



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2020 8:30 a.m.

Lopez Family Resource Center

TRAVEL

Via Ferry:

To:

Leave	FH	5:55 am	Arrive	Lopez	6:40 am
	Orcas	7:00 am			7:45 am
	Shaw	7:15 am			

Return:

Leave	Lopez	3:35 pm	Arrive	Shaw	3:55 pm
				Orcas	4:15 pm
				FH	4:55 pm

Sequence of Events

- OPALCO Board meeting

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
Lopez Family Resource Center
January 23, 2020 8:30 A.M.*

**Time is approximate; meetings are scheduled around the ferry schedule; if all Board members are present, the meeting may begin earlier or later than advertised.*

WELCOME GUESTS/MEMBERS

Member attending the board meeting acknowledge that they may be recorded, and the recording posted to OPALCO's website.

- Member Comment Period
 - *Members are expected to conduct themselves with civility and decorum, consistent with Member Service Policy 17. If you would like answers to specific questions, please fill out Q&A card for post-meeting follow-up.*

ACTION ITEMS

- Consent Agenda
- General Manager Review
- Resolution 2-2019: Rescind

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2019 Year in Review
- Low Income Program Review

REPORTS

- General Manager
- Rock Island Snapshot

APPENDICES

- Member Correspondence: Resolution 2-2019

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Legal, Personnel, and Competitive

ADJOURNMENT

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Foster Hildreth

RE: Consent Agenda

All matters listed with the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Board with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as an Action Item by request of a Board member. The minutes will reflect the approved consent agenda.

The Consent Agenda includes:

- **Minutes** of the previous meeting – attached.
- **Approval of New Members** – attached {as required by Bylaws Article I Section 2 (d)}

NEW MEMBERS – December 2019

District 1 (San Juan, Pearl, Henry, Brown, Spieden)

1. 522 Vista Way LLC
2. Abdel-Raheem, Salma & Towers, Javin
3. Barber, Leona & Neely, Robert
4. Bryant, Tess
5. Friday Harbor Film Festival
6. Goddard, Bradley
7. Guenther, Rebecca
8. Hafner, Carolyn
9. Heckeke, Kati
10. Kettler, Debra & Frankel, Richard
11. McArthur, Joann & Joe
12. Miller, Tanner
13. Pollnow, Eleanor M & Charles F
14. Pullen, Suzanne
15. Smith, Margaret
16. Young, Laura

District 2 (Orcas, Armitage, Blakely, Obstruction, Big Double, Little Double, Fawn)

17. Blanc, Enid

18. Brandt, Eric
19. Brening, Stephanie & Jacob
20. Hatch, Jamie
21. Hillyard, Jonathan
22. Olson, Isaac
23. Schermerhorn, Isabella
24. Weisen, Edward
25. Whitman, Daria
26. Wood, Matthew J & Thompson, Eleanor

District 3 (Lopez, Center, Decatur, Center, Charles)

27. Bliss, Jill
28. Henninger, Christopher
29. Hughes, Peter
30. Kretschmer, Marc & Charleen
31. Thoreen, Harold & Haggard, Suzanne
32. Zavon, Barbara & Ward, Mark

District 4 (Shaw, Crane, Canoe, Bell)
None

- **Capital Credit** payments to estates of deceased members and/or organizations no longer in business as shown below:

January	
<u>Customer #</u>	<u>Amount</u>
26520	166.61
71469	165.76
63001	3,372.65
50843	118.19
35500	327.48
Total	\$ 4,150.69

- **RUS 219s** *Inventory of Work Orders* of projects completed from the Construction Work Plan totaling \$205,771.70. These forms are submitted to RUS for approval of loan funds.
 - Inventory 201911 - \$176,044.23 for projects associated with replacement of underground lines, aging poles, and trans closures.
 - Inventory AS1911 - \$29,727.47 for projects associated with system improvements.

Staff requests a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, December 19, 2019

President Vince Dauciunas called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. at the OPALCO Friday Harbor conference room. Board members present were Rick Christmas, Brian Silverstein, Jeff Struthers, Peter Garlock and Jerry Whitfield. Staff present were General Manager Foster Hildreth; Manager of Engineering and Operations Russell Guerry; Manager of Finance and Member Services Nancy Loomis; Communications Specialist Krista Bouchey; and Executive Assistant Kelly Koral (serving as recording secretary). Consultant Jay Kimball, Legal Counsel Joel Paisner were also in attendance.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS

The following members arrived at the beginning of the Board meeting (~8:30am) to discuss a potential collaboration with Lopez School to obtain and implement a grant to electrify school buses:

Bruce Nyden	Kurt Fuller
Chom Greacen	Brad Buchanan

The following members arrived at ~12:00pm to discuss Resolution 2-2019 related to the Lower Snake River Dams:

Valerie Yates	Caroline Grauman	Norris Palmer
Kim Secunda	Peter Giampietro	Sandie Friel
Karin Roemers-Kleven	John Calogero	Debra Giles
Sheila Goquin	Heather Fold	Sean O’Leary (NVEC)
Bob Friel	Winnie Adams	Chom Greacen
Bruce Nyden	Kurt Fuller	Brad Buchanan

2019 YOUTH RALLY PRESENTATION – Nourdine Jensen Scholarship

Scholarship recipients Presley Clark and Annemarie Ryan, both students at Friday Harbor High School, San Juan Island, were in attendance and presented a slide show along with their narrative of their trip to Idaho for the ICUA Youth Rally and their experiences there. Both were very appreciative of OPALCO for providing the opportunity and are encouraging their friends and siblings to apply for the scholarship in the future.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Motion** was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda, including November 21, 2019 minutes, new members as listed with the Board materials and capital credit payments totaling \$6,179.72. Motion carried by voice vote.

OPALCO 2020 TARIFFS

Second read of the 2020 Tariffs. It was requested going forward that a summary be prepared. It was agreed a Dashboard would be created at added to our website.

- **Motion** was made and seconded to approve the 2020 Tariffs as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS CHARGING STATIONS

Staff has received two requests from members on both Lopez and Orcas to support grant funding for electric school buses in their districts. In keeping with OPALCO’s vision of expanding vehicle electrification, staff requested a motion to assist the districts in this endeavor.

- **Motion** was made to assist school bus electrification throughout the County using the concepts articulated by staff. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Break 9:40 – 9:52

REPORTS

General Manager

Staff reviewed the General Manager’s Report and Rock Island Snapshot

Break 10:55 – 11:50

THE CHALLENGES BETWEEN DAM REMOVAL AND RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND COST EFFECTIVE POWER

A discussion was held regarding OPALCO’s passing of Resolution 2-2019. Eighteen co-op members participated in an emotionally charged discussion regarding the lower Snake River dams and ocean health. Members also wrote letters to the Board asking them to reconsider the resolution. The Board listened as members shared their

opinions and concerns about ocean health, species survival and the role of the co-op in representing their positions. The Board agreed to revisit Resolution 2-2019 with greater collaboration from the membership.

Hearfelt comments and concerns were voiced by those in attendance including:

- Co-op principles and democratic control
 - WRECA
 - Member information – policies and decisions
 - Premature decision with the resolution
 - Value of life
 - Source data – irrigation, salmon migrating north, power shortages
 - Power from the dams can be replaced affordably
 - NWECC study. New information/misinterpretation
 - Is dam energy needed?
 - Disappointed with the resolution
 - Decisions on environmental crisis
 - Rescind the resolution
 - Taskforce/legislation
 - Breach the dams
 - Learn
 - Educate youth on complicated issues
 - OPALCO – leader on climate change
 - Protect salmon and orcas
 - Powering the islands – sustainability
 - Scrutiny of BPA
 - Fraser River salmon in decline
 - Formally reconsider with public process
 - How do we replace dam energy?
- **Motion** was made for the Board Chair and General Manager to arrange for a meeting of the Board to revisit the resolution to determine what actions are to be taken and to include the greatest member participation. Motion seconded and approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Vince Dauciunas, President

Brian Silverstein, Secretary-Treasurer

01/02/2020 10:48:05 am

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RUS Form 219 Inventory Of Work Orders

Period: NOV 2019

System Designation: WA O9

Inventory: 201911

Loan		Work Order		Bdgt (3)	Gross Funds Required		Deductions		Contrib In Aid Of Constr and Previous Advances (8)	Loan Funds Subject To Advance By RUS (9)
					Cost Of Construction: New Constr Or Replacements (4)	Cost Of Removal: New Constr Or Replacements (5)	Salvage Relating To New Construction Or Replacements (6)	Retirements Without Replacements (7)		
Project	Year	Construction (1)	Retirement (2)							
601	2018	3114	3114	1	6,087.00	531.81	902.73	0.00	0.00	5,683.14
								AFUDC: 32.94		
601	2018	3278	3278	1	16,029.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,946.52
								AFUDC: 83.42		
					22,116.94	531.81	902.73	0.00	0.00	21,629.66
606	2018	2872	2872	1	53,193.70	315.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,697.68
								AFUDC: 1,811.02		
					53,193.70	315.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	51,697.68
608 - 1	2018	2629	2629	1	117,229.78	3,704.30	0.00	0.00	12,996.29	102,716.89
								AFUDC: 5,220.90		
					117,229.78	3,704.30	0.00	0.00	12,996.29	102,716.89
Grand Totals:					\$ 192,540.42	\$ 4,551.11	\$ 902.73	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,996.29	\$ 176,044.23

01/02/2020 10:48:05 am

RUS Form 219 Inventory Of Work Orders
Period: NOV 2019 **System Designation: WA O9**

Page: 7

Inventory : 201911

Budget

Loan	Project	Amount
1	601	21,629.66
1	606	51,697.68
1	608 - 1	102,716.89
Total:		176,044.23

BORROWER CERTIFICATION

WE CERTIFY THAT THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION SHOWN ARE THE ACTUAL COSTS AND ARE REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING RECORDS. WE FURTHER CERTIFY THAT FUNDS REPRESENTED BY ADVANCES REQUESTED HAVE BEEN EXPENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES ON THE LOAN, THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOAN CONTRACT AND MORTGAGE, RUS BULLETINS, AND THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE ADVANCE OF FUNDS FOR WORK ORDER PURPOSES. WE CERTIFY THAT NO FUNDS ARE BEING REQUESTED FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN A CBRA AREA.

SIGNATURE (MANAGER)_____
DATE_____
SIGNATURE (BOARD APPROVAL)_____
DATE

ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SUFFICIENT INSPECTION HAS BEEN MADE OF THE CONSTRUCTION REPORTED BY THIS INVENTORY TO GIVE ME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION COMPLIES WITH APPLICABLE SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS AND MEETS APPROPRIATE CODE REQUIREMENTS AS TO STRENGTH AND SAFETY. THIS CERTIFICATION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTABLE ENGINEERING PRACTICE.

INSPECTION PERFORMED BY_____
FIRM_____
LICENSE NUMBER_____
DATE_____
SIGNATURE OF LICENSED ENGINEER

01/02/2020 10:48:05 am

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RUS Form 219 Inventory Of Work Orders

Period: NOV 2019

System Designation: WA O9

Inventory: AS1911

Loan		Work Order		Bdgt (3)	Gross Funds Required		Deductions		Contrib In Aid Of Constr and Previous Advances (8)	Loan Funds Subject To Advance By RUS (9)
Project	Year	Construction (1)	Retirement (2)		Cost Of Construction: New Constr Or Replacements (4)	Cost Of Removal: New Constr Or Replacements (5)	Salvage Relating To New Construction Or Replacements (6)	Retirements Without Replacements (7)		
1600	2018 2702			1	30,564.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,727.47
								AFUDC: 836.82		
					30,564.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,727.47
Grand Totals:					\$ 30,564.29	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 29,727.47

Minor Construction Work Orders

Work Order: 2702 - EXTEND 1200' SINGLE PHASE POWER DOWN PINE STREET

01/02/2020 10:48:05 am

Page: 8

RUS Form 219 Inventory Of Work Orders

Period: NOV 2019

System Designation: WA O9

Inventory : AS1911

Budget

Loan	Project	Amount
1	1600	29,727.47
Total:		29,727.47

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

- 1 ☐ WE CERTIFY THAT CONSTRUCTION REPORTED ON THE LISTED WORK ORDERS (EXCEPT CERTIFICATION "2" BELOW), IS A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION OF A TYPE DESCRIBED IN 7 CFR 1970 WHICH NORMALLY DOES NOT REQUIRE PREPARATION OF A BORROWER'S ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT.
- 2 ☐ WE CERTIFY THAT CONSTRUCTION REPORTED ON WORK ORDERS _____, IS A CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION OF A TYPE THAT NORMALLY REQUIRES A BORROWER'S ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT WHICH IS ATTACHED.

