



Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County

80 Years of Service * 1938-2018

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD For the **October 27, 2020 Meeting**

AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. **Budget Review: 1st Draft** - Mike DeMott, Gwyn Miller and I will present the first draft of the 2021 Operating Budget.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

1. **Public Meeting Room** - We would like to discuss limiting the renting of our large meeting room after we reopen from our COVID closure. We would like to rework the room to install permanent audio & visual technology to improve our remote meeting capability. I am confident that “normal” will be different in the future and our current meetings have not gone as smoothly as I have wanted them to. I think that many of our issues stem from the fact that we set up and take down our AV equipment for each meeting and as a result, we are limited in our choices for AV equipment. Our screens are small and our microphones are spotty at best.

If, in the future, we limit access to the meeting room to other public service groups that we know will not damage our equipment, such as the sheriff's department or emergency management, then we can install more permanent infrastructure. It will not need to be moved every time we use the room so it will just work when we turn it on. We can install projectors and screens large enough to see the information and microphone/speaker system that allows for remote meetings.

We changed our meeting room use fee structure a few years back as the room and furniture were being damaged. The mess left behind from renting the space was unacceptable. We spent \$20k on new chairs and they are already showing signs of wear and tear. I think there are other meeting space options available to the public and I believe it is time to reclaim that space to improve our ability to operate more effectively and professionally.

I am asking the board to entertain a change in our use of the meeting room and I think we can outfit the room within the 2020 budget.

2. **RNG Shutdown/Annual Maintenance Update** - Kevin will provide an update after the startup, which is scheduled for this weekend.
3. **Republic Services** - RNG staff continue to believe that waste volume moisture content is the best opportunity to improve landfill gas volumes delivered to the RNG facility. I understand there were discussions regarding leachate reinjection last meeting and I wanted to summarize where we are on the issues for your information and input.

For twenty years, RDC has re-introduced leachate and condensate into the same percolation pond located in their landfill areas 1 and 4. The landfill is currently constructing area 20. With each successive cell project, the impact of the re-introduced water into the landfill has diminished as the reinjected moisture does not impact the solid waste in the new cells and the waste in areas 1 and 4 are now producing very little methane. This means it is likely that the leachate recirculation is at the point of having little or no impact on gas production.

Additionally, approximately 10 years ago without consultation with the PUD as required by contract, RDC switched to a geo-synthetic liner, which according to their solid waste permit, prohibits them from re-introducing liquids over that liner. They are planning to apply to the County and to the State to modify this permit to allow reinjection over that liner. The liner system they chose was new at the time, has proven effective over the years in many locations across the country, and is accepted industry practice; we are in total support of this change.

At the same time, RDC is in the process of constructing a 5-acre evaporation pond under a corporate directive to remove water from their nationwide landfill fleet to avoid problems associated with excess water in landfills. There are a few areas in the Roosevelt site with elevated temperatures. These elevated temperatures are below reporting requirements to the State, but they are on a monitoring plan within Republic due to the elevated temperatures. I understand that these areas are in locations currently influenced by the current reinjection and should improve as we spread the leachate and that the heat may be due to heat generating materials that were placed in those areas. A landfill is termed an arid landfill if it has less than 25" of precipitation per year and this site average is 9" per year. As you recall, this is one of the reasons it was sited here to start with. Don Tibbets, the Area Director of Operations, has committed to me that they will reinject all leachates per the existing landfill gas contracts that date back to 1998. We are continuing to work with Don and I believe we will resolve this issue. However, we have not signed agreements to this effect yet.

I want to assure the board that Republic understands our position with respect to the injection of leachates. Republic has one legal letter from us preserving our position. At this time, I want the board to allow RNG staff and me the ability to continue to work with Don. He has been a consistent supporter of our project and has been the Republic partner in our efforts at the site. I respect him greatly. My belief is that we will come to terms that allow Republic to operate a safe, low risk landfill and also comply with the contractual agreements we have in place to allow us to optimize RNG production. We still believe that we can be successful in increasing RNG production within these agreements, as we have thought since we started working on the RNG concept. If necessary, we will pursue all remedies under the contract, legal and otherwise.

4. **Goldendale Aluminum Smelter Site Update** - I will provide an update at the meeting.