

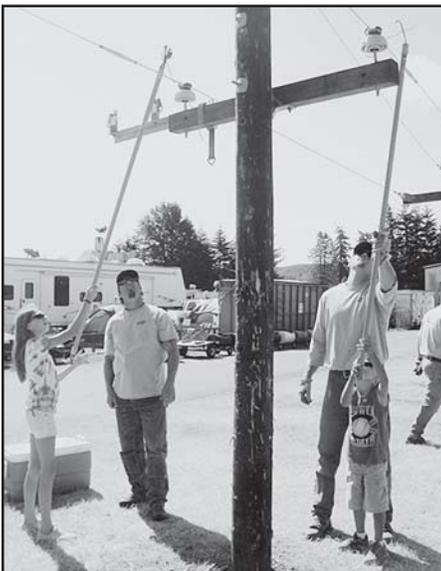
PUD Fair Booth Wins Outdoor Commercial Vendor/Exhibitor Award

A record year for the Grays Harbor County Fair was also a huge success for the Grays Harbor PUD. The PUD booth, staffed over a five day period by over 50 PUD employees from every department, won a first place ribbon for the Outdoor Commercial Vendor/Exhibitor Award.

The PUD booth provided customers with information on PUD Energy Services, apprenticeship programs and outage reporting and preparation. In addition to the information booth, for the first time in over a decade PUD line crews were part of the fairground display. Using demonstration poles, crews were able to demonstrate pole top rescue techniques and give children the experience of handling hot sticks while trying their hand at PUD line work.



Commissioner Arie Callaghan and PUD employee Bonny Dempnock answer customer questions at the Grays Harbor PUD booth.



Grays Harbor PUD line crews demonstrate line techniques at the Grays Harbor County Fair. This marked the first time in over ten years that line crews participated in the PUD fairgrounds display.



Self-Hauling of Harbor Paper Sludge Saves PUD Estimated \$450K

Costs saving efforts continue to benefit the customers of the Grays Harbor PUD. Rather than contract for the removal of the sludge lining the bottom of the Harbor Paper primary clarifier, the PUD will rent trucks and hire drivers to handle the shipment of the wastewater by-products to a landfill in Cowlitz County.

"From the beginning, our goal has been to fulfill our Harbor Paper responsibilities while having the lowest possible impact on our customers," said General Manager Dave Ward. "By self-hauling the primary clarifier sludge, the PUD will save over \$450-thousand. That moves us toward the fulfillment of that goal."

Earlier this year, the PUD partnered with the City of Hoquiam to pump millions of gallons of treated water from the primary clarifier into the Hoquiam sewage treatment system. When the water had been removed, what remained were several tons of sediment in the form of sludge, which the PUD is required to dispose of. After receiving a proposal for the shipment and disposal of the sludge (based on estimates for hauling over 12,000 tons of waste), the Special Projects Manager John Pellegrini examined the possibility of self-hauling the sludge and found the cost estimates to be considerably lower than other alternatives.

In the interest of saving money, the PUD and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (I.B.E.W.) Local Union 77 worked together to create two new temporary positions that will transport of the bulk materials away from the Harbor Paper site. Through that process, in the coming months PUD hired drivers will make two trips per day in rented trucks, gradually moving the sludge to the Cowlitz County Landfill, one of two Washington landfills equipped to handle the waste product.

"We knew there were going to be costs associated with our Harbor Paper responsibilities," said Ward. "Our goal has been to find the lowest possible cost and the efforts of District staff including John Pellegrini, our legal department and representatives and members of I.B.E.W. Local Union 77 have allowed us to do that."

PUD Appoints Katy Williamsen as Full-Time Auditor

In an effort to utilize an available set of skills and resources, the Grays Harbor PUD has announced that veteran PUD employee Katy Williamsen will fill the role of PUD Auditor/Controller. For the past ten years, the PUD contracted with the firm of Preszler, Larner and Mertz for auditing and accounting services.

In order to maintain a more constant presence in financial auditing and assessment, Williamsen will review all District expenditures, audit and review various contracts, assist in preparation of financial reports and work with the State Auditor's office on their annual review of PUD accounts.