SIGNATURE (MANAGER)

DATE

BORROWER CERTIFICATION

WE CERTIFY THAT THE COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION SHOWN ARE THE ACTUAL COSTS AND ARE REFLECTED IN THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING RECORDS. WE FURTHER CERTIFY THAT FUNDS REPRESENTED BY ADVANCES REQUESTED HAVE BEEN EXPENDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSES ON THE LOAN, THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOAN CONTRACT AND MORTGAGE, RUS BULLETINS, AND THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATIVE TO THE ADVANCE OF FUNDS FOR WORK ORDER PURPOSES. WE CERTIFY THAT NO FUNDS ARE BEING REQUESTED FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION WORK IN A CBRA AREA.

SIGNATURE (MANAGER)

DATE

SIGNATURE (BOARD APPROVAL)

DATE

ENGINEERING CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SUFFICIENT INSPECTION HAS BEEN MADE OF THE CONSTRUCTION REPORTED BY THIS INVENTORY TO GIVE ME REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT THE CONSTRUCTION COMPLIES WITH APPLICABLE SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS AND MEETS APPROPRIATE CODE REQUIREMENTS AS TO STRENGTH AND SAFETY. THIS CERTIFICATION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTABLE ENGINEERING PRACTICE.

INSPECTION PERFORMED BY

FIRM

LICENSE NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF LICENSED ENGINEER

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2019

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Vince Dauciunas
RE: GM Annual Review

At the Board President's request, the Board will discuss the performance review of the General Manager in Executive Session.

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Foster Hildreth

RE: Resolution 2-2019: Rescind

Staff recommends that the Board rescind Resolution 2-2019 (attached) at the January meeting. As a co-op, it is our highest purpose to serve our members and work collaboratively toward a healthy future. We've heard from our members that they are concerned about the issues surrounding ocean health, the fate of Lower Snake River Dams and the need to respond to global warming—and we are listening.

As summarized in the “Lower Snake River Dams Stakeholder Engagement Report” (12/20/2019), a wide variety of people with varying interests want to have more informed and respectful conversations. They (and we) are hopeful about the significant benefits a collaborative dialogue could offer to a process so far stuck on its challenging issues.

In response to member feedback, OPALCO held two public meetings (Nov 20 and Dec 19) to discuss the intentions and science behind the Board's resolution in support of the Columbia River Federal Power System. Staff met with members and local organization, held a technical discussion with Northwest Energy Coalition (NVEC) to compare data and findings on the costs of replacing the energy and capacity of the LSRDs, and received a number of letters from members taking both pro- and con- positions. These letters are (or have been) included in board materials.

For more than 82 years, OPALCO has been dedicated to providing safe, reliable, clean, affordable, and sustainable energy to our members. All Washington utilities, including OPALCO, are facing major challenges to meet the requirements of the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). This leads to new pressures on the supply of power in the region including capacity (ability to meet peak needs) and cost (carbon fees and market pricing).

OPALCO must ensure an adequate supply of clean electricity to meet the needs of our membership. Even as the co-op moves toward its ambitious goal of providing up to 50% of our power needs from local renewable sources (by 2040), it will still depend on the mainland for at least half of its power supply. Especially, a reliable and cost-effective source of firm power to support our intermittent renewable sources when the sun doesn't shine and wind doesn't blow—which is a good percentage of the time.

As we build toward local resilience with renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, switching away from fossil fuels and a greater commitment to conservation, we will be acting in support of our sensitive and fragile island environs and mitigating the consequences of climate change – particularly the impact from rising water temperatures on our marine ecosystem. In doing the right thing for our energy future, we will also be doing our part to build healthy, sustainable island communities.

In order to develop enough local distributed power to meet up to 50% of our energy needs by 2040, we must begin now to find suitable land and start the challenging tasks of siting, permitting and funding these projects. This is a heavy lift and will require the partnership of local and state government, the collaboration of local and regional organizations and the cooperation – and enthusiasm – of our co-op owner-members.

OPALCO is optimistic about the potential for collaboration in our small corner of the state and the significant benefits our actions will bring – directly to the health of our environment and also as a model for other utilities in the region.

OPALCO's goal is to listen to our members about their positions and jointly understand the resource inadequacy in the Pacific Northwest region. OPALCO needs to keep power flowing for our members 24/7 as our energy industry addresses decarbonization (coal plant closures, electrification of transportation/heating and carbon reduction legislation). Our chief concern is how to provide firm, reliable power to 20 remote islands in San Juan County, while increasing our share of intermittent renewable energy resources. OPALCO and our members need to understand our regional resource deficiency dilemma and as we collaborate on finding acceptable energy resources as we strive for a clean renewable energy future.

Staff recommends that the Board make a motion to rescind Resolution 2-2019.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION 2-2019**

**SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL COLUMBIA RIVER POWER SYSTEM,
RECOGNIZING ITS ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP, AND
OPPOSING REMOVAL OF THE LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS**

Orcas Power & Light Cooperative (OPALCO) is a member owned electric cooperative providing electric services in San Juan County, Washington, and is a full requirement utility, with all of the electricity it delivers to its members (other than a small amount of local distributed power) coming from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and is generated by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS).

The FCRPS is in large part responsible for the clean air, water and lands enjoyed by millions in the Pacific Northwest. The dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers provide navigable waters, irrigation, flood control, recreation and the FCRPS provides a reliable source of clean energy for millions of residents of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest.

Hydropower produces no emissions, making the Pacific Northwest's carbon footprint from energy production nearly half that of the other parts of the country and because hydropower output can be quickly increased or reduced, it is an excellent back-up for intermittent wind or solar generation.

Industries and businesses, representing hundreds of thousands of jobs, rely on low-cost hydropower to stay in business and prosper and high technology firms have located facilities in the Pacific Northwest because of the availability of reliable, carbon free hydropower, creating jobs and boosting local economies.

The clean and renewable energy generated by the FCRPS has made Washington State a national and world leader in responsible environmental stewardship and implementation of the FCRPS BiOp has successfully improved overall fish runs by 97 percent, proving that dams and fish can coexist. Consequently, there are more total fish in the Columbia River than at any time since the first lower mainstream dam was built at Bonneville in 1938.

To facilitate this remarkable achievement, BPA has spent nearly \$17 billion on infrastructure and fish mitigation projects since 1978 representing from one-quarter to one-third of the BPA's total costs. Because of these efforts, for the foreseeable future, salmon and steelhead mitigation in the Northwest will continue to be one of the largest wildlife recovery efforts in history.

The four Lower Snake River dams enable irrigation for over seven million acres of farmland producing \$8 billion annually in agricultural income, barging of approximately nine million tons of cargo valued at over \$3 billion annually, and annually produce 1,000 aMW of emissions-free power, enough to serve nearly half a million Northwest businesses, industries and households. BPA has identified the four Lower Snake River Dams as critical components of the FCRPS mission of supporting peak power generation and removing over 2,000 megawatts of firm winter capacity generated by the four Lower Snake River Dams would add to a forecasted Northwest shortfall in energy capacity.

Despite the significant value the dams provide, and the success of the current FCRPS BiOp, there continues to be movement to have the four Lower Snake River dams removed. In March 2017, the United States District Court for the District of Oregon directed the federal agencies to undertake a

comprehensive review of hydro operations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and urged the federal agencies to include analysis of the removal, bypass or breaching one or more of the four Lower Snake River dams. Additionally, Washington State is funding a study on the associated economic and social impacts of the potential breaching or removal of the four Lower Snake River dams which duplicates the same effort that is several years underway by the federal agencies in the Columbia River Systems Operations Environmental Impact Statement, making the study an unnecessary and wasteful use of taxpayers' money.

There is inaccurate information about the four Lower Snake River dams being spread in an effort to undermine the value of the FCRPS and create public support for the removal or breaching of the four Lower Snake River dams with no regards to science-based facts. However, the FCRPS and the four Lower Snake River dams have been, are and will continue to be a critical component of life in the Pacific Northwest.

OPALCO supports the whales and our federal hydro system. We oppose the removal of the dams because we don't believe it will solve the problem for our fish and the food chain and may worsen the situation. We believe the NEPA study will provide the science necessary to understand the full web of interdependent issues at play, including water temperatures, ocean acidification, pollution and climate change. We believe we can build a successful future for our fish and wildlife, clean air and water, while keeping our power carbon free with the FCRPS.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of Orcas Power & Light Cooperative resolves to support the continued operation of the FCRPS including the four Lower Snake River dams for the many benefits they provide including emissions-free, renewable, reliable, low-cost energy; and

Further resolve to oppose spending taxpayer money on a duplicative and unnecessary study of such removal or breaching; and

Further resolve to support effective actions to restore salmon runs as determined from existing and future BiOps; and

Further resolve to support effective actions to save the resident orcas in the Salish Sea.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I, Brian Silverstein, Secretary of Orcas Power and Light Cooperative, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Orcas Power and Light Cooperative, held on the 19th day of September 2019 at which meeting a quorum was present.




Brian Silverstein, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Foster Hildreth
RE: Year in Review (2019)

Our OPALCO team is very proud of many major accomplishments achieved during 2019. Attached is a list of some of the successes that were experienced throughout the year. Although the summary is organized by department, most efforts spanned over multiple staff throughout the Company, which truly demonstrates the “cooperative” spirit of the OPALCO team.

2019 Year in Review Report

OPALCO Team Accomplishments

Safety:

- Exceeded 200,000 hours worked without a loss time accident.
- Actively monitor safety improvement plans as outlined in our RESAP program (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program).
- Committed to NRECA's Zero Contacts initiative.
- Held monthly comprehensive safety meetings to sustain a culture of safety.

Engineering, Operations & Information Technology:

- Average service availability rate of 99.9% for the year.
- Completed construction and energized Blakely Substation.
- Completed Olga Substation upgrades.
- Completed operational ability to loop the Decatur Feed to the Lopez Feed
- Replaced 62,400 feet of aging and failing underground cable (mixture of three phase and single phase).
- 90% complete on SCADA network security segregation.
- Transitioned to new server cluster with more robust disaster recovery scheme.
- Transitioned to IT and network support with Rock Island.
- Replaced 34 transmission poles.
- ROW Trimming: Greater than 2100 trees trimmed, 160 danger tree removals, 19 miles of tree trimming, 3.5 miles of brush trimming.
- Replaced 44 aging and deteriorated poles.

Finance & Accounting:

- Unqualified opinion of Financial Audit. No audit comments in the 'communication of internal control related matters' letter to management and the Board.
- Launched Switch-It-Up on-bill financing program, financed >70 energy efficiency projects for >\$700K.
- Applied for and received RUS approval for an additional \$15 million with 0% interest RUS RESP funds to finance energy efficiency projects throughout the County through OPALCO's Switch-It-Up Program.
- Applied for, received approval and contracted with USDA Rural Development for a \$100K Energy Audit grant to provide commercial energy audits for OPALCO member businesses.
- Received award letter for a \$2.4 million Clean Energy Fund III grant for a micro grid project on Lopez.
- Collaborated on an NRECA-led grant application & received approval for a \$1 million-dollar collaborative grant through the US Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office (DOE SETO) to support NRECA's Energy Access for All initiative: 'Cooperatives Achieving Rural Equity in Solar (CARES)' project. NRECA in process of finalizing grant contract with DOE. OPALCO is one of six cooperatives nationwide to participate in the three-year collaborative project seeking to increase solar affordability in rural communities.

- Implemented tariff ECA (energy charge adjustment) to balance monthly fluctuations in power cost compared to budget, returning a credit or adding a marginal charge monthly.
- Continued capital credit smoothing methodology for the third year, retiring \$1.3M in capital credits back to the membership in 2019.

Management and Human Resources:

- Hired three Apprentice Lineman, two Journeyman Lineman, and a System Engineer.
- Promoted an Apprentice Lineman to a Journeyman Lineman.
- Contracted and permitted the Eastsound remodel. Made best use of member resources by temporarily relocating staff in 1930's annex.

