

9/12/19

**Chelan County PUD  
Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024  
Public Comments August 20 – September 11**

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Hello,

Thank you for reaching out to school districts for our input. Overall, my input is that I support initiative 3, the expansion of broadband, and initiative 4, supporting family-wage jobs. Overall, I am interested in initiatives that support family residence in our region and that support helping students with their schoolwork. Both of those initiatives would align with those concepts.

Thanks again and have a wonderful day,

Tracey

Dr. Tracey Beckendorf-Edou  
Superintendent  
Cascade School District  
330 Evans St.  
Leavenworth, WA 98826  
[tbeckendorfedou@cascadesd.org](mailto:tbeckendorfedou@cascadesd.org)  
(509)548-5885

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We feel that the plan dealing with the expansion of fiber, ‘balanced approach with some subsidization’ is totally unfair to those of us in the less populated area of the county. We paid into the PUD while you ran fiber to all the convenient areas and now you want us to pay extra because it not so financially promising to extend the fiber plant to our rural homes. We are having to pay over twice as much for satellite-based video and internet waiting for the service from the PUD that we supposedly own. Perhaps the commissioners should rethink the option of federal or state funds to extend the service or a county-wide levy for extended service if they can’t dig into their tight purse to complete the broadband rollout.

Bill and Sharon Martin  
11115 Mundun Canyon Rd.  
Peshastin

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**From:** Cordy Beckstead <[cordy@becksteadelectric.com](mailto:cordy@becksteadelectric.com)>  
**Date:** September 11, 2019 at 5:42:52 PM GMT+2  
**To:** "[steve.wright@chelanpud.org](mailto:steve.wright@chelanpud.org)" <[steve.wright@chelanpud.org](mailto:steve.wright@chelanpud.org)>  
**Subject:** <External> Priorities survey

9/12/19

*Good morning Mr. Wright,*

*I just wanted to add a comment to your column about the Strategic Plan in September's Planning Issue. I hope steps for reducing your debt can get some reinforcement from the planned 3% increase in rates. I have always felt that is one of the most important jobs any agency, company, country (?!) can do to help ensure its success long term.*

*Thank you so much for your excellent work and communication to customers.*

*Very sincerely,  
Elisabeth Beckstead*

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Ben Bricker  
[nurmedic@msn.com](mailto:nurmedic@msn.com)

*Curious about the timeframe and coverage area for future fiber – what area covers the 90% that is planned to be finished by 2024? Possible a map that shows the [expansion] area by each year.*

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Colleen Long  
[colleen@colleenlong.net](mailto:colleen@colleenlong.net)

*Very interested to hear about the potential Microsoft Wi-Fi program. No Wi-Fi or fiber right now at 19490 Butcher Creek Rd. Thank you! Very interesting! Knowledgeable personnel and commissioner.*

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Jim Shearer – Wenatchee  
Re: proposed 3% electric rate increases

*"It's \$1.65 (a month). I'll be OK."*

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Austyn Fournie – Entiat  
[austyn\\_f@hotmail.com](mailto:austyn_f@hotmail.com)  
(509) 784-0823

*Please bring fiber up Entiat River Road at least 20 miles. Having this resource would allow me to work from home instead of commuting 2 hours Mon-Fri. Additional walking trails & art are not a priority to people without access to reliable internet. I believe Chelan County residents should all be provided fiber internet before funds are spent on cosmetic changes and "nice to haves. Please let me know when is the fiber meeting in Entiat.*

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**From:** Nate Andreini <[nandreini9@gmail.com](mailto:nandreini9@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 8:46 PM

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To: ContactUs <[contactus@chelanpud.org](mailto:contactus@chelanpud.org)>

Subject: <External> Comments on draft strategic plan

Dear Commissioners:

*Please see below comments on the draft strategic plan as summarized in the September 2019 newsletter, from Nathan Andreini, lifelong Wenatchee resident and customer of the PUD for power and water service.*

*Economic development: this should be a secondary or tertiary mission of the PUD. While important to the community as a whole, development is happening without additional assistance from the PUD. Our residents can balance an encouraging development environment with the need for businesses to pay for the public utility benefits our PUD provides. Don't let the general ratepayers subsidize cheaper rates for commercial and industrial ratepayers.*

*Environmental and recreational stewardship and enhancement: the PUD's activity in this area is already higher than most of the USA and we already enjoy significant benefits. Maintain the current efforts and keep PUD-managed parks free to all (at least for day use). Public access to waterways is already limited enough.*

*Dam relicensing: do whatever you can to get the longest term. The most effective way may be to lobby FERC or congress. Don't spend loads of staff time wending your way through their rules. I see some have been changed to benefit us and more can be too.*

