



Which choices are best for our public power utility?

To stimulate further thought about the board's upcoming policy decisions – and the management actions that will need to fall in line with those policies -- we have listed a few sample questions that might be helpful. Keep in mind that how one question is answered may limit options available on other questions. It's about making wise choices. We look forward to hearing from you as the board wrestles with these issues at upcoming meetings.

1. Should the PUD continue (expand?) water, wastewater and fiber utility services?
2. What type of community partner should the PUD be?
 - How should the PUD carry out its mission of enhancing the economy and quality of life in Chelan County?
 - Should promoting job growth in the community be a consideration of the PUD? At what cost?
3. What level of financial risk is acceptable to the PUD (and its customer-owners)?
 - How much volatility in rates is acceptable from year to year?
 - Are surcharges the right way to deal with unexpected financial circumstances?
 - How much money is needed in reserves?
 - How much debt is appropriate?
 - How much should annual spending rely on revenue from surplus wholesale power sales?
4. Should each utility system (electric, water, wastewater, fiber) totally support itself financially?
 - If so, is it better to trim those PUD services that are not paying for themselves – or raise rates for those services, perhaps significantly?
 - How reliable should customer-owners expect those services to be? Should occasional outages be expected? How often?
5. How should the PUD manage growth in the number of customers?
 - Growth pay for growth?
 - Keep new service fees in line with ongoing costs?