Energy Savings: Rebates, Electric Vehicles & Renewables

- Rebate dollars awarded to members through December: \$225,837.
- Energy saved by members through BPA/PNGC rebates: 738,124 kilowatt hours.
- Total interconnected members generating renewable power: 364 with 56 new in 2019.
- 2,281 MWh of member solar/wind production incentivized by WA State.
- Supported 46 members in beneficial electrification measures, totaling \$50,289.
- Incentivized the installation of 20 EV charging stations for homes and businesses.
- Decatur Community Solar project:
 1. 276 members participated.
 2. was certified under new WA State incentive program.
 3. produced 507 MWh – enough to power 500+ typical SJ County homes for a month, or 42 homes for a year.
 4. distributed \$51.2k through production credits on participants' bills (\$64k since energization), including an additional \$5,143 to the PAL and Energy Assist programs.
 5. Removed additional trees from SE corner of the parcel resulting in average 19% higher winter production.
- In partnership with the San Juan Islands Conservation District,
 1. hosted 10 Energy Roundtable meetings,
 2. hosted three Green Home Tours (coupled with the Transition Lopez/Fossil Free by '33 event)
 3. Promoted EV resulting in 22% adoption rate over 2018
- Collaborated with Sustainable Connections in Bellingham for Energize San Juans campaign marketing small commercial energy audits and Solarize for businesses.

Member Services

- Six Member Services Representatives handled more than 14,771 inbound calls from members.
- Billed members ~\$30.88M for energy usage of ~209.9M kWh.
- Coordinated Project PAL transition from a volunteer member committee to the local family/community resource centers to further facilitate access to assistance programs for low-income households. In 2019, 255 members were awarded more than \$53k in assistance.
- Boosted Energy Assist participation with 460 households receiving monthly bill credits totaling ~\$135.6k.
- More than 60% of members are now on autopay.
- More than 63% of members use (or have access to) SmartHub.
- 46% of members are paperless.

- Implemented scheduled payments in SmartHub for members to pay at their convenience without having to contact Member Services multiple times.
- Maintained service while transitioning half the team to temporary office.

Communications

- Based on member satisfaction survey results and website analytics, updated Energy Savings website (launch in Q1-2020), especially rebate info and forms.
- 2019 was the year of the rebate, and with the additional outreach participation jumped from 171 in 2018 to 257 in 2019 – including fuel-switching rebates.
- Successful launch of Switch it Up – utilized new outreach strategies such as pop-ups and FB live.
- Internal communications: Instituted monthly talking points, construction updates.
- Updated outage and safety center including a new video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PPqYFzVD1FM&feature=youtu.be>
- Updated look and functionality of This Electric Life blog: <https://energysavings.opalco.com/electric-life-blog/>
- Homepage refresh: cleaner look, new icons and navigation improvements: www.opalco.com
- Launched “Thank a Lineworker” campaign and webpage: <http://www.opalco.com/lineworkers>
- Krista Bouchey earned her Certified Cooperative Communicator certification.
- Collaborated with Engineering firm HDR to create a video about our ESS project on Decatur: <https://hdr.wistia.com/medias/4pv51xha65>
- Provided outreach and support for Energize/Solarize workshops: <https://www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/OPALCO-November-2019-Board-Materials.pdf> (page 101)
- Launched a new Quick Facts library online: <https://www.opalco.com/newsroom/quick-facts/>
- Represented OPALCO at Transition Lopez: *Fossil Free by '33* event.
- Coordinated OPALCO's first Earthquake Preparedness Drill.
- Re-tooled field day, based on staff survey results. Hosted quarterly Staff Field Day events, offering safety training, cross-competency demonstrations, team building and staff appreciation.
- Designed and printed the annual report in house and saved thousands of dollars.
- Coordinated legislative visits in Olympia and with Governor Jay Inslee.
- Was recognized by the Northwest Public Power Association's Excellence in Communication Awards for our original Switch it Up! song.
- Cultivated five Nouridine Jensen Cooperative Youth Scholars, attended the ICUA Youth Rally at the College of Idaho, and mentored the youth to make a presentation to the Board.
- Promoted safety and the Switch it Up campaign with a booth at the San Juan County Fair and reached thousands of fair goers with messages of safety, efficiency and cooperation.
- Hosted moderated Candidate Forums (spring) and Open House ‘listening’ meetings (fall).
- Staff met with 243 members through speaking engagements at civic, community, HOA and service groups, as well as visiting all three senior centers.

Rock Island Team Accomplishments

Safety:

- Zero loss time accidents in 2019 and only one eight (8) hour loss time accident since established in 2015.
- Hold monthly comprehensive safety meetings to sustain a culture of safety.

Tech Support:

- We currently deliver a 99.99% reliability rate to our fiber and wireless customers.
- Less than 20% of our customer base experienced an outage caused by an in-county event.
- Staff handled over 28,000 inbound calls and closed more than 31,000 support cases.

Sales and Onboarding:

- Connected more than 600 homes and businesses to our fiber network, well ahead of plan by more than 60.
- Signed up 815 wireless customers despite delays in Phase 2 LTE equipment.
- Rebounded from a \$13k cell phone bonus metric change by T-Mobile to back on plan via other bonus avenues and efforts to reach over \$330k in revenue for the year, ahead of the 2019 plan.
- Doubled our Business Service revenue in 2019.
- Beat our combined subscription goal for fiber and wireless.
- Captured 43% and growing of the total internet subscriber market in the county.
- Reduced DSL subscriptions to under 350.
- Developed new eligibility data that grew our contactable marketing base by 30%.
- Maintained an average fiber onboarding rate \$5 higher per connection than our planned ARPU.

Management and Human Resources:

- Successfully transitioned Network Operations Senior staff to SVP roles in conjunction with the addition of a new Director of Business Services.
- Maintained continuity of management and more closely aligned cultural habits across staff at the SVP level, meeting the expense budget on plan.
- Completed three major software developments supporting our CRM and fiber onboarding processes.
- Defined a true HR and Operations management program, allowing staff ease of access to resources within the company.

Plant

- Added redundancy to the nearly 530 miles of fiber in our county network.
- Completed 29 on-site generator installations on critical network infrastructure.
- Added one new LTE site and upgraded three existing tower-bottom sites to new L6 tower-top sites to increase our service offering.
- Connected 18 Multi-Dwelling Unit buildings to fiber in a three-month period, providing Gig service options to over 250 low income residents.
- Continue to make progress at off-island redundancy circuits, forging relationships with multiple partners to solve the single point of failure problem.

- Unearthed \$2 Million dollars in T-Mobile inventory during a company change freeze due to the merger.
- Assisted County staff in moving forward on a county-wide communications project for first responders, leveraging the foundation of our fiber network.
- Service 1,912 fiber connections and 3054 wireless customers.

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Foster Hildreth

RE: OPALCO Member Assistance Program Update

Our OPALCO team is very proud of the progress achieved during 2019 in outreach to households in need and for the transition to island family resource centers for the direct delivery and coordination of Project PAL.

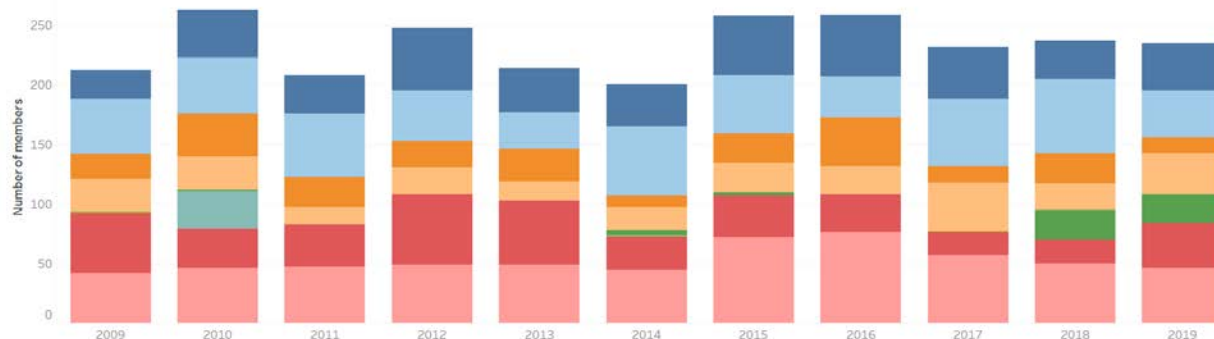
During December 2019, 360 members received \$~12.4k from the Energy Assist Program (EAP), compared to 309 members receiving \$~9.3k in December 2019. There were 50 members awarded \$9,404 in assistance through the PAL program by the local family and community resource centers. In December 2018, the volunteer PAL Council awarded \$6,050 to 32 members.

This past fall, staff began working with our island community and family resource centers to transition the PAL application administration these local, island-centric organizations who already work with our members at risk. The resource centers administer many of other low-income programs (LIHEAP, and County programs); working together streamlines the process and gives our members one-stop shopping for the help they need – removing a large barrier to entry. In the first three months of the new system, Member Services Representatives have significantly reduced the amount of time they spend on PAL logistics and members get approved and their accounts credited much faster than when they had to wait for the volunteer PAL Committee to meet on a monthly basis.

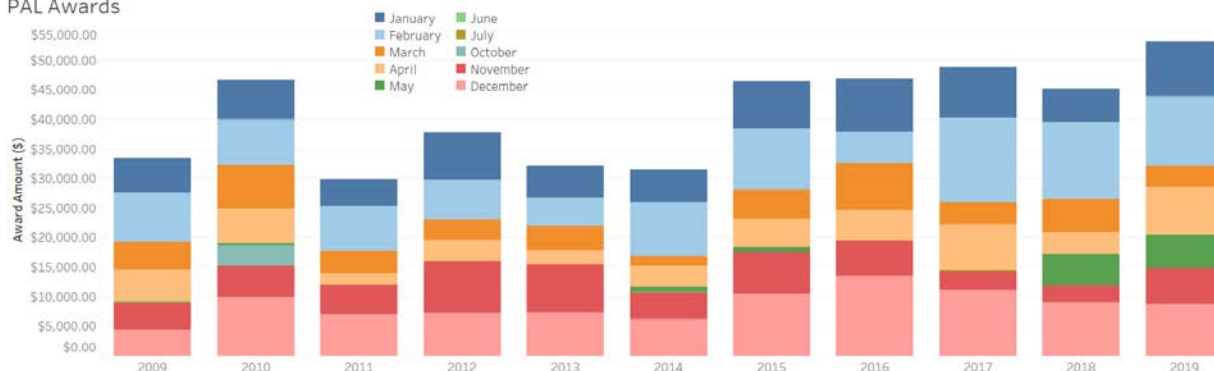
Below is a historical count of PAL awards month-to-month. It shows that the number of accounts qualified at the beginning of the season (November-December) is ~20% higher than the previous two seasons, and the award amount is about 24% higher than last year during the same timeframe. This demonstrates that higher awards are being awarded faster, and also note that the notices issued and disconnects during November and December 2019 are markedly lower, no doubt due to more assistance and member engagement.

[\(https://www.opalco.com/dashboards/\)](https://www.opalco.com/dashboards/)

PAL Count



PAL Awards



Members participating in the EAP can also get a matching discount on their Rock Island bill. Rock Island currently has 46 customers taking advantage of the EAP program at a monthly cost of ~\$1.5k or ~\$17.2k annually in 2019. When comparing the EAP discount offered to customers against their overall invoice total for services from Rock Island, the EAP discounts range between 24 to 64% with an average of 39% off of the standing pricing for services.

OPALCO's energy assistance programs are being held up as a model for the state and region. Staff have been working with the Dept of Commerce in their rule making process for the new Comprehensive Energy and Transportation Act (CETA), particularly how utilities can provide support to low-income households. Commerce is very interested in the scope, maturity and technical execution (billing) of our programs, including the benefits to members on their Rock Island bills for a significant affordability impact.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

January 2020

DASHBOARDS

Please review the dashboards at <https://www.opalco.com/dashboards>. Note that all the dashboards are within board approved strategic parameters.