*Aesthetic improvements (such as undergrounding): consider not providing them at all as the overall ratepayer base often ends up subsidizing parts of the operation and maintenance. If provided, make sure all of the operation and maintenance costs are generously captured and paid by the beneficiaries.*

*Water and wastewater: look for opportunities to divest systems that neighbor already highly developed systems, although I believe you have already done this. If you divest, make sure a full analysis is done to make sure the customers will receive the same level of service at a similar rate. Providing water and wastewater services could be seen as an inconvenient artifact of the PUD's past, but you went and did it. Now all those people rely on you. My service has been excellent but if it comes through the city I won't be dissatisfied if you do the transition right. For the rural areas, continue to provide the services and don't charge them more based on your costs. The residents of Wenatchee enjoy the experience (recreational and otherwise) and community of those areas and appreciate the viability of those communities. A lot of poor people live in those areas. Don't make their wallets slimmer.*

*Fiber service: For all PUD services, please avoid thinking of them as "business lines". My PUD is not a business. You do a lot of good things but you're not a business. Fast communications have become essential for residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial and governmental uses. It's all of us. And if you can fairly allocate costs based on usage that's fine. But we want it and we're willing to pay for the service we have.*

*Electric rate changes: your newsletter claims 76% of customers supports 3% rate increases annually. I suspect this is not true and request the commissioners pay attention to this comment! Despite what staff may say, customers don't want rate increases. Especially if they're subsidizing commercial interests. When cost of services increases, raise rates accordingly.*

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*Thank you for your attention,*

*Ratepayer and voter  
Nathan Andreini*

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From: Mark Buerk <[mbuerk@me.com](mailto:mbuerk@me.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 4:17 PM  
To: ContactUs <[contactus@chelanpud.org](mailto:contactus@chelanpud.org)>  
Subject: <External> Suggestions

*Hi,*

*Thanks for the opportunity to make suggestions.*

*Recently made the move to an electric car and have been dismayed at the lack of high-speed charging stations on the highway 2 corridor between Monroe and Wenatchee. I understand that your district does not go all the way to Monroe, More needs to be done to make the heavily travelled corridors within the district more electric car friendly. We are going to need a lot more charging stations in the near future, at parks and other public installations as well. Especially for traveling over the passes or the open areas around Eastern Washington, The Electrify America stations are very admirable in their speed and access to multiple plugs at one location, much like a gas station. As for other strategic plan ideas. I approve of a composting facility and more parks and or waterpark installations around the area.*

*Thanks for your consideration,*

*Mark Buerk  
Owner of a residence in Plain.*

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**From:** Kristy McGregor <[mcgregork1222@gmail.com](mailto:mcgregork1222@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 04, 2019 5:24 PM  
**To:** ContactUs <[contactus@chelanpud.org](mailto:contactus@chelanpud.org)>; Wright, Steve <[Steve.Wright@chelanpud.org](mailto:Steve.Wright@chelanpud.org)>; [garryarseneault@chelanpud.org](mailto:garryarseneault@chelanpud.org)  
**Subject:** <External> Strategic plan

*What does the PUD consider county-wide growth planning and job creation? For who?, the PUD or Chelan County? Who are you trying to grow? It's not the PUD's mandate to create "industrial HUB's" to attract new business and industry. The taxpayers are supporting a "Port District" to do that job. Why do you need to build out solar and/or windpower energy for large load customers? That sounds like another boondoggle like we had with that one General Manager and the Alcoa generators. If we don't have the power through the two dams, then don't take on more customers. We don't have the space or infrastructure in this valley to support large industry. Even though ALCOA has closed, the valley is still rapidly expanding without those jobs. Encourage growth in the Basin, Moses Lake and Tri-Cities, then sell them excess power. I would have liked to help with the survey questions:*

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*Would you be in favor of the PUD freezing non-union wage increases to 2-3% over the next four years? And, cutting back on all non-essential travel by 30%, engaging in more teleconferencing.*

*Would you favor hiring an outside time management analyst to do a one time study of employee jobs. Whether they overlap, are completed in a timely fashion with cost savings in mind. This would also include a review of all contracted outside employees, how many, "why", and do jobs overlap.*

*Would you like us to hold down the costs on the new building, regarding furnishings, printers, computers, etc...And, when the building is completed and there is extra office space...Not creating new jobs to fill that office space.*

*Or would you be in favor of a 3% rate hike over the next 4 years?*

*Thank you, Kris McGregor*

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From: Tom and Mary Ann McNair <[twomcnairs@gmail.com](mailto:twomcnairs@gmail.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 12:19 PM  
To: ContactUs <[contactus@chelanpud.org](mailto:contactus@chelanpud.org)>  
Subject: <External> Proposed strategic plan

