

UTILITIES
ELEMENT

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UTILITIES ELEMENT

I. Introduction

~~The Utilities Element provides an inventory of existing utilities, current capacities, and identifies the future needs to accommodate for the expected population growth. The GMA requires the inclusion of an element for utilities in local comprehensive plans. The utilities element is intended to assure integration of the general location and capacity of existing and proposed utility facilities with the goals and policies of the land use element of the plan. Utilities in this instance generally refers to systems and services provided by nonpublic providers.~~

~~The utilities element has been developed in accordance with Section 36.70A.070 of the Growth Management Act to address utility services in the planning area. The utilities element is primarily intended to assure coordination of land use planning and infrastructure planning by nonpublic providers of utilities such as natural gas and telephone services.~~

~~The utilities element has been developed in accordance with the county wide planning policies and has been integrated with all other planning elements to ensure consistency throughout the comprehensive plan. It specifically considers goals and policies relating to electrical lines, telecommunication lines, natural gas lines, and cable television lines.~~

II. Inventory and Analysis

The inventory presented in this element provides information useful to the planning process. It does not include all of the data or information that was gathered; however, it presents the relevant information. Additional data is listed in the bibliography and can be obtained at the county. Many public and private agencies are involved in regulation, coordination, production, delivery, and supply of utility services.

Natural Gas

There is no natural gas within the planning area nor does Cascade Natural Gas have any plans for an expansion of their gas lines from Wenatchee to the planning area.

Electrical Utilities

All public electric power in the planning area is provided by the Chelan County Public Utility District #1 (PUD), a special purpose public agency that is governed by an elected board of

commissioners. The PUD, as a public utility, ~~is required to provide~~ service ~~to everyone~~ in its service area. ~~According to the PUD, there is ample capacity to meet existing demand for both the incorporated areas of the county as well as the rural areas~~ The PUD is working with the community to find a location for a new substation in the Leavenworth area to support growth and development in the Upper Valley. The existing double-bank substation serving this area is nearing capacity.

In October of 2013, Chelan County PUD began a conversation with their customer-owners about how our actions as a public power utility could enhance the quality of their lives. This was a new chapter in the journey toward achieving the "ideal" of public power's commitment to service, stewardship, and customer satisfaction. The 2015-2019 Strategic Priorities is hereby adopted by reference. In addition, the "Catching Up and Creating a Sustainable Future" Generation & Transmission 2015-2019 Business Plan is hereby adopted by reference. In 2016, the Chelan County PUD began the investigation and study of a regional waste water utility that may connect and serve the communities of Leavenworth, Peshastin, Dryden, Cashmere, and potentially Wenatchee.

~~In 1990, the PUD commissioned R.W. Beck and Associates to prepare a Long Range Transmission Planning Study. The scope of the study included system planning and major station facilities. The study looked at contractual agreements and obligations, load forecasts, and basic planning and design criteria. The PUD updated this study in March of 1995. This study and subsequent updates are~~

~~City of Leavenworth Comprehensive Plan _____ 2001
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~~hereby adopted by reference.~~

~~Improvements proposed for the planning area from the March, 1995, update include the possible reconductoring of the existing 115 kV line, composed of 4/0 copper conductors, between Anderson Canyon switchyard and Coles Corner. This line will approach 100 percent capacity by the year 2005.~~

Phone, TV Cable and Internet

Frontier and LocalTel provides many services within Leavenworth and its planning area.

Charter provides Spectrum TV™, internet and phone services within Leavenworth and its planning area; and holds a franchise agreement with the City of Leavenworth.

~~Chelan County is also served by Verizon for cellular and telephone service. There are various facilities located throughout the County and the cities of Chelan County. According to Verizon, the delivery of telecommunication services sometimes does not coincide with the exact location of customers. Many of the telecommunication facilities, including aerial and underground are co-located with those of the electrical power provider.~~

~~The telecommunications industry is currently in the midst of tremendous advances in technology. Both e~~Cellular and optical fiber technologies are transforming the way service is delivered in Chelan County. Like electricity, the provision of telecommunication services is driven by the needs of its customers. As the County grows, telecommunication facilities will be upgraded to ensure adequate service levels. It is also feasible that facilities will be upgraded as technology advances.

