



PUD Continues Cost Saving Clean-up of Harbor Paper

The Grays Harbor PUD continues to find ways to meet its responsibility to clean a portion of the Harbor Paper mill site with the least possible financial impact.

The PUD commissioners have authorized the District to enter into a contract with Hero Demolition Corporation for the demolition and removal of the buildings and equipment that make-up the facilities wastewater treatment plant. The cost of the demolition will be covered by an agreement under which Hero Demolition will take possession of and remove all salvageable materials.

"The Grays Harbor PUD is committed to cleaning its share of the Harbor Paper site in a way that is responsible to both our customers and the environment," said Commission President Russ Skolrood. "This agreement meets that commitment. We are working with a contractor who will not only demolish the wastewater facility, but will also remove the remaining material. That lowers the cost by thousands of dollars."

By allowing Hero Demolition to retain all the salvageable material, the PUD will save an estimated \$75,000. The demolition work will include the removal of all the wastewater treatment facilities buildings and structures, including the primary clarifier, three secondary clarifiers, solids pumping station building, secondary treatment pump house, and the aeration blower building. The company will also remove all mechanical equipment, piping, electrical, roofing, siding, and wood materials.

The PUD Commission Board has also declared over 80 thousand tons of paper production by-products as surplus, clearing the way for the PUD to sell, donate or dispose of the piles of ash and bark/rock mixtures. In all, the PUD has declared 30,368 tons of grate ash, 31,265 tons of sand/ash fertilizer and 18,984 tons of bark/rock mixture as surplus.

"It's another step in the process," said Skolrood. "So far we have come in under budget to pump out the remaining wastewater and demolish the wastewater facilities. Once we have test results on these piles, we'll know more about our options to dispose of them at the lowest possible cost."

Under its agreement with Rayonier Properties, LLC, the PUD is obligated to clean and remove the facility's water treatment system and remove solid by-products including the piles of bark/rock mixture, sand ash and boiler grate material.



The Harbor Paper primary clarifier stands empty after crews removed six million gallons of treated water.



PUD Keeping “Eyes Ahead” of 2014 Budget

Regular updates and keeping a close eye on an uncertain future should help the Grays Harbor PUD end 2014 on budget.

The PUD has begun to hold monthly internal meetings to review finances for this year and 2015 to put them in a better position to maintain budgeted numbers and handle the unexpected.

“Eyes ahead,” said Commission President Russ Skolrood. “That is how we ensure that we finish on budget and have the ability to handle unseen scenarios that could impact us.”

Four months into the year, Chief Financial Officer Doug Streeter says the PUD is on track to finish 2014 within budgeted totals. That includes a potential 1.75% rate increase that will go into effect on July 1st. The increase stems from an October rate hike by the Bonneville Power Administration, a portion of which was deferred by the board until the summer. The mid-year increase is the beginning an effort to assist customers by not increasing their monthly bills during the holiday season.

“We are still working to get that number down,” said Streeter. “We put this increase off until the summer to help our customers. Now we are reviewing each item within our budget in an attempt to reduce the size of the increase.”

PUD revenue totals are expected to end 2014 at or slightly above budgeted amounts, allowing the PUD to improve and strengthen its financial position.

Put the Clamp on Power Surges

No one wants to use insurance, but when disaster strikes you are glad you have it. The same can be said for surge suppressors. Power surges can come from many sources: lightning strikes, foreign objects making contact with the power lines and power coming back on after an outage. All of these can send a surge of energy through electrical, phone or cable lines and into your home, and if you don't have some sort of surge suppressors the effects can be damaging, and potentially very expensive. Homes today are filled with thousands of dollars in electrical equipment and without proper suppression, your television, computer or game system could be the end of the road for thousands of volts of electricity. Your Grays Harbor PUD is reminding its customers to make sure their electronics are connected to plug-in surge suppressors. It's a smart precaution that could end up saving you money. For those who want to take suppression to the next level, whole-home suppressors can be attached to your electrical panels. While the PUD doesn't provide or install these items, we are more than happy to work with your licensed electrician during installation. Helping put the clamp down on power surges ... It's just another way that your Grays Harbor PUD works for you.

Commission Meeting Dates

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

June 2014

Monday - June 2

Monday - June 23

(Workshop 3:00 - 4:30)

July 2014

Monday - July 7

(Workshop 2:30 - 4:30)

Monday - July 21

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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PUD, City of Hoquiam Partner to Remove Harbor Paper Water

The Grays Harbor PUD has taken a significant step to fulfill its responsibilities to clean and remove by-products from the former Harbor Paper mill site. In May, over 28 million gallons of treated water was pumped from holding basins at the Harbor Paper facility into the City of Hoquiam's sewage treatment system.