*We would like to think this proposed plan will address fiberoptic cable-less pockets within the city of Wenatchee. Our home on Lowe Street between John and Castlerock Streets does not have fiber optic cable. We are surrounded by streets that have it. Only one of our residences has been allowed to hook up to fiber optic through overhead line from the adjacent block of Lowe Street. This residence was a residential bitcoin miner, no one else on our block was allowed to have a similar hook up.*

*Fiber optic cable access has become a utility and is a desirable feature when selling a home. We do not have this desirable feature. In order to have faster internet speeds we must go to Spectrum and we feel hostage to them.*

*Several years ago the PUD sank boxes into one side of our street saying that they would be used for installing fiber optic cable; that has never happened. Also, why would boxes only be installed on one side of the street and not the other.*

*Thank you.*

*Tom and Mary Ann McNair  
449 Lowe Street, Wenatchee*

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From: Robert Alexander <[yultrez@live.com](mailto:yultrez@live.com)>  
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2019 2:40 PM  
To: Congdon, Ann <[ann.congdon@chelanpud.org](mailto:ann.congdon@chelanpud.org)>; Bolz, Dennis <[Dennis.Bolz@chelanpud.org](mailto:Dennis.Bolz@chelanpud.org)>; Wright, Steve <[Steve.Wright@chelanpud.org](mailto:Steve.Wright@chelanpud.org)>  
Subject: <External> Power rates

9/12/19

*Good afternoon to you all,*

*The recent poll of whether customers would rather have several small rate increases or one larger future rate increase begs the question of why any rate increases at all. What do you think the outcome would have been if there had been three choices with the first one no rate increase. The answer is obvious. With only two choices, customers took the lesser of two evils, which is exactly what you wanted.*

*The stated reason for the increase is to accumulate a rainy day fund to decrease future rate increases. We note that a 3% rate increase will generate about 1.5 million in revenue each year. We also note that the PUD just reported that surplus power sales were over budget by more than 10 million dollars. This is more than enough to create the rainy day fund you need/want for the next five years. Given that your customers own the PUD, what is wrong with subsidizing rates to the benefit of your customers. Comparisons to electric rates in other parts of the country that are not based on hydro power to justify rate increases are intellectually dishonest and you should stop making them. Any comparison should be based on hydro power alone.*

*Our expectation is that given the windfall of 10 million from surplus power sales, you will abandon any talk of a rate increase for the foreseeable future and direct the PUD accordingly.*

*We would appreciate a response to our message and look forward to receiving one.*

*Best regards,*

*Bob and Barbie Alexander  
4185 April Dr.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801  
509-665-7642*



September 10, 2019

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**5 N. GARDEN AVENUE \* P.O. BOX 99 \* ROCK ISLAND, WA 98850**  
**(509) 884-1261 \* Fax (509) 886-0569 \* [treasurerri@nwi.net](mailto:treasurerri@nwi.net)**

Justin Erickson  
Managing Director of District Services  
Public Utility District #1 of Chelan County  
P.O. Box 1231  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Dear Mr. Justin Erickson,

As you are aware, the City of Rock Island has been an active participant on the Rock Island Relicensing Topic Team for the last several months. We understand the FERC Project License for Rock Island expires in 2028 so Chelan County PUD will need to submit the necessary relicensing application materials to FERC prior to 2028. The City of Rock Island has expressed our initial support for the PUD to seek a 50-year license as briefly discussed in the PUD Strategic Plan (2020-2024). Chelan PUD staff have voiced interest in committing to working with stakeholder groups to identify and implement "early actions" if they will support a 50-year license.

There are several water bodies, including the shorelines of the Columbia River within the Rock Island FERC project boundary. Chelan PUD currently provides public access to several ponds bisected by SR 28 but there isn't access to the Rock Island pool for recreation. We expect this deficiency to allow our residents public access to project lands and water will be a priority for Chelan PUD during the relicensing process.

Our staff look forward to working with Chelan PUD to identify early actions which both support your desire to gain consensus for a 50-year license and meets our City's desire to improve the quality of life! I would like to discuss development of an interagency agreement between the City and Chelan PUD to support our ability to be an active relicensing participant. Rock Island is a small, low-income community with limited resources to meaningfully engage during the relicensing process and assist with early actions. I look forward to meeting with you soon to discuss.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time (509) 884-1261. I will be reaching out to you shortly to discuss an interagency agreement that is mutually beneficial and is aligned with your updated Strategic Plan for the PUD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Agnew".

Randy Agnew  
Mayor, City of Rock Island

Cc: City Council, City of Rock Island  
Jim Zumini, Clerk, City of Rock Island  
Charles Zimmerman, Attorney, City of Rock Island – Odgen Murphy Wallace, PLLC  
Charity Duffy, Senior Planner, City of Rock Island – SCJ Alliance