"We have had a tremendous relationship with Preszler, Larner, Mertz and I appreciate all they did for us. With their assistance, the PUD had 10 consecutive clean state audits," said Chief Financial Officer Doug Streeter. "I am extremely proud that Katy Williamsen has been chosen to fill this position. She is a hard worker and I know the Grays Harbor PUD will benefit from her years of experience."

Commission Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Nichols Building, 220 Myrtle Street, Hoquiam.

September 2014

Monday - Sept. 1 No Meeting
Office Closed
Monday - Sept. 15
Monday - Sept. 29

October 2014

Monday - October 6
Monday - October 20

Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. A one hour workshop (3:30 to 4:30 pm) will precede each business meeting, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome to attend all commission meetings, special meetings, workshops and public hearings. **Public comment periods are included at the open and close of every meeting.**

Commission meetings may be cancelled and special meetings may be scheduled. Please visit our website (www.ghpud.org) for updated information.

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A New Look for the Grays Harbor PUD Website

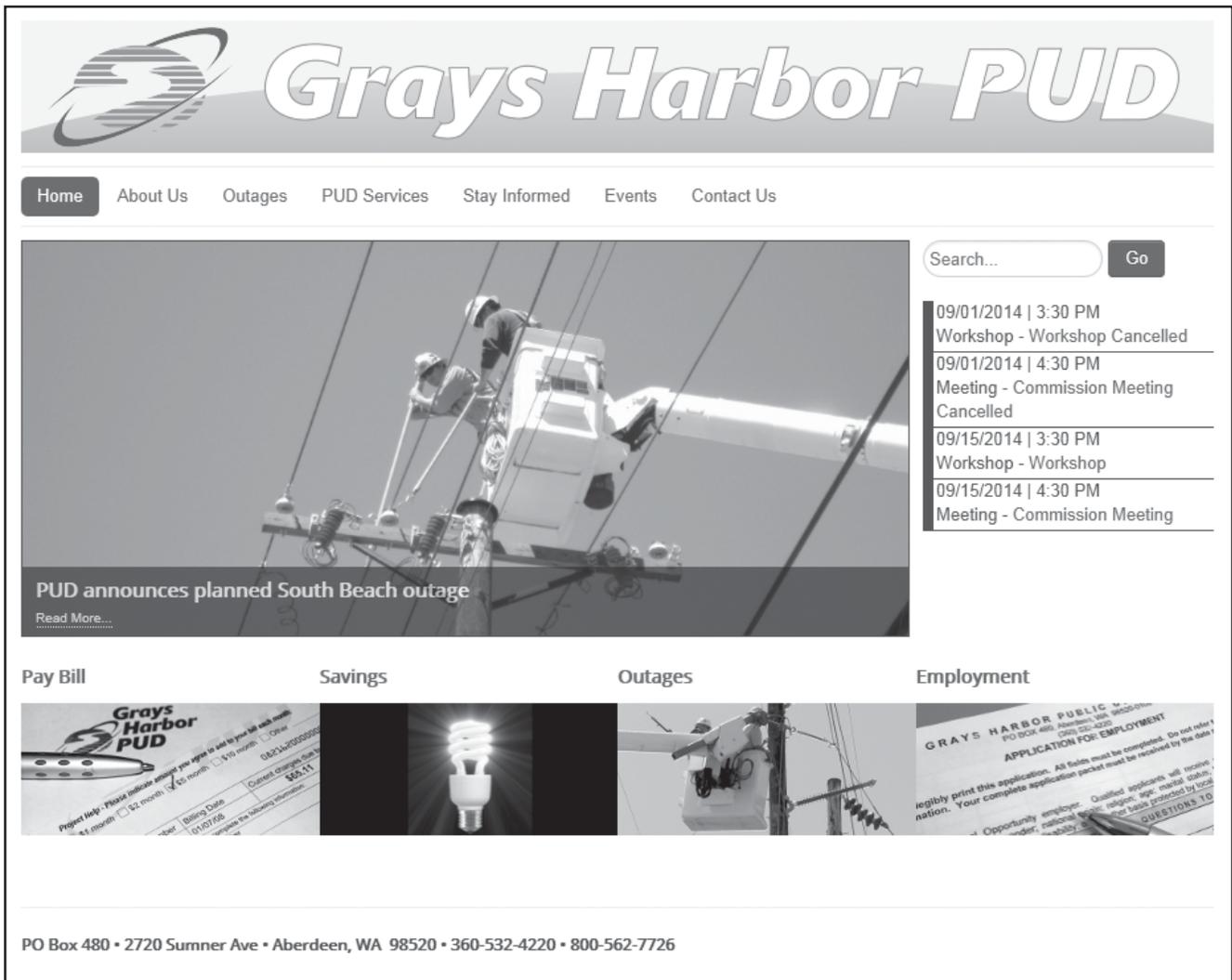
In this day and age, having a strong web presence is very important to any business. With that in mind, the Grays Harbor PUD Communications and IT departments partnered to produce a new layout and design for the Grays Harbor PUD website (ghpud.org).

