



Grays Harbor's Arie Callaghan Elected to Leadership of Energy Northwest Board of Directors



Grays Harbor Public Utility District Commissioner Arie Callaghan has been elected to serve as Assistant Secretary to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors. Callaghan will serve a two-year term as Assistant Secretary for the board of the public power agency which represents 22 PUDs and five municipal utilities.

"I am very excited to take an active role in this organization and to have a positive impact," said Callaghan. "It's gratifying to be a part of such a successful organization. To have a seat on its board of directors gives Grays Harbor a voice in the discussion that will help to shape energy policy in the Northwest."

Energy Northwest is responsible for the operation of a mix of electricity generating resources, including hydro, solar, wind projects and the Northwest's only nuclear power plant. Combined they provide enough reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy to power more than a million homes each year.

Callaghan was elected to the Grays Harbor PUD Board of Commissioners in 2012. He was appointed to the Energy Northwest Board of Directors in March 2014.

Grays Harbor PUD Celebrates 75 Years of Service

In 1938 the people of Grays Harbor voted to create the Grays Harbor Public Utility District Number One, shifting control of the county's energy services to the public and allowing the customers of the District to serve as its directors and owners. In January 1940, that transition was complete and the non-profit, community owned Grays Harbor PUD opened its doors, dedicated to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to the people of Grays Harbor County. Over three-quarters of a century much has changed, but one constant is that YOUR PUD answers to YOU, its customers, and not a group of investors. Your elected board of commissioners meets in the open, free to be questioned and happy to provide the answers. Many of your PUD employees are residents of the District they serve, providing ownership and accountability and remembering that they are here to serve their customers and neighbors. As we look forward to the next 75 years, your Grays Harbor PUD thanks you for your trust and support. It is a privilege to serve the people of Grays Harbor and to continue the proud tradition of local control of your utilities.



Grays Harbor Joins WPUDA for a Day on the Hill

The Grays Harbor PUD joined ten Washington utilities on February 19 for the inaugural WPUDA Day on the Hill. Representatives of Washington's public utilities had the opportunity to set up displays around the rotunda of Olympia's historic Legislative Building, educating legislators, legislative staff and those touring the capitol campus on the benefits of public control of electricity, telecommunications and water utilities.

The event also recognized the 85th Anniversary of the passage of the initiative that allow for formation of PUDs. The Washington State Grange, the organization that spearheaded the initiative campaign, joined WPUDA at the reception with a historical display featuring documents from the campaign era.



School children enjoy the interactive displays of the Grays Harbor PUD booth.

Commission Meeting Dates

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

March 2015

Monday - March 2
Monday - March 16

April 2015

Monday - April 6
Monday - April 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.

Grays Harbor PUD to Adopt New Customer Billing System in June

Beginning on June 1, the Grays Harbor PUD will adopt a new system to manage accounting and customer billing programs. It is the PUD's goal to make the implementation of the new system as seamless as possible. Information Technology staff have already begun the extensive training process for PUD staff who will rely on the system to assist our customers. Although the appearance of the page may change, the functions of the page will remain the same, allowing customers to easily pay bills, access their accounts and learn more about their power usage.

In the coming months, the PUD will use all available methods to publicize information on the adoption and implementation on the new system leading up to the "go live" date of June 1. The more information we can share with our customers, the better prepared you will be and by using these outlets, we hope for the uninterrupted continuation of our online services.

ON-LINE BILL PAYMENT

Want to pay your bill on-line? Now you can pay your bill instantly without ever leaving home. Just go to ghpud.org, click the "Pay Bill Online" button on the right hand side of the screen and follow the instructions. If you have any difficulties using the online service, please call Customer Service at 1-800-562-7726 or you may email customerservice@ghpud.org.



Grays Harbor PUD Exceeding Energy Independence Act Targets

A report by the Washington State Auditor shows that the Grays Harbor Public Utility District is exceeding its goals for complying with the energy conservation standards required under Initiative 937, the Energy Independence Act (EIA).

In the Exit Conference Report delivered by the State Auditor, the PUD was found to have exceeded its two year target for energy conservation. The PUD had set a conservation target of 19,009 megawatt hours for 2012-13. The exit report states that the PUD conserved 19,884 megawatt hours during that two year period.

