



# Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County

**85 Years of Service \* 1938-2023**

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD For the **April 25, 2023** Meeting

### **AGENDA ITEMS:**

- A.** Executive Session: Potential litigation - Jena MacLean will be on the phone to discuss Mile Marker 28 mediation.
- B.** Set Hearing Date for 2023 Water and Wastewater Rates - Sharon Blodgett and Brandon Walter are requesting that we set the hearing date for the Water and Wastewater Rates for May 23 at 3:00 p.m. We have met with the Ponderosa, Bickleton, Klickitat, and Glenwood communities. We meet with Lyle also prior to the hearing date. All other systems will receive letters regarding rate adjustments.
- C.** Policy 18 Water Customer Service & Policy 19 Wastewater Customer Service updates - these polices require an annual review of fees in April. Sharon is suggesting that we adjust these polices so that the effective date for any fee changes, would coincide with the annual rate adjustments, which is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- D.** Prequalification of Contractors - Andrew Jaekel will be presenting two new contracts that they are requesting be added to the small works roster. These contractors have met the qualifications required for approval.
- E.** Tree Trimming Status update - Mark Garner, Phillip McMillen and Mike Nixon will provide the board with a tour of the mapping program, current trimming schedules and work completed over the past several years for discussion.
- F.** Policy 21: Discussion on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Opt Out Options - Brandon Johnson and Brandy Myers will present the AMI committees Opt Out options. This is a discussion item no action is requested at this time. These options can be evaluated and discussed again at a future meeting if needed.
- G.** Net Metering Rate Design discussion - The last revision to our Net Metering Policy 25 was put into effect on September 22, 2020 to align with then new

Washington State legislation E2SSB 5223 (2019) that increased the cumulative generating capacity to be made available to net metering customer to 4% of our 1996 peak demand from the previous .5%. Per this legislation our minimum required level became 2,519.60 Kw.

Other changes in our policy due to that legislation were an increase to allow up to 100kw on an individual system, meter aggregation, and being made available for all sectors. As of today we are at a level of 2,309.75 Kw nameplate for active systems. We are now only 209.85 Kw away from fulfilling the requirement.

Once the required 4% level is met or by 6/30/2029 as active systems, we may develop a standard rate that deviates from the mandates in RCW80.60.030.

Anita attached a summary but we will also be bringing and running through some numbers to give you some perspective on the magnitude of the cost shifts to aid in a discussion on how we proceed once we reach the 4% cap.

- H. Senior Discount Program - Brandy Myers will be asking direction as she expects that we will exceed the \$65,000 cap placed on this program before the end of April. The options are to end the program season now, close at the end of April, knowing there will be a slight deficit in the annual cap, or increase the cap and continue to fund the program through the end of May.

### **NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. State utility bills article - Washington State is not the only State looking at adjusting energy bills for income. Attached is an article that appears to utilize a base fee based on income levels.
2. AMI presentation to staff - We will be doing an internal presentation for staff during the May safety meeting. I am intending that we will run through the same presentation that we ran through for you. We will also be rolling out the white paper and the AMI documentation we are putting together. We will follow that with a public rollout.
3. Retirement Planning - I held a bring your own lunch discussion on our retirement benefits. The intent was providing our newer and younger staff information on retirement benefits and planning. The premise was "here is what I am telling my kids about retirement planning as they start out on their careers". Turnout was excellent and it turns out there was interest for others as well.
4. Energy Northwest - Rick Dunn from Benton PUD and I will be attending the ENW Executive Board meeting next week to give a public power utility perspective on the development of their SMR project.