TV-Cable

~~The City has a current franchise for cable service with TCI Cablevision (now called Charter Communications). The franchise agreement is for 15 years (running from November 1994 to November 2009). The franchise agreement is a nonexclusive agreement. TCI Cablevision currently utilizes cable connections to dwelling units. Future technology may allow direct data link to individual dwelling units via satellite dishes making cabled systems obsolete.~~

Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation District

The Icicle Irrigation District (IID) was formed as an official irrigation district in 1917. The Icicle Irrigation District is made up of approximately 39 miles of canals, pipelines, flumes, and tunnels. The system is administratively broken into six sections serving approximately 4,300 acres of orchards, primarily apple and pear, and some pasture and lawn, and provides irrigation water on both sides of the Wenatchee River. The Peshastin Irrigation District (PID) serves about 3,700 acres along the west side of the Wenatchee River, from just south of the Leavenworth siphon to just west of the City of Cashmere. The two districts are under the same management and are collectively known as the Icicle/Peshastin Irrigation District (IPID). Within the Icicle Creek watershed are a number of mountain lakes used by IID to enhance Icicle Creek stream flow. These lakes have low profile dams that allow control of lake out flow. During months of high irrigation demand and reduced Icicle Creek flows downstream of the IID irrigation diversion, extra water from the lakes can be released to increase stream flow. There is a total of five lakes that are used to this end: Colchuck, Square, Eight mile, Clinique, and Snow.

City of Leavenworth Utilities (Domestic Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Stormwater)

The City's Domestic Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Stormwater facilities are referenced and inventoried in the Capital Facilities Element.

~~III~~-Goals and Policies

Goal 1: Provide public utilities in a manner which is compatible with the natural environment and which assures the orderly economic development of land.

~~Goal~~ Rationale: Utility projects should be coordinated to reduce cost and inconvenience to the public, and should be aesthetically compatible with surrounding land uses.

Policy 1: Require effective and timely coordination of all public and private utility trenching activities.

Consider alternative methods to open cut trenching like directional drilling and/or boring. Continue to develop and maintain Standard Construction Details for all public and private utilities and infrastructure.

Rationale: Coordination of utility trenching activities will allow less costly and less frequent right-of-way repairs and fewer inconveniences to the public.

Policy 2: Require ~~the under grounding of~~ all new electrical distribution and communication lines to be installed underground where reasonably feasible and not a health threat. Encourage ~~the under grounding of all~~

*City of Leavenworth Comprehensive Plan _____ 2003 _____
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~~existing~~all existing electrical distribution and communication lines to be placed underground where reasonably feasible and not a health threat. Encourage all new electrical transmission lines be placed underground where reasonably feasible and not a health threat.

Rationale: Underground utilities help protect the safety of citizens, reduce maintenance costs

and improve the aesthetics of the planning area.

Policy 3: Encourage the consolidation of utility facilities and communication facilities where reasonably feasible.

Rationale: Consolidation will reduce the overall costs to the public. Examples of facilities which could be shared are towers, poles, antennas, substation sites, trenches, and easements.

Policy 4: + Require the placement of cellular communication facilities in a manner to minimize the adverse impacts on adjacent land uses. Encourage the use of stealth or screening measures to reduce visual clutter.

Rationale: Compatibility with adjacent land uses should be a strong consideration when reviewing such facilities.

Policy 5: Encourage the use of energy conservation design strategies in new construction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial, industrial, and public facility structures.

Rationale: As the planning area develops, the demand for energy will grow. Conservation is vital to maintaining levels of service without costly facility improvements.

Policy 6: Encourage conservation and use of cost-effective alternative energy sources.

Rationale: Water used to generate electricity is under increased demand for many different purposes. Energy conservation is essential as the planning area accommodates more people. The utilization of other energy sources should be explored and implemented where feasible.

Policy 7: Encourage Chelan County, Washington State Department of Transportation, and the City of Leavenworth shall coordinate their roadway projects with planned utility expansions, improvements, or extensions where shared sites or rights-of-way may be appropriate.

Rationale: Coordination will allow consideration for the appropriate locations of utilities and timing of utility installations.

Policy 8: Promote the coordination of Chelan County, and the City of Leavenworth, shall also require the irrigation district and other utility purveyors to coordinate their utility expansions, extensions, or improvements where shared sites or rights-of-way may be appropriate.

Rationale: Coordination will ~~allow consideration~~ reduce conflicts of for the appropriate utility locations of utilities and locations and timing of utility installations. In addition, cost savings are gained from a single opening within streets and/or “no repeating” an opening.

Policy 9: Support the Chelan County PUD’s investigation and study of a regional waste water utility that may connect and serve the communities of Leavenworth, Peshastin, Dryden, Cashmere, and potentially Wenatchee.

Rationale: The potential for consolidation of “valley / corridor” wide facilities can add efficiencies that need to be explored.

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