“Congratulations to our Energy Services and Power Management staff,” said PUD Power Manager Melinda James-Saffron. “Through their hard work, the Grays Harbor PUD is exceeding the high standards set by the state and by ourselves and is ensuring that the energy services the PUD provides to its customers is being used responsibly and efficiently.”

The PUD Energy Services Office works with both residential and non-residential customers to meet the standards set under the EIA. This includes offering home and business energy audits and rebates for the purchase of energy efficient appliances and home and business weatherization work

Passed by the voters in 2006, the EIA requires electric utilities with more than 25,000 customers to meet renewable energy and energy conservation standards. Under the Act, the utility is permitted to set its conservation standard using a method called the Utility Analysis option. Under this option, an outside consultant determines the conservation potential of the PUD and sets both two-year and ten-year goals. Those goals are then approved by the PUD Board of Commissioners.

Harbor Paper Bark-Rock Mix Used in Mine Reclamation



Bark rock is moved from the Harbor Paper mill site as a PUD dump truck passes the site.

The Grays Harbor PUD has found a way to avoid landfill tipping fees for 10-thousand tons of bark-rock mixture from the Harbor Paper mill site. The mixture will be hauled to the Decker Creek Gravel Pit in Mason County, where it will be used for a surface mine reclamation project.

“Finding the most cost-effective way to dispose of these products has been our goal from the beginning. It’s another case of innovation saving money for the customers of the Grays Harbor PUD,” said General Manager Dave Ward

The bark-rock mixture was originally purchased from the Weyerhaeuser Bay City sorting yard by the then Grays Harbor Paper company for use in the bio-fuel steam turbines. When the mill closed, the mixture that had yet to be burned was left standing by the Ontario Street entrance to the facility, awaiting disposal as part of the PUD’s site clean-up obligations. However, rather than hauling the mixture to the Stafford Creek Landfill, the PUD, in cooperation with Mason County Environmental Health, Grays Harbor County Environmental Health and the Washington State Departments of Natural Resources and Ecology, found that the mixture could be used to provide an organic material for the reclamation of the Decker Creek Gravel Pit.

In all, the transport of the mixture to Mason County is expected to cost the PUD about \$82,300, roughly half the estimated cost for landfill disposal.



The Added Burden of I-937

By Arie Callaghan, Commissioner Dist. 1

Hearing your Grays Harbor PUD Commissioners write and talk about Initiative 937 may seem repetitive, but it frustrates all of us to see the burden this law puts on our customer-owners. Every year, your Grays Harbor PUD spends millions of dollars to meet the renewable energy standards of I-937, but it is becoming increasingly clear that in spite of these financial investments, the initiative seems to run against the very goals it was designed to meet.

When it was first approved in 2006, I-937 was designed to bring Washington into compliance with the Energy Independence Act and “encourage the production of clean, renewable fuels.” For states that rely on coal fed power plants or natural gas turbines to generate their power, I can understand that need, but for residents of Washington state, this seems more like a solution in search of a problem. Washington has an abundance of rivers capable of generating power. In addition to heavy annual rainfall, the Columbia, Snake and other rivers are fed by an annually replenished snowpack in the mountains of the Northwest. From this source, water flows freely through the dams that provide over three-quarters of the power used by Washington power customers, all without increasing the states carbon footprint. However, hydro power is not recognized as renewable under the initiative.

Another goal of I-937 was to cut carbon emissions by encouraging Washington utilities to invest in renewable and supposedly clean energy sources like wind. When windmills turn, they do generate clean electricity, but the wind doesn’t always blow. Since those turbines must constantly generate electricity, they may be backed by natural gas generators that do create significant carbon emissions. In spite of this fact, the goal of lower carbon emissions is constantly referenced by champions of the initiative. It’s certainly a worthwhile goal, but in its current form, I-937 is asking our customers to reduce reliance on a clean and abundant energy source in favor of one that expands our carbon footprint, all while costing electric utilities and their customers millions of dollars every year.

We live in a county whose economy is still reeling from the recession and to burden our friends and neighbors with costly power and higher rates doesn’t seem equitable. This is a law that may work for some but isn’t a good fit for Grays Harbor and many other Washington counties. I-937 and its impacts on the public power customers of our state need to be looked at long and hard and the real needs addressed in our energy policies. In the coming years, I am confident that your Grays Harbor PUD will take a leading role in shaping those policies and ensuring that the needs of the Grays Harbor PUD’s customer-owners are represented in the discussion of Washington’s energy future.



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