Finance

Budget Variance
Cash
Power Cost
TIER/Margin
Debt/Equity
Capital
WIP
Expense
Capital Projects

Member Services

Disconnects
ECA
PAL
Energy Assist
Community Solar
Service Additions
Member Generation
Revenue Dist. – Prior Year
Revenue Dist. – Current Year

Outage

Historical SAIDI - Graph
Historical SAIDI - Figures
Outage Stats – Monthly
Outage Stats – Rolling 12 Mth
SAIDI by Category
Outage Summary
Outage Summary - Monthly

ENGINEERING, OPERATIONS, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

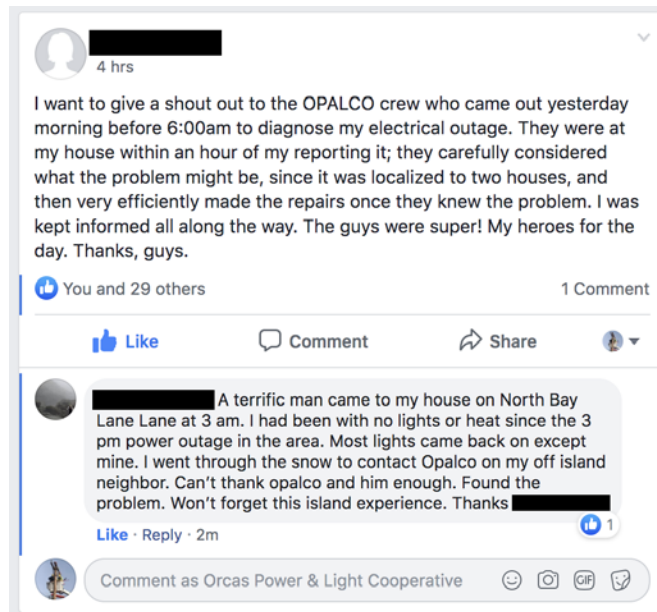
WIP

As of January 16, 2020, there are 343 work orders open totaling \$5.97M. Decatur Energy Storage System is 960k of this. Operations has completed construction on 101 work orders, totaling \$1.70M.

Winter Storm – 1/12 through 1/17

Weather systems shifted this past Sunday evening (1/12) with temperatures dropping from 43°F to 27°F. Temperatures bottomed out at 19°F on Tuesday (1/14) with the system load peaking at ~67.2 MW. Our expected billing demand from PNGC/BPA is ~66.3 MW (this is an hourly demand). We sustained outages totaling approximately 7 outages with an average service availability of 99.67% and average outage duration of ~23 minutes for all members. Many members have written in thanking us for our quick response and dedication to fixing any problems that occurred. Thanks to our very capable crew and staff who worked to ensure our members stayed warm and cozy during this storm.

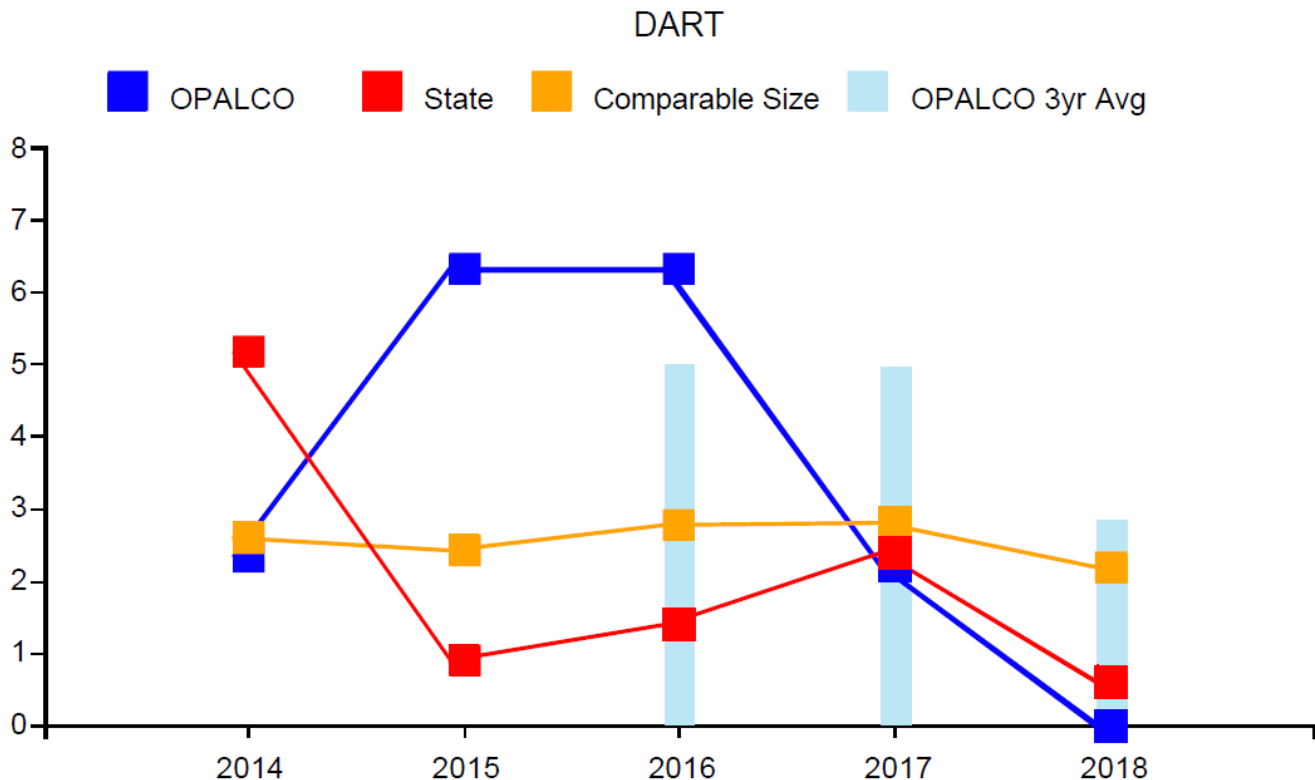


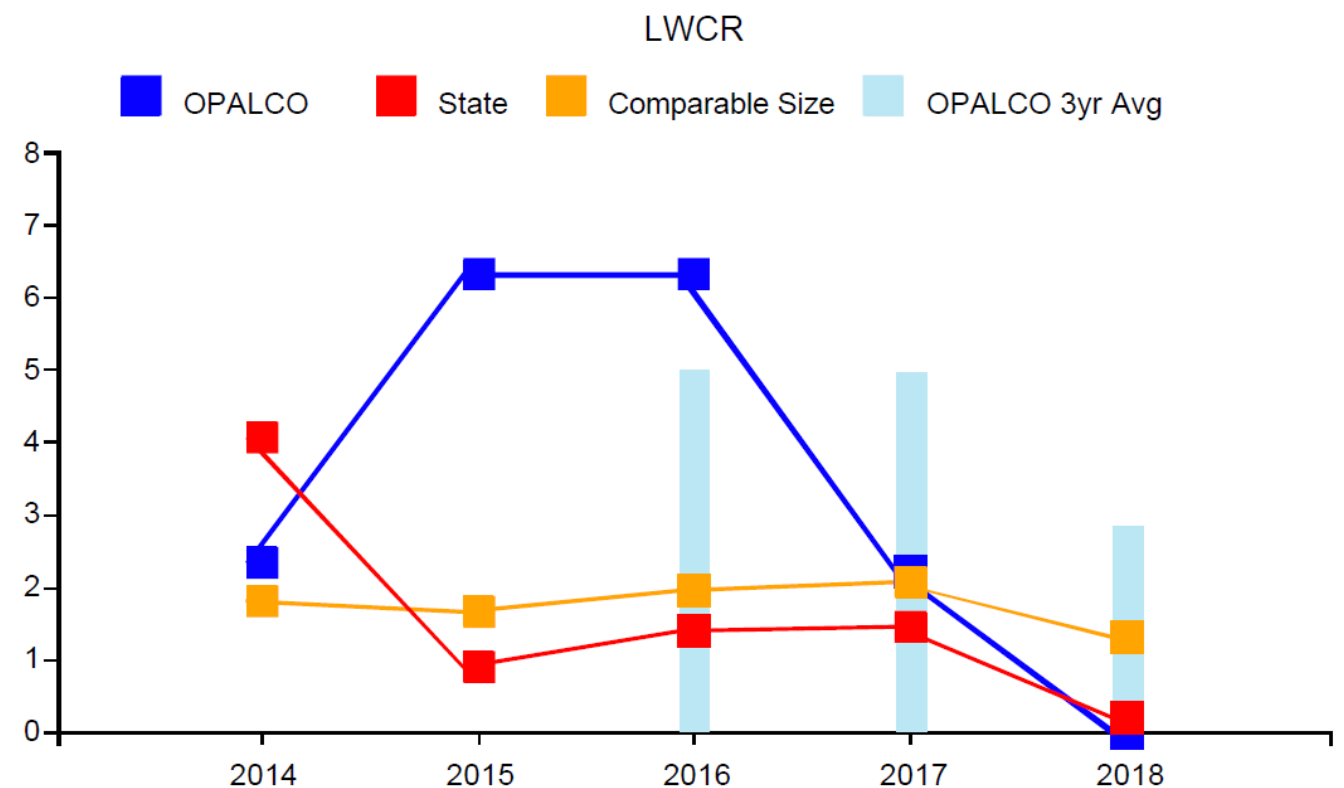
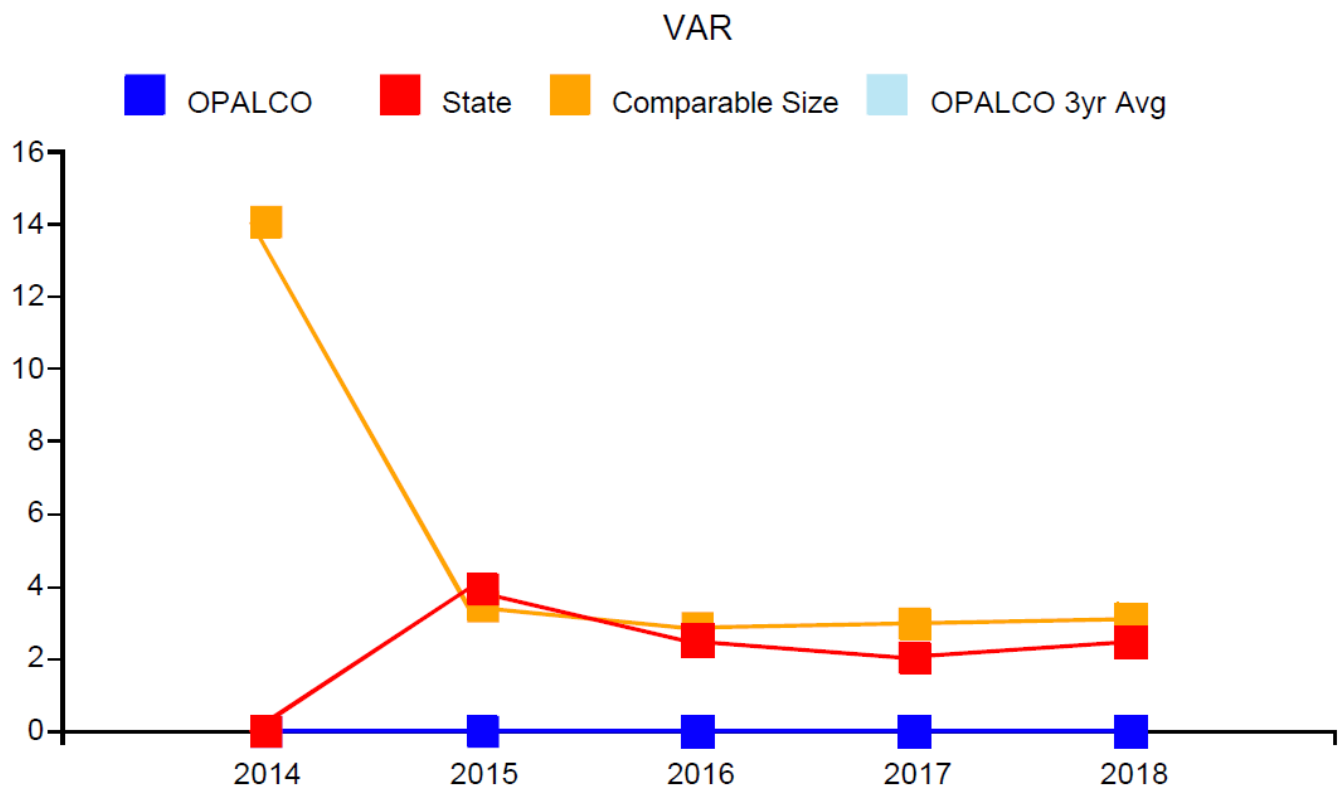


Safety

John Spain, Safety Coordinator of Columbia REA, conducted excavation and trenching training. The total hours worked without a loss time accident: 210,905 hours.

Below you will find the 2018 historical comparative safety performance charts for OPALCO. DART (Days away, restricted, or transferred) is the number of OSHA recordable cases resulting in days away, restricted duty or transferred work per 100 employees. VAR (Vehicle Accident Rate) is the number of vehicular accidents per million miles driven in co-op owned or leased vehicles. LWCR (Lost Workday Case Rate) is the number of OSHA recordable cases resulting in days away from work per 100 employees.