In cooperation with the City of Hoquiam, 775 feet of eight-inch high density pipe was placed between the facility's secondary treatment pump house and the city's sanitary sewer system. Gradually, water from the facility's aeration basin, primary clarifier and secondary clarifiers was pumped into the city's treatment system for disposal.

"We are grateful to the City of Hoquiam for their assistance in helping the PUD move forward with its responsibilities at the Harbor Paper site," said PUD General Manager Dave Ward. "We have a responsibility to clean our share of the site, but our first responsibility is to our ratepayers, to ensure that the project is completed at the lowest possible cost. With the help of the city, we are meeting both obligations."

The 28.25 million gallons of water represent the last water to be treated at the Harbor Paper facility. Prior to the elimination of electrical services at the facility in September of 2013, the system was flushed over a seven-day period to remove any organic materials. The water now held in the basin and clarifiers has been tested by the City of Hoquiam and found to be essentially free of contaminants.

The removal of water from the Harbor Paper site was the first significant step in the PUD's clean-up of products accumulated over the past 20 years of paper production. Under its agreement with Rayonier Properties, LLC, the PUD is obligated to clean and remove the facility's water treatment system and remove solid by-products including piles of bark/rock mixture, sand ash and boiler grate material. PUD staff is working to fulfill those responsibilities in a way that meets their obligations while having the least possible impact on the PUD's customers.

PUD General Manager Appointed to State Board

Grays Harbor Public Utility District General Manager Dave Ward has been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to serve on the Washington State Electrical Board for a two year term.



The Electrical Board is a 16 member board overseeing electrical inspections and the laws pertaining to the electrical industry in Washington state. Ward will serve the two years remaining on the Electrical Utility Representative seat vacated by the resignation of Richard Damiano.

"It is an honor to receive this appointment and I thank the Governor for his confidence," said Ward. "In accepting this appointment, I hope to provide a voice for the customers of Grays Harbor and the utility industry, while ensuring that the residents of Washington's rural counties are taken into consideration in all matters that the Electrical Board discusses."

"My goals are to grow Washington's economy, strengthen our schools and bring a new culture of performance and efficiency to state government. I know you can help me achieve these goals," said Gov. Inslee in a letter congratulating Ward on his appointment. "I ask that you take personal responsibility for making sure the Electrical Board operates in a way that is transparent, responsive and focused on implementing lean management tools to achieve this."



Commissioners Corner

by Arie Callaghan, District One

During my time as a Grays Harbor PUD commissioner, I have had the opportunity to attend meetings held by Greater Grays Harbor Inc., an organization that has been instrumental in attracting new businesses to our community. I have been very impressed with Chief Executive Officer Tim Gibbs and his staff who work tirelessly to showcase the area and the opportunities it can provide to businesses that relocate to the Harbor. Gibbs' resignation is a huge loss for Grays Harbor, and I truly appreciate all he has done to advance the economic fortunes of our county. Moving forward, I know Greater Grays Harbor will seek out and find a new CEO who will continue Tim's work and continue to enjoy a fantastic working relationship with our elected representatives, all of whom are working to help kick start our economy and the economies of other rural communities. That partnership is critical in helping to bring businesses to Grays Harbor.

With so many organizations and individuals working for the betterment of Grays Harbor's economy, I ask myself "what role might the PUD play in this process?" Of course, our first and most important obligation is always to our customer-owners. In fulfilling that obligation, I believe we must stay out of risky ventures that could leave the PUD on the hook for thousands of dollars in costs; costs that may ultimately be passed on to our customers. However, once the commitment to come to Grays Harbor is made, those new businesses will see that the PUD provides a staff of individuals that can get a new business hooked into the grid and up and running in a short period of time. In addition, our IT department receives regular praise for their skills in bringing new businesses online. Your Grays Harbor PUD has an infrastructure and staff that is second to none and everyone, from the commissioners down, are ready to work to get new industry in our area.

I firmly believe that we are one "big business" away from turning the economic corner. The men and women who have called Grays Harbor home for years know that the forest industry will always have a footprint in our economy, but if there is an opportunity to diversify and attract manufacturing, service industry and other businesses, this community is ready to welcome them. Grays Harbor residents are resilient. Through all the highs and lows, we continue to work together toward the goal of seeing our residents and area prosper. We have the people, we have the tools, and we have a PUD that will be there to lend a hand.



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