit. This meant that the water system is substantially **in compliance** with state requirements, however, the system has exceeded the number of DOH-approved connections. This water system had been deemed adequate to serve existing users, **but not adequate for adding new service connections without further DOH approval**. Since 2018, Thurston PUD has been working towards bringing the water system back into a green permit so that customers can obtain water service on undeveloped lots in the Timberline water system. **This purpose of this letter is to provide an update on this process.**

In order to obtain more water service connections, the PUD has reduced the distribution system leakage (DSL) by more than 75 percent (from over 50 acre-feet per year to under 12 acre-feet per year), installed meters on every connection for the water system, completed a zone metering plan, replaced 800+ feet of mainline pipe, and has worked with water system customers to repair leaks located on their properties. Earlier this year, the PUD submitted a revised capacity analysis to DOH to request additional water connections. **However, the PUD was notified in October 2022 that our request was denied by DOH. At this time, no additional water connections have been granted to the Timberline Village water system.**

Going forward, DOH is requesting the following items from the PUD:

- Documentation showing that the water system has an acceptable DSL level (leakage under 20 percentage),
- A Water System Plan (WSP) that includes a more robust capacity analysis,
- A comprehensive strategy description to bring DSL levels to an acceptable level and to ensure that the system can meet demand without exceeding capacity,
- Three to five years of source water production data, and
- A water loss control action plan.

Our staff will continue to work with DOH on the additional items noted above. While we look forward to providing this information and working towards obtaining more water system connections for Timberline Village, **we cannot guarantee when, or even if, DOH will grant the additional water system connections.**

We understand how frustrating the wait for a connection for your property has been, and we want to offer an alternate option to you. Drilling an exempt well is normally denied by the PUD within its service areas. However, the PUD will not object to or stand in the way of any customer drilling an exempt well in this circumstance for property owners that currently own a vacant lot within the Timberline Village water system service area.

If you are interested in drilling an exempt well at your property, please contact the Lewis County Environmental Health Department at (360) 740-1135. You can also contact them by visiting their website at [www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/environmental-health/](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov/departments/environmental-health/).

If you have any questions regarding water service for your property, please feel free to email me at [jweidenfeller@thurstonpud.org](mailto:jweidenfeller@thurstonpud.org) or call me at (360) 763-5838.

Respectfully,



John Weidenfeller  
General Manager