

## Emission Free Energy Continues to Lead GHPUD

Grays Harbor County PUD #1		
Utility Fuel Mix		
Fuel	Percent	Total MWh
Biogas	0%	0
Biomass	0%	0
Coal	0%	0
Geothermal	0%	0
Hydro	83.16%	790,972
Natural Gas	0%	0
Nuclear	11.45%	108,952
Other Biogenic	0%	0
Other Non-Biogenic	0%	0
Petroleum	0%	0
Solar	0%	0
Unknown	0%	0
Waste	0%	0
Wind	0%	0
Unspecified	5.39%	51,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>951,164</b>

The Grays Harbor PUD once again relied overwhelmingly on emissions-free resources to provide energy to its customers. The annually released Department of Commerce Fuel Mix Report showed that over 94% of the utility energy was from carbon free hydro and nuclear energy. The remaining 5.39% is categorized as "Unspecified" which includes resources purchased by Bonneville Power Administration to meet load need. The purchase is tracked by kilowatt hour, not resource. As required, the PUD will post this report on our website, social media and in this publication to notify customers of the utility fuel mix.

## PUD Expands "Hotspot" Network

Olympic Stadium in Hoquiam is the site of the newest mobile hotspot installed by the Grays Harbor PUD and other partners. Users can either walk or drive into the parking lot of the Cherry Street landmark, choose the "homeworkhub" Wi-Fi network on their mobile device and receive free access to the PUD fiber network for business, school and a host of other needs.

In all, the PUD has installed six mobile hotspots located throughout Grays Harbor. The sites can be found at:

McCleary City Hall  
100 South Third St.

Wishkah School  
4640 Wishkah Rd.

Quinault School District (Amanda Park)  
6130 US Highway 101

Satsop School  
853 Monte-Elma Rd.

Oakville School District  
105 School St.

Olympic Stadium (Hoquiam)  
101 28th St.

Equipment for the four sites has been provided to the utility free of charge by the Information Technology Disaster Resource Center, a private, industry funded disaster relief organization while the bandwidth is being offered by Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet).

## Commission Meeting Dates

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

### October 2020

Monday - October 5  
Monday - October 19

### November 2020

Monday - November 9  
(rescheduled from November 2)  
Monday - November 23  
(rescheduled from November 16)

**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](http://www.ghpud.org)) for updated information.

## 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](http://ghpud.org), click the "Pay Bill/Smart Hub" button on the bottom left 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](mailto:customerservice@ghpud.org).



## Where is the Balance?

By Commissioner Russ Skolrood, District Three

As a lifelong resident of Grays Harbor, I was extremely disheartened to hear that BHP had ruled Hoquiam out as a site for its potential potash plant. Having been to a number of presentations and meetings on the potential siting of this plant, I was impressed with BHP and its representatives. They seemed to be straightforward and transparent about what they wanted to and also in trying to answer the questions and concerns of all the parties that attended their many presentations. I am not sure how much time and money they spent to try to jump through all the environmental, bureaucratic, legal, and regulatory hoops up to the point of their decision, but I would hazard a guess it was too much. Hearing the comments at the end of their decision, it did not seem to be made based on Hoquiam not being the best site. They seemed to base their decision on the fact that it was taking too long and costing too much and they could not see the process ever coming to a successful conclusion. That is sad. I understand the need to make sure that new businesses to our area are not going to cause damage to our beautiful area, but what is balance? When do all the special interests, regulation and environmental hoops end and the value of a new industry begin?



BHP's proposed plant would have doubled the assessed value of Hoquiam. It would have brought a number of family wage jobs to the area and would have had a large impact on the Grays Harbor economy as a whole. The taxes alone would have made the City of Hoquiam's budget issues a thing of the past. It is just hard to understand why, when the Harbor needs new industry, the process to bring in a new company has to be so time consuming and costly. Maybe BHP would have ended up choosing a different site but it never even got to that point in the process.

When I first became a PUD Commissioner, we were already in the process of trying to build a windfarm at Radar Ridge near Naselle so that we could meet the requirements of I-937. I was amazed at the process. After over two years and \$1-million, we finally had to pull out of the project. The environmental and regulatory hoops never ended and they continued to be a moving target to the point where the project, much like BHP, seemed too far out of reach to justify wasting more ratepayer money. Where was the balance between what would be good for the environment (wind power) and what negative factors those turbines might have presented? I am sure by writing this, I will receive a number of comments from people with differing views, but this is fine because I need to better understand these cumbersome processes. I support protecting the environment and I truly believe there must be a better way to balance the benefits of progress and keep our beautiful environment intact that doesn't involve millions of dollars and years of time, just to get a project started.



*Environmental hurdles forced the PUD to pull out of the Radar Ridge wind project.*

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

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