DISTRICT 4 CANDIDATES DR. JERRY WHITFIELD



Jerry has been an OPALCO Director since 2014 and is currently Vice President of the Board. He and his wife Carol live on Shaw Island.

Jerry is an Aerospace Engineer having worked at Boeing, Rolls Royce Aero Engines, and GE on advanced jet engines. His education includes Bachelors and PhD Degrees from Southampton and Cambridge Universities, UK.

Recognizing early on the need for low

carbon sources of energy he invented the first wood pellet stove in 1982 and proceeded to build a successful manufacturing company around this 'carbon neutral' product. He was recognized in 2016 by Seattle Magazine for developing one of the 50 most important products in the Seattle area in the last 50 years.

A distinguished engineering career and a proven entrepreneurial ability provides Jerry with the skills to continue serving the OPALCO membership well. OPALCO needs Directors who understand the workings of a complex electric utility and who can make decisions that will preserve the long-term safety, reliability, and affordability of its unique island-based power system, and guide OPALCO's new subsidiary Rock Island successfully through its early growth.

"I'm proud of the work OPALCO does and the bold leadership of its Board. I have been a strong supporter of grid modernization with its fiber-optic backbone, and its on-going reliability and safety improvements. Low carbon projects such as Community Solar, a utility scale battery project, and promoting electrification of our members other energy needs will reduce peak power costs and minimize our carbon footprint in San Juan County. I have supported OPALCO's subsidiary, Rock Island Communications, from the outset. With its hybrid wireless and fiber-to-the home deployment, it will continue to expand vital broadband services to our Members. Many of you are already seeing these benefits. I hope to continue contributing as one of your Directors."