

General Manager Dave Ward to Retire



Grays Harbor PUD General Manager Dave Ward has announced he will retire from the utility in the spring of 2021.

"This job has been a chance for me to come home and work in the community where I grew up and that I deeply care for," said Ward, a 1979 graduate of Aberdeen's J.M. Weatherwax High School. "As I look back on the last seven years and all the PUD has accomplished, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and appreciation for the

dedicated staff that has allowed the utility to move forward and fulfill our mission to our customers."

Ward came to the PUD as General Manager in June of 2013. In the coming months, the utility will begin the process of replacing Ward by bringing on the new General Manager to work with Ward and the board in the months leading up to his departure.

Columbia River EIS 'Will Allow Utilities to Keep the Lights On'

Last month, the Grays Harbor PUD released the following statement on the release of the final Columbia River System Operations Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which recognizes the value of hydropower to the Pacific Northwest and the Lower Snake River Dams:

"Four years of testimony from stakeholders, examination of the best science available, and consideration of opinions from every conceivable position have led to the this document, which recognizes the value of the hydroelectric system to the Pacific Northwest, the importance of the Lower Snake River dams to that system, and offers a compromise solution that addresses the natural environment and the needs of our region."

The EIS directly addresses and refutes the false claims that the Lower Snake River Dams are obsolete, not critical to the regions energy system and can be easily removed. The EIS also recognizes the impacts that the hydroelectric system has on salmon runs, but offers a reasonable, data-backed compromise solution of increased spill and mitigation efforts that will aid in salmon recovery while allowing utilities to keep the lights on throughout the region.

Commission Meeting Dates

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

September 2020

Tuesday - September 8
(rescheduled from September 7
in observance of Labor Day)
Monday - September 21

October 2020

Monday - October 5
Monday - October 19

Utility workshops are held at 3:30 pm. Regular business meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. 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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Hydropower Has Our Back

Dave Timmons, Commissioner, District Two

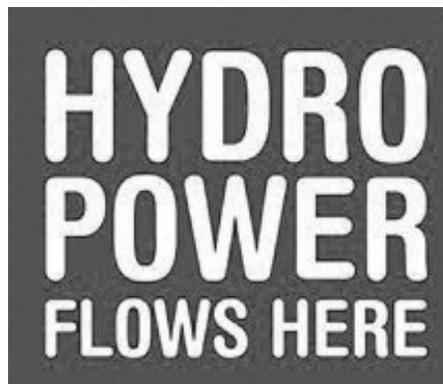
As most of us are aware, a recent heat wave impacted California, Oregon and Washington. A result of the heat wave was that millions of Californians were denied electrical power, because of rolling blackouts, during certain hours of the evening, primarily because utilities didn't have the resources to meet the huge demand from their customers who were trying to stay cool in the heat. The cause: "The peak demand was steady during the late hours," said the spokesperson for CAISO, "and we had thousands of megawatts of solar reducing their output as the sun set." The translation: Solar energy couldn't be relied on to meet the demands.

According to the California Energy Commission, the state gets 32% of its energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, small hydro system, geothermal and biomass generations). That represents a major investment in renewable energy resources. Investing in renewable energy is a smart idea, but not when you do it at the expense of a reliable operating system. As I read about the hardships impacting the residents of California, I wondered if that could ever happen in Washington State. My answer was "If we increase our reliance on resources that can't always be counted on AND remove reliable hydroelectric generation, yes it could."

There has been a lot of discussion recently about the desire to remove the hydroelectric dams from the Lower Snake River. I assume the thought of some is that the lost power production could simply be replaced with other renewable resources like wind. But not all energy production is the same and you can't assume you can replace one with the other on a 1-to-1 basis, without experiencing some holes in reliability. Washington has invested in a lot of wind producing renewable energy for many years. A drive to Eastern Washington will reveal the huge investment in our state in wind power, which I think is great, except for, on those days when the wind doesn't blow, which brings us back to California and the rolling blackouts they experienced this summer.

During the recent heat wave in California, the wind dropped off. The high pressure system that hovered over the coast didn't produce the winds that you usually find in southern California. I used to live there and I remember the Santa Ana winds that seemed to last all summer. So during the night when solar wasn't producing power and the winds were not blowing, customers were really suffering especially during the mandated rolling blackouts. But in Washington, when the demand for electricity is high and wind can't keep up with the load, we have hydro power, which can be ramped up (increased electrical output by letting more water pass through the generators) to meet our needs and keep the lights on in homes and businesses operating.

I feel we are very blessed to have the reliable resources we do. It's comforting for me to know that if we ever experience an energy situation like in California, we should do okay, because hydro has our back.



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

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