



# HOTLINES

A weekly news update for the employees and retirees of Clark Public Utilities



## Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) program helps you save for college

Start saving now for your child's education with Washington's 529 plan, the Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program. You purchase GET units today and their value is guaranteed to keep pace with the rising cost of college tuition. You decide how much and how often you want to purchase credits. Enrollment is now available through May 31.

Credits can be used at nearly any public or private university in the country. The value of your account is determined by the cost of resident, undergraduate tuition at Washington's most expensive public university. Credits can be used for tuition, room, board and books. Credits can be purchased on a monthly payment plan through payroll deduction or as a lump sum whenever you have extra money to contribute.

Contributions grow tax free and withdrawals remain tax free when used for higher education expenses. You can also use GET funds for universities, colleges and technical schools nationwide.

More information is available at [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov) or call Nerissa Fallon at ext. 3254.



## Expanded cable rejuvenation project increases reliability with underground system

A new underground cable rejuvenation schedule has been put into effect this year, which began in mid-January. The cable rejuvenation process is used on underground cable that was manufactured between the late 1960's to the early 1990's. Cable rejuvenation is a very effective process that prevents older cables from faulting as moisture can seep into the cables and attack the aluminum conductors, causing them to short out.

In previous years with a budget of \$300,000, the cable rejuvenation process would normally begin in the fall and continue until our budgeted amount was spent. In general, the budget would allow for about two months of work to be completed.

The process begins by first changing the elbows and then injecting a silicone based fluid into the cable between each transformer. The crew uses a proven process to pull this fluid through the cable. The injected fluid fills in the voids or small cracks around the cable, which prevents moisture from seeping in and causing the cable to be attacked by moisture, which over time causes the cable to fail resulting in outages to our customers.

Having done cable rejuvenation for more than fifteen years, this process has improved system reliability and reduced outages at a cost much less than replacing the cables. Based on this experience and a desire to improve underground electrical system reliability it was determined we would extend the cable rejuvenation process to a year-round effort starting this year.

For 2013 the utility commissioners approved a budget of \$1 million dollars, which allows for a significant increase in the amount of cable that can be treated over previous years. After reviewing the two submitted bids, the decision was made to partner with Novinium, Inc.

With two utility linemen and one Novinium employee working five days a week, as well as a larger budget, we have the opportunity to work more effectively and efficiently to rejuvenate a much larger amount of cable in 2013 than in any previous year.

This expanded commitment to improve reliability for our underground system allows us to continue to provide safe and reliable electrical service to our customers at the best possible cost.



Journeyman Lineman Ryan Hardie re-energizes a pad mount transformer after working with a Novinium contractor to set up a cable rejuvenation treatment.

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