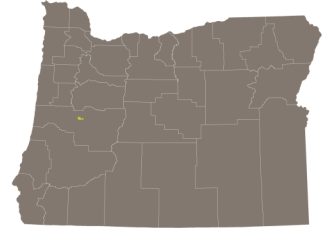


Springfield Utility Board serves about 31,000 electric and 20,000 water customers in the Springfield area.



System Flexibility

Springfield Utility Board has been focusing on how to have more flexibility with its infrastructure, so the system can respond to typical load and peak load, as well as emergency situations.

Some utilities have switched to AMI or “smart” metered systems, which does offer flexibility. However, those systems may not function after a large-scale emergency such as a Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake. SUB is looking at developing a more analog back-up plan, so if power on the grid is limited, it can be rationed and redirected to emergency services. This may mean physically going out and switching lines or turning valves, rather than depending on a remote digital system.

BPA Island

The utility is also working on a collaborative plan to get the southern Willamette Valley back on line after a major emergency. If after a Cascadia quake (or something of a similar scale) the Portland area is compromised, Bonneville Power Administration transmission service to the Willamette Valley may be compromised.

BPA could “island off” its transmission system in the southern Willamette Valley. The Eugene Water and Electric Board, which already has scheduling and dispatch from BPA lines, could dispatch federal electricity generation from the Willamette and McKenzie rivers to serve load in the local area. There are points of delivery within BPA’s system that have multiple connections present, so other utilities in the area, including SUB, Lane Electric, and Emerald PUD, can also connect to those lines and deliver electricity to high priority customers like hospitals and emergency responders.



Link to Other Utilities

SUB serves water customers in addition to electricity customers, so its emergency response will focus on restoring both critical services.

Where there are electric-only utilities or utility areas where there is overlap in providers, utilities could develop collaborative response plans in collaboration with City and County emergency managers. For example, other critical services such as water or sewer treatment facilities may need electricity to operate.