Public Comment Summary

Stehekin Draft Generation & Energy Resource Plan

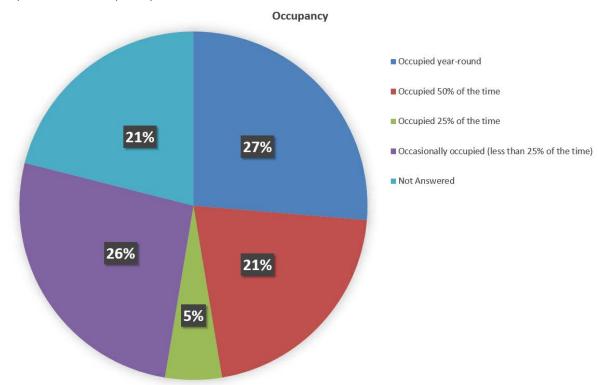
Background

PUD Staff published an Online Open House in September 2020 to present the Draft Peak Generation & Energy Resource Plan to the Stehekin community for public comment.

Response

We received 19 public comments in response. Respondents reported having 22 residential meters and at least five commercial meters.

Respondent Occupancy



Key Themes

- Customers were very supportive of pursuing the battery storage solution at the hydro (all comments that referenced the battery storage were in support).
- Most customers support pursuing a tiered rate system in Stehekin, where those customers who use more energy or use energy during peak demand times would pay higher rates. A few customers preferred approaches that will keep rates low in Stehekin.
- Customers are interested in having more data/education from the PUD specific to the Stehekin Valley about energy usage, such as peak times that are best to avoid energy-intensive activities, or potentially pursuing technology that can indicate when peak demand is approaching (like a mobile app, or a red light/green light indicator in their homes).

- Customers were nearly evenly split on supporting and discouraging fuel switching. Reasons for
 discouraging fuel switching typically included concerns about fossil fuel use, and desire for more
 emphasis on energy conservation. Reasons for supporting were often the acknowledgement
 that it might be the best or only viable solution in some instances. Three respondents were very
 supportive of fuel switching, especially to propane.
- Customers interested in fuel switching would like to understand what rebates or cost sharing might be available from the PUD before pursuing changes.
- Customers were generally not interested in increasing generation at the hydro to facilitate more growth in Stehekin. While recognizing that the PUD does not manage growth, most comments supported approaches to slow or limit growth to a sustainable rate.
- However, a few customers were interested to understand why making upgrades to the hydro to
 increase generation is the most expensive option, and whether increasing generation might be
 the most straightforward solution.
- Some customers were supportive of considering a new service moratorium while solutions or conservation and behavior changes are pursued.