Grid Modernization Projects

- Decatur Battery Energy Storage System (ESS) – WA DOC CEF2 Grid Modernization (~\$1M Grant)** – Staff submitted the design milestone to WA DOC and is awaiting funding. Construction walkthrough has been scheduled for the final week of January with an updated commissioning in early Q2.

- **Lopez Microgrid – WA DOC CEF3 Grid Modernization (Grant \$ Amount TBD)** – WA DOC has awarded the grant funds and staff anticipates completing the contract with WA DOC by end of Q4.

FINANCE

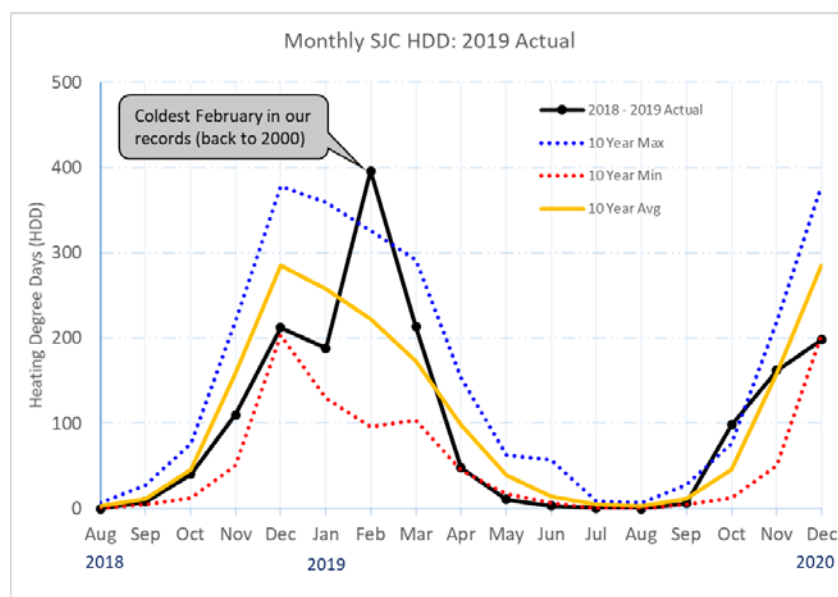
2019 Budget Tracking

Energy (kWh) purchases, sales were slightly higher than budgeted through December 2019. Note, the remaining accounts in the December income statement are in process of being closed out and reconciled and as such are not reported below.

Income Statement Summary (in thousands)		December 2019 YTD		
		Budget	Actual	Variance
	Gross Revenue	\$ 30,283	\$ 31,676	\$ 1,393
	ECA Surcharge / (Credit)	-	(341)	(341)
	Revenue	30,283	31,335	1,052
Expenses	Cost of Power	9,358	9,262	(96)
HDD		1,026	1,323	297
kWh Purchases		206,000	221,869	15,869
kWh Sales		192,610	207,180	14,570

Heating Degree Days (HDD)

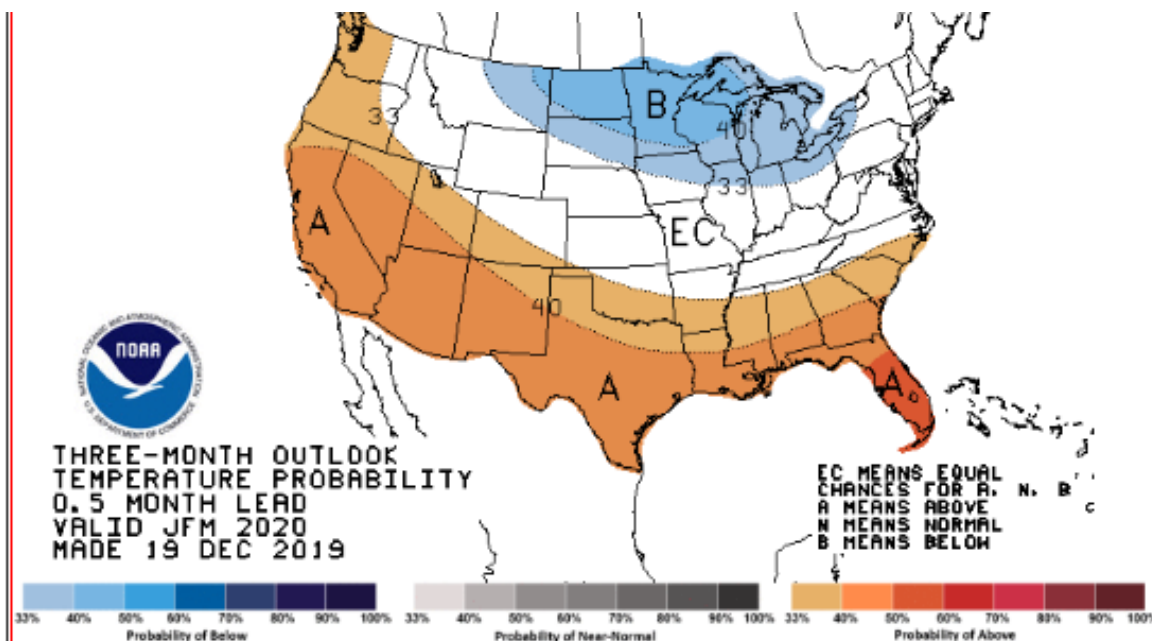
This winter HDD trended towards a neutral weather cycle (in between El Nino and La Niña), driven by prevailing winds. February surprised us with extreme cold as the wind and weather shifted, coming from the northeast. April through September returned to a warmer El Niño pattern, then October surprised us with the highest HDD for an October this century, November settled around the 10-year average and December was back to the El Niño average.



*10-year max, min, avg is 2009-2018

Weather Forecast

The current NOAA '3-month outlook temperature probability' for Jan-Feb-Mar 2020 continues to show a 33-40% probability of 'above normal' temperatures in our region. We continue to monitor these predictors on a monthly basis.



Source: NOAA National Weather Service

Monthly ECA

The calculated amount for the December ECA was a bill credit of (\$.013645) per kWh which returned \$308,202 in December, or \$13.65 per 1,000 kWh. The YTD ECA through the December billing period was a credit to members (and reduction to operating revenue) of \$341,185, or ~\$10.00 for a member using 1000 kWh/month. The January 2020 billing period ECA will be a bill credit of (\$.012794) per kWh.

MEMBER SERVICES

Energy Assistance

During December 2019, 360 members received \$~12.4k from the Energy Assist program, compared to 309 members receiving \$~9.3k in December 2019. There were 50 members awarded \$9,404 in assistance through the PAL program by the local Family and Community Resource Centers. In December 2018 the volunteer PAL Council awarded \$6,050 to 32 members.

Switch it Up!

There are now 123 projects in various stages of participation for a total of ~\$975k in play. 67 projects are complete and billing.

Energy Savings

In December 2019 there were 17 rebates paid to members totaling ~\$10.9k. Staff continued to accept and waitlist applications for beneficial electrification incentives (fuel-switching). Per the 2020 approved budget, EV Charging Stations and fuel-switching ductless heat pump installations will resume in January '20.

Community Solar

During the December 2019 billing cycle the Decatur Community Solar array produced 9,040 kWh, and 1 kWh per solar unit was credited to member participants. A total of ~\$675k was distributed to 276 accounts, including an additional ~\$70 for the PAL and Energy Assist programs.

(<https://energysavings.opalco.com/energy-savings/renewable-generation/community-solar/decaturncommunity-solar-project/>)

COMMUNICATIONS

2020 Election Update

Nominations for District 1 candidates opened on December 6th. To date, two applications have been submitted. Candidate Forums are scheduled as follows March 12th – San Juan Island, March 16th – Lopez Island and March 17th – Orcas Island. We plan to Facebook Live the March 12th event. The Election Guidelines have been updated with a timeline for the process of Member Initiated Bylaw Amendments – available online: <https://www.opalco.com/resource-library/#rlfelectionsandgovernanceelections>.

2020 Communications Strategy

The Communications Team maintains an annual plan for outreach and strategic engagement with the membership that includes internal communications, website/online presence, reputation and brand management, member satisfaction, advertising, public speaking, member meetings, annual meeting, elections, legislative affairs and targeted campaigns. The major campaigns this year are: 20/20 Vision (telling the story of our vision for future power), Community Solar 2, Logo Refresh and a new round of Switch it Up. In April, staff will present the communication strategy for our 20/20 vision campaign in Q3-4.

Switch it Up! Survey

Members who completed a Switch it Up! project in 2019 will be surveyed in late January to get feedback for the next round of the program. The online survey will be sent to only those participating members. The same survey will be issued quarterly as more members complete projects. Results will be compiled in March and again in January 2021.

Nouridine Jensen Cooperative Youth Scholarship Program

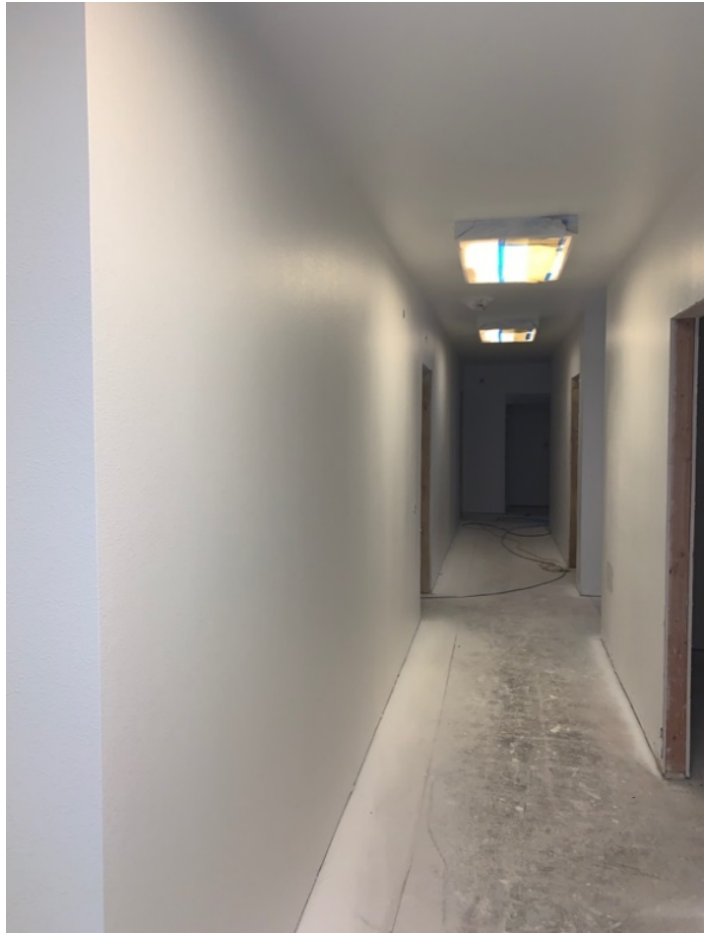
The 2020 program dates have been finalized. The application will open February 1st for San Juan County students. The program includes a \$1,000 college scholarship and a week at the ICUA Youth Rally, a co-op leadership camp.

2020 Logo Refresh

A request for proposals was issued earlier this month to solicit a design firm to support our logo refresh project. See RFP: <https://www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/RFP-Brand-Refresh-2020.pdf>. The goal is to “refresh the logo, look and feel of Orcas Power & Light to reflect the co-op as it operates today and its vision for the future.” The project is timed to support the 20/20 Vision campaign, to get members’ attention for the plans outlined in the IRP, and to build awareness, excitement and ownership in the Co-op’s vision for renewables and local resilience. We hope members will notice “there’s something different about OPALCO.”