Spanning several months, the redesign process included the formation of a website redesign committee. Made up of members from every PUD department, the committee met multiple times to discuss the “must haves” for the new website look and to examine other websites to decide on the best design.

“This was a PUD-wide effort,” said Communications Director Ian Cope. “It was important to get an opinion from every angle of the District to ensure that we would be meeting the most important needs of our customers.”

The revamped website includes a home page that clearly directs viewers to outage information, energy saving services, online bill pay services and PUD employment opportunities. The site also includes PUD news releases, PUD Board of Commissioners meeting agendas and minutes and forms to begin and modify electrical service.

While the new site became active on August 11, the development of the PUD website will be an ongoing effort. Future developments being considered include the posting of audio recordings from Commission meetings, an email Q&A link and an online subscription option for the PUD Energy Newsletter.



The newly created front page of the Grays Harbor PUD website.



Commissioners Corner

Arie Callaghan, District One Commissioner

One of the many responsibilities PUD commissioners have is to represent our utility in energy organizations in which we are members. One of those organizations is Energy Northwest, an organization responsible for the operation of many large generation projects such as the Columbia Generating Station, the Nine Canyon Wind Project and the Packwood Hydro Power Project. As the Grays Harbor PUD representative on the Board of Directors for Energy Northwest, last month I had the opportunity to tour of the Columbia Generating Station nuclear plant.

Columbia is located up river from the Tri-Cities, past the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Hanford has a rich history including being part of the Manhattan Project which created the first atomic weapons and used for Cold War era nuclear testing. However, now the site is famous for the ongoing clean-up by the federal government after leaks were found in tanks used for the storage of nuclear waste. I think it is important to remind our customers that the Columbia Generating Station is not Hanford. People often make the mistake of confusing the two because of where the station is located. All it has in common with Hanford is its location. While Hanford has been an environmental issue, the Columbia Generating Station has had a clean record of operation for 30 years and in that time has generated clean power for the Northwest electrical grid. The CEO of Energy Northwest, Mark Reddman, is an excellent leader and has assembled a stellar team to run a plant which continues to set milestones in operations and safety.

I know that to most Grays Harbor residents the words “nuclear power” strike up memories of the Washington Public Power Supply System, or WPPSS, of the 1970s and 80s and the issues that came with it. For years, Grays Harbor residents have been living in the literal shadow of the WPPSS debacle on Fuller Hill, but while the impact to Grays Harbor was certainly negative at the time, in Eastern Washington, the WPPSS story was much different. The Columbia Generating Station is the only plant of the five proposed WPPSS facilities to ever go online. Today the plant produces 1100 megawatts of electricity, enough to power over one-million homes. It has become a major source of electricity for our region. With its recent relicensing from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it should continue to do so for years to come. Our customers can learn more by going to the Energy Northwest website (www.energynorthwest.com).

The Columbia Generation Station and the electricity it produces is just one of many sources of power for customers of the Grays Harbor PUD and we are fortunate to have this great resource available to us. While the Columbia Generating Station is already a tremendous asset for our state and our region, I see the potential for even greater things. As the government tackles the question of how to responsibly handle and store nuclear waste and how to extract even more energy from nuclear fuel, the potential for growth expands. Whether you are for or against nuclear power, the Columbia Generating Station has set a standard of excellence for nuclear power in our state. It is a great asset for our region and is a huge economic engine for the Tri Cities, while supplying clean, green electricity for the customers of the Pacific Northwest.



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ENERGY, an informational newsletter, is published monthly for families and businesses energized by Grays Harbor PUD.

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