



Chelan County PUD Mulls Smaller Rate Hike for Bitcoin Miners



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Chelan County PUD's considering a slightly smaller increase in rates for high energy users, such as bitcoin miners.

The utility's staff has reduced its proposed rate for so-called "high density load" users by about half-a-cent from its original plan to charge just over 5 cents per kilowatt hour.

The PUD's John Stoll says the high energy users present an unusual challenge to the agency. He says "This is just a unique load, given that it's very high intensive energy use. It tends to be a bit more mobile. We've seen some of these operations come and go pretty quickly."

Stoll also says the high energy users put a strain on the current discounted rates all customers pay.

"We sell a certain amount of our energy into the market. And we get a higher rate for that than what we sell locally. So as we consume more of that power within the county, that will create rate pressure potentially on the rest of our customers."

All Chelan county customers currently pay 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

The updated proposal, which was unveiled at a PUD hearing Monday, includes an upfront charge of \$200,000 per megawatt hour of electricity the high energy users request. The PUD currently has a moratorium on new high energy operations.