Eastsound Bathroom/ADA Remodel

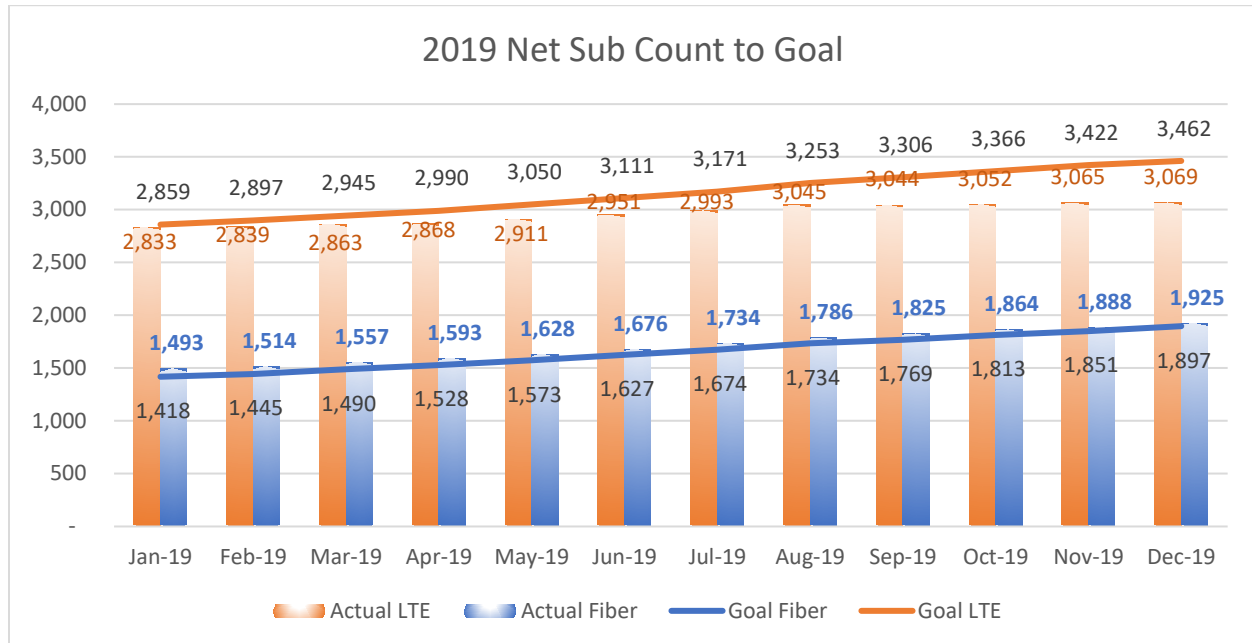
The renovation project is coming along nicely with the new spaces now clearly visible. Check out the first coat of paint on the new drywall. Pictured below from left to right: Member Service (front) area, staff break room and main hallway.



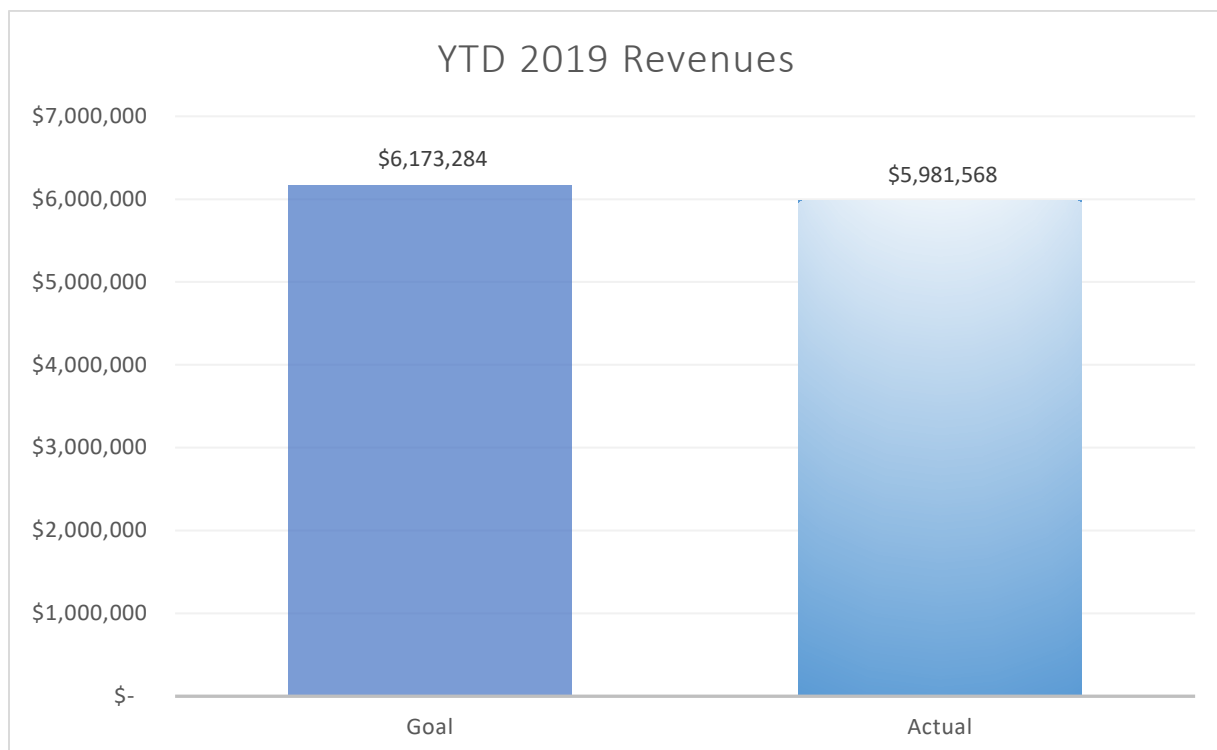
ROCKISLAND

Snapshot Jan 2020 Board Meeting

Net Subscribers as of December 31, 2019



Gross Revenues 2019



❖ Remaining revenues are still being closed for December Business.

MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2020

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Foster Hildreth

RE: Member Correspondence: Resolution 2-2019

Staff have received 27 letters or emails from members regarding Resolution 2-2019. A spreadsheet is attached characterizing each correspondence. Two of those letters are supportive of Resolution 2-2019 and the rest are in opposition. Some of these letters are from members who have not previously commented. Most are from members who we have heard from in the previous two months. Copies of all correspondence are attached.

There is an escalating tone of discord in this batch of correspondence, primarily from members of the Orcas Womens' Coalition (OWC). Staff has reached out to OWC to invite continued collaboration toward our mutual vision of a sustainable future for our beloved islands – in terms of energy and environment – and, as is called for in the Governor's Task Force report, a renewed invitation to work together as we address the complex forces that are challenging the health and sustainability of our island communities.

Staff plans to meet with members of the OWC following the January board meeting to discuss any remaining issues.

Name	Island	Summary	Date
Andy Finley	Lopez	longer - sites lack of member input, lack of research, has science quotes - opposed to resolution	1/8/2020
Anne Hall	Lopez	short - rescind - salmon & whale health - renewable energy	1/8/2020
Ashwini Bartolucci	Lopez	rescind; sophomore in college and came home to Lopez and is disappointed in resolution; engage members, rushed depiction, invest in other energy sources,	1/12/2020
Brian Rick	Lopez	rescind - lack of transparency	1/9/2020
Cass Clark	Lopez	rescind	1/8/2020
Chom Grecean	Lopez	rescind - longer - not enough member engagement, no need to adopt resolution, look at other studies, consult more experts, did not consider investments in other energy sources, did not represent members, don't squander hard earned trust of members	1/13/2020
Chuck Schietinger	Lopez	physicist - anti dam for economic reasons - encourages board to do their research with a link to an article he wants them to read	1/10/2020
Deb & Don Oliff	Orcas	local science community supports dam breaching	1/16/2020
Ellen Winter	Lopez	rescind	1/7/2020

Name	Island	Summary	Date
Irene Skyriver	Lopez	support dam removal	1/9/2020
Janet Alderton	Orcas	rescind; tell a better story about this issue; work towards common goals	1/14/2020
Jenny DeGroot	Orcas	rescind - more public involvement	1/9/2020
Jerry Leone	Lopez	commends resolution - attaches report and other article	1/1/2020
Kai Sanburn	Lopez	rescind - more member involvement	1/8/2020
Karin Roemers-Kleven	San Juan	rescind - more member input needed - consult local scientists - at Dec mtg; unable to come Jan	1/9/2020
Keara Axelrod	Lopez	submitted letter in Dec - had a reply that board meeting are not at a time working people can attend - states its OPALCO board elite	1/9/2020
Ken Balcomb	San Juan	rescind - wants board to adopt anti dam sentiment	1/12/2020
Kirman Taylor	Lopez	resolution was hasty - wait for EIS study before making a stance	1/8/2020
Liz Scranton	Lopez	rescind - get member buy-in, consult experts, antagonistic position against SJC council on further study; appoint a committee of experts	1/9/2020
Lorna Reese	Lopez	rescind - dams do not support the position of the members	1/8/2020
Mary Gropp	Orcas	rescind - thanks board for forward thinking aggressive stance to reduce carbon footprint but does not support LSRDs, does not support WRECA affiliation - lobbying	1/6/2020
Norris Carlson & Sandi Friel	Orcas	long detailed letter asking for board to rescind	1/13/20
Pam Weeks	Orcas	new member - please rescind - consult members	1/13/20
Sharon Abreau	Orcas	rescind - dams not sustainable - sites Jim Wadell	1/7/20
Sue Bauer	Orcas	rescind now and ask for member input; does not adhere to strategic directives, board is suppressing open dialogue on this issue	1/7/20
Summer Moon Sriver		rescind - climate crisis - act now	1/8/20
Todd Spalti	Orcas	against resolution and dams	1/11/20

Rescind the 2-2019 Resolution

Ande Finley <andefinley@gmail.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 6:17 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

I am opposed to your recent resolution that opposes removing or breaching the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs), when there could be alternative sources for reliable and low-cost low-carbon renewable power that don't harm fish.

1. I believe that this resolution is not consistent with OPALCO's values, principles and directives

The adoption of Resolution 2-2019 was done without any outreach to OPALCO member-owners, inconsistent with OPALCO's principles, values and strategic directives.

- a. Failed to adhere to the principles and spirit of co-operative decision-making by not engaging member-owners in deciding an issue of great public concern and one on which the community possesses considerable expertise.
- b. Failed to act in accordance with the values of member-owners who regard salmon and orca restoration as a public policy imperative.
- c. Failed to consider the entire body of relevant technical evidence concerning the benefits of dam removal for salmon and orca survival and options for assuring the continued reliability of the electric system.

2. I believe that it was imprudent to make a rushed decision while studies are underway

The federal EIS study on whether breaching or removal of the LSRDs would improve salmon runs is under way and so is the WA state study, funded by the WA state legislature per the Governor's SRKW Task Force's recommendation, which focuses on economic and social impacts on various stakeholders from breaching, removing or retaining of the LSRDs. The question is why OPALCO board should rush to oppose LSRD removal when the studies of its impacts are under way. Rushing into a decision without waiting for the studies or therefore without best available science and understanding of its consequences is thus imprudent.

3. I think there is much to lose with little to gain

Bonneville Power Administration is the agency tasked with marketing power from federal dams including the LSRDs. Of the 124 public utilities ^[1] (co-ops, PUDs, and MUNIs) served by BPA and thus benefiting from electricity from the LSRDs, only 27 of them have adopted the resolution ^[2]. This means almost 100 public utilities did not make public statements regarding the Lower Snake River Dams. As the only utility with its service territory entirely surrounded by the Salish Sea, OPALCO's membership has the most to lose from threats to salmon and orca survival. Our economy and identity are intimately tied with them. Moreover, we have little to gain. Some utilities by contrast serve members or customers whose livelihood depends on continued operation of the LSRDs to maintain navigational benefits (e.g. wheat transport). OPALCO would be wise to back away from taking a minority controversial position that seems to hurt more than help its membership's interest.

4. There are other cost-effective and low-carbon energy alternatives to power from LSRDs.

As for energy reliability concerns, NW Energy Coalition provided a 4-page analysis that shows there are sufficient clean, cost-effective alternative replacement options if dams were to be removed.

5. This action is inconsistent with the positions and values of the county, the governor and the state legislature.

OPALCO's resolution opposes the stakeholder impact study (calling it "wasteful use of taxpayers money"). This position is not only inconsistent with our values as OPALCO members, but may also be against that of the County Council which supports the need for the study, against the position of the Governor whose office is conducting the study, and against the priority of the state legislature who funded the study. This is a very unpopular position for the OPALCO Board to take for very little obvious gain.

I hope that you will carefully consider how to proceed going forward. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Ande Finley
Lopez Island

[1] <https://www.bpa.gov/news/pubs/GeneralPublications/gi-BPA-Facts.pdf>

[2] https://www.newsdata.com/clearing_up/environment/public-utilities-adopt-resolutions-supporting-snake-river-dams/article_662c45ec-186e-11ea-9f5c-8fb9dc7d0c80.html

Rescind 2-2019 resolution on breaching Snake River dams

annehall@familyhealing.com <annehall@familyhealing.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 1:19 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Dear OPALCO board,

I write urging you to rescind your resolution opposing the removal or breaching of dams on the Lower Snake River.

