



# Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County

80 Years of Service \* 1938-2018

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE BOARD For the **March 10, 2020** Meeting

### AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Drone Program Discussion - Brandon Johnson and Mark Garner will discuss the drone program and the procedure developed to manage the program requirements. This procedure addresses items like training, flight, and privacy requirements. So far, staff has only flown the drones in rural areas, but this procedure will cover best practices for flights within populated areas as well.
- B. Professional Services Approval- Ron Schultz will present a request for approval of Specialty Engineering, Inc. We have received all of the required documentation and request approval of their addition to the Professional Services roster for the 2020 period.
- C. Prequalification of Contractors- Mark Pritchard will present a request for approval of Kool Temp, LLC and Palouse Power, LLC. They have both provided all of the required documentation. We ask that you approve Kool Temp for the small works roster and Palouse Power, LLC for both the small and large works rosters.
- D. Bid Award- 2020 Pole Inspection- Mark Pritchard is requesting the Board award the 2020 Pole Inspection bid to TK Contractors. The bids were opened on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and TK Contractors were the low successful bidder.
- E. Bid Award- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Aftercooler- Kevin Ricks is requesting the Board award the RNG Blower Gas Aftercooler bid to Westland Engineering Solutions. This bid opening was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Westland Engineering Solutions was the only bidder. They submitted all of the required information and were within the engineering estimate parameters.
- F. Call for Bid- RNG Blower Skid package- Kevin Ricks is also requesting a Call for Bid for the RNG Blower Skid Package. The project has a need to increase capacity and discharge pressure of LFG blowers. This project will provide the upgrades required to work towards meeting our capacity objectives.
- G. Executive Session-
  - a. Collective bargaining update per *RCW 42.30.140*

- b. Executive Session- Potential Litigation-Contract discussion per *RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)*

**NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. **Gorge Commission land use** – We would like to support the OneGorge Advocacy Group in their efforts to encourage the Columbia River Gorge Commission to call for the development of a clear process and guidelines to facilitate urban area expansion. The letter we would sign on to is attached and I would like to discuss our support.
2. **WPUDA 3-2-1 Weekly Bill Report** – the bill for pumped storage as a project of significance is still in play in Olympia. The Low Carbon Fuel Standard and expanded Department of Ecology authority bills are also still in play. The Washington Public Utility Association report is attached.

Also, Senator Cantwell has successfully included in the American Energy Innovation Act bill, provisions in the budget to modernize the grid, including R&D on storage. I think there are opportunities for funding that might impact the Goldendale pumped storage project and maybe ourselves. Tim Culbertson has been active with the Senator on the Banks Lake project. There is language in the provision that clarifies that a pumped storage project at Banks Lake need only work through the Bureau of Reclamation's permitting process and not also that of FERC. Big win for them. An article on the provision is attached for your review.

3. **Wildfire Prevention Taskforce meeting update**- The third meeting is planned for March 5<sup>th</sup> in Olympia. Attached is the agenda for your background. There are proposals on the agenda regarding sub-committees to carry out the intent of the task force and there are concrete schedules for monthly meetings going forward. The report is due to the legislature in December of this year. There have been discussions that this deadline be extended, but we have not agreed to that as we want to keep the pressure on for DNR to deliver.
4. **Fire Investigation process**- The PURM's utility group have implemented a process to contact PURMS when events happen and they will make the decision on the investigation process for the event. We will discuss further at the meeting.
5. **Pumped Storage**- National Grid has talked with PowerEx regarding pumped storage. PowerEx's position is that there are too many hurdles for them to be involved with an equity position. I would also assume that the potential offtake contracts have been a part of the discussion, but I have not heard that directly.
6. **Water & Waste Water Community Meetings** – We are scheduling the annual rate review meetings with communities in preparation for a public WWW rate hearing,

proposed for May 26<sup>th</sup>. Our intent is to bring you General Facilities Charge, Connection Fee and Policy proposals at the next Board meeting to be prepared for these meetings. One issue we are working through is succession planning. We hired the budgeted new operator trainee in preparation for several retirements coming soon. This impact to labor budgets and will have impacts on rates for all of the systems. We are working through that right now and I will have more information for you shortly.