The depletion of salmon runs by these dams is a leading cause of the die-off of our Southern Resident Killer Whales. The resolution does not represent my view or that of many, perhaps most, co-op members. We want our co-op to seek alternative sources for low-cost low-carbon renewable power that don't harm fish and whales.

Thank you,

Anne Hall

1226 Lopez Rd.,

Lopez Island

360-468-3025

Rescind Resolution 2-2019 regarding Lower Snake River Dams

Ashwini Bartolucci <ashwini.bartolucci7@gmail.com>

Sun 1/12/2020 5:41 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Dear Board Members:

I am a Sophomore at Mills College and I was disappointed to come back to Lopez for Christmas break to find out this piece of news. At college I am learning to stand up for social issues and this is what I am doing now. OPALCO, who is a cooperative and supposed to serve the community did not listen to its members. I was shocked to find this out! In the future, I request that you learn from this fiasco and keep all members of this cooperative informed of all changes.

I am writing to request that the OPALCO Board **rescind the 2-2019 resolution regarding removal of the Lower Snake River dams** (LSRDs). I do not support any resolution that opposes removing or breaching the LSRDs, when there could be alternative sources for reliable and low-cost low-carbon renewable power that don't harm fish.

The OPALCO Board did not adhere to its own principles of engaging with the membership before making such an important controversial decision and this very much concerns me. **We are a member organization.**

The Board did not need to go out of its way to adopt such a resolution at this time. **What is the reasoning behind such a rushed decision**, especially while crucial federal and WA state studies on the LSRDs and their impacts on salmon and orca are funded and underway?

It does not appear that the Board engaged in listening to experts in the field of salmon and orca whales, even though many of these experts reside here in the San Juans. **Why were these experts not consulted before such an important resolution was voted on?**

Investments in cost-effective, low-carbon energy alternatives could replace electricity from the LSRDs without threatening survival of salmon and orcas, yet there seems to have been little discussion or consideration of these investments. Why are these investments not being considered?

I am also concerned that the OPALCO board has taken an unnecessarily antagonistic position against the San Juan County Council who support a stakeholder study on the social and economic impacts of the LSRDs. The Southern Resident Orca Task Force and Governor Inslee both support the study. **Why did the Board take this antagonistic position and rush to pass this resolution without member input?**

In summary, **I am extremely disappointed and upset with the OPALCO Board**, which seems to be acting like a corporate private entity rather than a member organization working for the good of our county.

Please rescind this resolution and **appoint a committee with stakeholders to study this issue** and review the many options available to the Board at this time. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ashwini Bartolucci
4559 Center Road
Lopez Island, WA 98261
Cellphone: 360-622-5153 Home: 468-4383

Please rescind the 2-2019 resolution opposing removal of LSRDs

Brian Rick <brianarick@gmail.com>

Thu 1/9/2020 1:07 AM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

I have recently been made aware of the resolution to oppose the removal on Lower Snake River Dams. I am concerned by this decision and the lack of consultation and transparency in the decision. Though I support the transition away from fossil fuel generated power, we must be able to create sustainable solutions that don't jeopardize the existence of other species.

Please rescind this resolution.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Brian Rick
65 Tuatara Rd
Lopez Island
.

Rescinding the resolution

Cass Clark <cwhitingclark@gmail.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 8:06 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

As an OPALCO's member, I respectfully request that the resolution opposing removal of the Lower Snake River Dams be rescinded.

Cassandra Clark

Lopez Island

13 January 2020

Sent via email to contacttheboard@opalco.com

RE: Request for consideration to rescind the OPALCO Resolution 2-2019 “Supporting the Federal Columbia River Power System, Recognizing its Role in Environmental Stewardship, and Opposing Removal of the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs)”

Dear OPALCO Board of Directors,

I am writing to request that the Board rescind the Resolution 2-2019.

I attended the OPALCO Board meeting on September 19th, 2019 at Lopez Firehall when the board considered adopting the resolution. At the meeting, I raised questions and concerns as well as voiced my objections to the board adopting the resolution. As a lone dissenting voice in the room, my objections were overruled. The Board adopted the resolution as proposed in the board packet.

I also attended the OPALCO Board meeting on December 1X, 2019 along with almost 20 other concerned members/owners and experts. We expressed overwhelming concerns and objections to the adopted resolution and requested that the board reconsider its decision. The board agreed to reconsider the resolution at the next boarding.

I am grateful that the board is responding to its members. As the board deliberates whether to rescind the resolution at its next meeting on January 3rd, 2020, I would like to request in writing that the board rescind the Resolution 2-2019.

The problem I see with the resolution is that the board:

- 1) did not adhere to OPALCO’s own principle of democratic member control--engaging its membership to participate in such an important controversial decision as adopting this resolution;
- 2) did not need to go out of its way to adopt such a resolution (only 27 utilities out of 124 public utilities served by the Bonneville Power Administration, the marketer of electricity from the LSRDs, adopted the resolution);
- 3) did not need to rush into the decision while crucial federal and WA state studies on the LSRDs and their impacts on salmon and orca are underway;
- 4) did not consult with leading experts and scientists in the field of salmon and orca whales, many of whom reside here in the San Juans;
- 5) did not seriously consider that investments in cost-effective, low-carbon energy alternatives could replace electricity from the LSRDs without threatening survival of salmon and orcas;
- 6) did not represent well the interests of its membership base—there is no other utility whose membership’s geography, way of life, economy and identity are more interconnected with the well-being of the salmon and orcas than OPALCO;
- 7) by opposing the WA stakeholder engagement study on social and economic impacts of the LSRDs calling it “wasteful use of taxpayers’ money” took an unnecessarily

antagonistic position against the San Juan County Council who supports the need for the study, against the Southern Resident Orca Task Force who recommended the study, against the Governor Inslee whose office undertakes the study, and against the WA State Legislature who funded the study.

8) does not need to squander the hard-earned trust and social/political capital OPALCO has with its members, the county and other levels of government this way. The board has a much bigger fish to fry and could use all the trust and social capital it can get to, for example, persuade members to embrace anticipated rate hikes so OPALCO has the resources necessary to replace aging cables and shift drastically from 1% to 50% local generation in roughly a decade in light of BPA's contract coming to an end in 2028.

I hope the board makes the right decision for the long-term benefits of its owners/members. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Chom Greacen, Lopez Island

Lower Snake River Dams - Economics

Chuck Schietinger <cschietinger@outlook.com>

Fri 1/10/2020 3:04 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Lower Snake River Dams and OPALCO

January 10, 2020

Written by Charles Schietinger, Physicist, 783 Ferry Road, Lopez Island

The lower Snake River dams (Ice Harbor Dam, Lower Monumental Dam, Little Goose Dam, and Lower Granite Dam) **need to be removed purely for economic reasons**. These four dams would be removed if they were being operated by a for profit corporation and not the BPA, part of the federal power agency which is \$15 billion in debt.

Yes, removing the dams would certainly help our local Southern Resident Orca Whales and runs of both Chinook and Steelhead Salmon. However, from a pure economic basis the dams should be removed. Removing these dams will improve (lower) the electric rates in the region. [1] I could easily include many more studies and references showing that the removal is the correct economic decision, but I want to encourage the board to read at least the one reference cited.

I strongly encourage the OPALCO board to do their homework and learn that the removal of these dams is in our long-term economic interest independent of the considerable environmental benefits.

Reference:

1. **The new weapon in the push to remove dams: Economics**, Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E News reporter Wednesday, October 23, 2019, https://www.eenews.net/special_reports/bloodbath/stories/1061355907

Re: please rescind the resolution 2-2019.

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Tue 1/7/2020 6:51 PM

To: Ellen Winter <ellenbwinter@gmail.com>

Hi Ellen,

Thank you and know this will be sent on to the Board.

Kelly

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 7, 2020, at 6:48 PM, Ellen Winter <ellenbwinter@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Dear Opalco board, I am writing to urge you to rescind resolution 2-2019. Let's leave our options open to breach the 4 Snake River dams or take them down to allow chinook salmon to reach the

> Columbia and the Salish Sea to provide food for the Southern Resident Orca whales. There is a lot of new technology being developed lately to store energy that does not involve using dams.

> Yours Truly,

> Ellen Winter, Orcas Island, Washington 9245

LSRD

Irene Skyriver <isky@rockisland.com>

Thu 1/9/2020 10:34 AM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Greetings Board Members,

I urge you as a Lopez resident, Salish Sea resident, Earth resident, please make the right decisions for our whale and salmon and the children of the future. Support the dam removal.

I've lived at the edge of these waters for over 65 years (40 of them here on Lopez). I'm no scientist but I can clearly see that the Salish Sea has become a barren, lifeless body of water. Does this fact not shock you?

Should any of us waste one more minute? Every effort possible must be made to apply CPR to this dying body of water? Every step in the chain causing the imbalance of the ecosystem must be addressed ASAP.

Please back us, your members - as well as the Salish Sea!

Irene Skyriver

January 14, 2020

Dear OPALCO Board,

I was at the OPALCO Open House in Eastsound in October where the scary graph extrapolating the electricity demand for the next decades was displayed. I want you to know that I understand why our electricity supply must be made “firm”. I get it.

I was the person who suggested that energy storage options, such as hydrogen made from renewable energy sources, might become viable in the future. I have since learned that hydrogen gas is very corrosive and, of course, it is potentially explosive. Despite these difficulties, I remain optimistic that energy storage options will become available at utility scale. There is Highview’s 50 Mega Watt CRYO Battery that will be installed in Vermont*. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has a project that will incorporate technology to create, store, and utilize green hydrogen to make electricity at sites with existing wind turbine and or solar cell facilities.

As a scientist and a geek for renewable energy technologies, I am fascinated by this. I know the time to when this will be a cost-effective option is unpredictable. I understand, also, that we need to accelerate our community’s transition to much greater energy efficiency so as to reduce the slope of the scary projected electricity demand curve.

This is all an introduction as to why I am asking you to rescind Resolution 2-2019 that opposes removal of the Lower Snake River dams. If you stop antagonizing the Orcas Women’s Coalition, we can work together to accelerate our community’s transition to much greater energy efficiency and more quickly reduce the slope of the scary projected electricity demand curve.

I have some ideas for more effectively communicating with our members about the benefits of OPALCO’s programs such as Step-It-Up and incentives for energy-saving options. As I said, I am a scientist. It took me years before I was finally convinced by an artist friend that data will not persuade people. What works is a compelling narrative or story.

For example, it has been obvious to me for over 40 years that the accumulation of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is a problem that must be addressed. But not until 2019, when Greta Thunberg burst into our global consciousness, did millions of people come together from all over our planet to demand change. Greta said, “Listen to the scientists”, but it was her story that captured people’s attention. OPALCO needs stories from individual members that describe how OPALCO’s offerings have changed their life for the better. OPALCO needs photographs of our members who have used OPALCO’s programs and actual quotes from these members. These are the stories that will capture the attention of our general membership and accelerate our transition to renewable electricity firmed by storage that we can all support.

In conclusion, I ask you to rescind OPALCO Resolution 2-2019 so that OPALCO can work with the Orcas Women's Coalition towards our common goals instead of wasting time and energy arguing over a resolution that was lobbied for by a fossil fuel interests-backed entity, NRECA.

Janet Alderton
Deer Harbor
OPALCO member since 2003

*Highview Power's proprietary CRYOBattery technology utilizes air, which is cooled, stored as a liquid, then converted back to gas to drive a turbine which produces electricity. This is the only long-duration energy storage solution available today that can provide up to weeks of energy storage, can be scaled to grid-sized capacity, has no geographic constraints, and uses no exotic metals or harmful chemicals. Highview Power enables critical operations for utilities and independent power producers by delivering the lowest cost clean energy storage solution for large scale, long-duration applications.

Kelly Koral

From: Jennifer De Groot <degroot_jennifer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Kelly Koral; Kelly Koral
Subject: Please rescind Resolution

Please add my name to the list of OPALCO members requesting the Board rescind Resolution 2-2019 "Supporting the Federal Columbia River Power System, Recognizing its role in Environmental Stewardship, and Opposing the Removal of the Lower Snake River Dams".

I am an OPALCO member, a fish biologist, and an Orcas Women's Coalition member.

I do not believe this resolution was passed with sufficient public involvement from the membership and I strongly disagree with the intent of this resolution opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams. OPALCO's resolution maintains the status quo and does not go far enough to protect our salmon stocks on the Columbia River and our endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales. Please rescind this resolution.

Thank you.
Jenny

Jenny De Groot
290 Mount Woolard Road
Eastsound, WA 98245
360 376-4013

Lower Snake River Dams

Jerry Leone <leoneranger@comcast.net>

Wed 1/1/2020 3:25 PM

To: ConnectWithFoster <ConnectWithFoster@opalco.com>; 'BrianLSilverstein' <brianlsilverstein@gmail.com>

Cc: info@orcawomenscoalition.org <info@orcawomenscoalition.org>

 1 attachments (895 KB)

EnergyGPS Review of NWECC 2018 LSRD Replacement Study.pdf;

As an OPALCO ratepayer, I send you my response to the Board's ongoing discussions, and Resolution 2-2019, regarding the four Lower Snake River dams.

Those dams have both upstream and downstream passage and are not blocking habitat access as some claim. The true blockage is the result of Idaho Power Company's Hells Canyon, three-dam complex, none of which contain any fish passage measures whatsoever. For some reason, this complex has escaped scrutiny for its contribution to the salmon situation.

Over the past 20 years, the fish population has increased significantly, while Orca numbers have declined. Even if more salmon come downriver through the Lower Snake River dams (and of course below Hells Canyon dams), this will not save Orcas. Indeed, some of the logic supporting dam removal – more fish equals more Orcas – is faulty because fish numbers have improved while Orca numbers have waned. Solutions are much closer to home:

- Banning all salmon fishing in Puget Sound;
- Controlling pesticides and other human-caused chemical inputs;
- Reducing container ship traffic by reopening the container ports in Portland/Vancouver; and
- Opposing the proposed new natural gas export facility in British Columbia.

Combined, all these actions can be implemented years earlier than removal of the Lower Snake River dams. The controversy over dam removal is diverting a great deal of attention and money away from the important task of saving the iconic whales.

I commend the Board for Resolution 2-2019 and for the Board's wide-ranging, thoughtful consideration of the many matters surrounding a clean, reliable power supply vis-à-vis a healthy ecosystem. If helpful, I believe that either Brian Silverstein or I could arrange for an acknowledged BPA expert (Scott Bettin) to address, in person or via cyberspace, these issues.

In case you have not seen them, attached is a comprehensive, 25-page critical review of a NW Energy Coalition study; below is an excellent opinion piece by a member of the *Clearing Up* staff:

Clearing Up [November 15, 2019 / No. 1928]

Where Have All the Fact Checkers Gone?

As a journalist, it's very disheartening to see how science gets misreported or misrepresented--or just plain missed--when national media jumps in to cover a complicated issue, like the reasons for low salmon and steelhead returns to the Snake River. Disheartening because these are the folks at the top of my field--among the best paid, with access to the best resources. I presume The New York Times, CNN and Harper's Magazine all have fact checkers. But I've been left to wonder if they were all on vacation in September and October.

The three media giants are among a larger group of major media recently enticed by what appears to be a growing momentum to take out four major dams on the Snake River. The New York Times and CNN link that momentum to the lack of prey that endangered orcas are facing. Harper's focuses on issues with hatcheries.

The three stories displayed different kinds of errors that somehow got past the fact checkers. It's a complex story, to be sure; but as a reporter, I submit that their No. 1 job is to get the facts straight.

This [CNN report](#) by Bill Weir and Rachel Clarke, titled "How a dead whale gave new life to the debate over dams in the Pacific Northwest," was generally balanced—but the broadcast version starts out with a basic error. "Fewer salmon are surviving the heroic swim from open ocean to spawning streams hundreds of miles inland," Weir states. As NOAA spokesman Michael Milstein told me, "We have graphs in the BiOp that show upstream migration has increased over the last decade. That is fundamental." Indeed, the BiOp shows adult migration survival rates for Snake River spring-summer Chinook traveling from Bonneville to Lower Granite Dam over the last decade have ranged from 82 to 94 percent, and from 78 to 94 percent for Snake River steelhead. The problem is that not enough of them are coming back from the ocean, leaving scientists to look more closely at juvenile survival and ocean conditions.

But aside from basic errors, there are examples of general statements made as if they are well-known facts, with no attribution. Some of the most egregious come from New York Times reporter Jim Robbins, in [his story](#), "How long before these salmon are gone? Maybe 20 years."

Writing about Columbia Basin salmon and Snake River dams, he states, "The massive efforts have not stemmed the decline, despite the fact that more than \$16 billion has been spent on recovery over the last several decades. Now most scientists come down on the side of removing the dams."

What? Where did that come from? I've been covering this issue for almost two years now, and I have no idea how to even get a tally of scientific opinion on dam removal. To be sure, there have been letters signed by dozens of scientists calling for removing the dams. But that doesn't even begin to account for the hundreds of scientists involved in salmon recovery, not to mention climate change or other academic fields.

I asked John Harrison—a former reporter who has worked for the Northwest Power and Conservation Council for decades—about the statement. He's not aware of any surveys. He also pointed to the prior sentence, the oft-repeated figure of \$16 billion spent over the last 40 years, and still no fish have been delisted. But how do we know that these efforts have not helped? It's quite possible that without the attempt, Snake River sockeye or another Columbia Basin run would be extinct by now. As Harrison notes, "The sentence seems based on the old and tired assumption that if you spend a lot of money on a problem it will go away." It tells nothing of the major changes over the last 40 years. Harrison notes that "runs are cyclical and will vary based on a huge number of impacts." The figure is also misleading as it includes BPA's forgone revenue of \$3.42 billion, and power purchases of \$4.36 billion.

I wrote to both CNN and the New York Times to point out these statements and asked to speak with the reporters. So far, I've gotten an automatic reply from the Times stating that they will correct any errors, but they may not notify me when that happens.

Here's another blanket statement I pointed out in my email to the Times:

"The four Snake River dams are used primarily to create reservoirs for the barging of Idaho's wheat to ports. But the dams raise water temperatures and block travel migration routes, increasing fish mortality."

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the four dams are multiple-use facilities that provide navigation, hydropower, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. I would venture that for most of us in the Pacific Northwest, the capacity to generate over 3,000 MW, or the 1,000 aMW that the dams provide in clean, renewable energy, is at least a primary function. And according to the Corps, because of their location, size and ability to help meet peak power loads, the four dams are also key to keeping the system reliable and help support the fluctuating energy generated by wind.

The dams do raise water temperatures at critical migration times, according to EPA studies; but they can also hold back colder water for later use. The issue of how much dams increase water temperatures compared with climate change is its own debate, and one that will likely be analyzed in an upcoming environmental impact statement on Columbia River System Operations in the alternative that looks at removing the dams.

But do the dams block migration routes? Webster's Dictionary defines the verb, to block, as "To obstruct so as to prevent passage or progress," or "To cause (any activity) to halt by creating an obstruction." The dams simply do not block passage or fish migration, either upstream or downstream. This is a basic fact about these dams. They all have fish ladders and juvenile migration routes, and the Corps has done a lot of work to improve passage rates—another subject that merits its own story.

These blanket statements made me question other elements of the story. It says that wild fish are much bigger and more lipid-rich, and therefore much more important to orcas. This idea has since been repeated in other media, so I wanted to get to the bottom of it. I already knew from covering this issue that, according to NOAA Fisheries, as far as researchers can determine, orcas do not distinguish between hatchery and wild fish. The orca task force, which thoroughly examined the issue, recommended vastly increasing the production of hatchery Chinook.

So I talked to Laurie Weitkamp, a research fisheries biologist at NOAA's Northwest Science Center. She said compared with wild fish, hatchery fish are actually more lipid-rich when they are released into the stream as juveniles because their diets have a much higher fat content. "Then they go to the ocean, eat the exact same thing, and increase their weight by 99 percent and then they're more or less identical" in terms of lipid content, she said. There's no indication that orcas prefer wild fish, or that they benefit more by eating wild fish, she said.

A much larger factor for orcas is the size of the fish that they're eating, as it takes energy to catch either one. And while hatchery fish tend to be "a little smaller" than wild fish, the bigger factor is that, over time, all salmon have gotten smaller--wild and hatchery, Chinook, chum, coho and sockeye. The reasons for their declining size are not clear, she said, but there are theories that fishing pressure, and possibly net size, removes the larger salmon and leaves the smaller ones to reproduce.

Now, let's look at **Harper's story**, "The \$68,000 Fish: The future of salmon in the Pacific Northwest," written by Patrick Symmes. Here's a story that reads more like an opinion piece, although it's not labeled as one. It's written in first person, by an author who clearly wants to blame hatcheries, along with dams, for the current troubles that Snake River salmon and steelhead are experiencing.

Still, an opinion piece must be grounded in fact; otherwise, how can you make a sound argument? This article includes some outright errors in fact. After seeing a female sockeye in the Salmon River, he states, "If a male had made the same journey, and could find her, they would send hundreds of thousands of tiny smolts downstream in the spring." Wow. Let's find that magic male! Since a female sockeye lays between 2,000 and 5,000 eggs, that would be quite a feat.

It also includes some misleading errors--enough to prompt Harrison to write to Harper's.

As Harrison notes, there are many geographical impossibilities in Symmes' journey. But to me, the bigger issue is the \$68,000 figure--a fact prominently displayed in the headline, and later attributed to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council. But the figure didn't come from the Council. Harrison tracked its likely source back to a 2002 report to the Council from an independent panel of economists. Quoting the report, he emailed, "The costs per harvested hatchery fish ranged from \$23 for Priest Rapids fall chinook to \$55 per Spring Creek fall chinook, to \$453 for Irrigon hatchery summer steelhead to \$1,051 for McCall summer chinook, to \$4,800-\$68,031 at the Leavenworth hatchery complex." As Harrison pointed out, Symmes' \$68,000 figure appears to come from an estimate made 17 years ago at a hatchery more than 300 miles away from the fish that the author jumped over a fence in Idaho to see. The McCall hatchery is actually much closer, but who wants to read about a \$1,051 fish? Harrison noted that the author "clearly had an agenda about hatcheries and dams." And even if a call from a fact checker would not have changed the tone of the article or its conclusions, it could have at least helped to get some of the facts right.

Harrison said he hasn't heard back from Symmes, but an editor did tell him that the fact checker assigned to this story was new on the job. He encouraged Harrison to write a letter to the editor--with a strict word limit--to correct the errors. Oh, where does one begin? **[K.C. Mehaffey]**

re: OPALCO's responsibility to Coop members

Kai Sanburn <kaisanburn@gmail.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 8:13 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Hello,

I'm writing about the decision of OPALCO to adopt a resolution opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams, bypassing discussions with it's member in making that decision.

Support for removal of the dams comes from across the spectrum and is one of the most consequential actions that can be taken to restore salmon runs and in that way, support the vulnerable souther resident orcas. Survival of the orca is a powerful issue in our county, and among your members. Making this decision without broader input betrays the basis of the Co-op.

Please rescind the resolution, until concerns of the community can be heard.

there are other ways.

thank you

Kai Sanburn,

Lopez Island

FW: Please rescind 2-2019

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Thu 1/9/2020 2:26 PM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

From: Karin Roemers-Kleven <KRK@comprehensive-healthcare.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 2:01 PM

To: Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Subject: Please rescind 2-2019

To the members of the Board;

I was present at the December Board meeting and plan to be more involved in Opalco over time. Thank you for allowing all of us to speak. Unfortunately I cannot make the January 23 meeting. I am writing to you in lieu of input on that day.

As a SJC citizen and member/owner of OPALCO I am in full support of the group's expressed concerns. The most important one is that 2-2019 was accepted without member/owner input and due process that would be consistent with the Cooperative's mission. The statement was mostly language submitted by BPA via a person who registers as a lobbyist. OPALCO staff then added some language to make it somewhat relative to our County. I do not feel that that paragraph was enough and reflected the interests of me and fellow members/owners.

San Juan County is unusual in that it has a lot of citizens that choose to live here because of its water bound terrain. We have more shore line than other counties and people here are in tune with nature and particularly the Southern Resident Killer Whales. After all, it was here where people saw Tahlequah carry her dead baby on her head for 17 days. It was here that we witnessed the decline of little spunky 2 year old Scarlet who withered away in front of our eyes. It was here that no less than 10 international movie crews stationed for weeks to film them and where Lynda Mapes from the Seattle Times wrote her international award winning series on the extinction we witness. It is here where we are at ground zero of an extinction in process.

But all that fanfare aside, it is here in San Juan County where the most esteemed marine scientists live or visit. They study the whales, their prey (Chinook, Coho, and Chum salmon) and salmon habitat. Juvenile salmon use our waters as a nursery where they can grow larger and stronger before heading to the ocean for the next 3-4 years of their lives. The collective knowledge here is deep and the interest to protect what we love is even deeper. The Board did not tap into any of these thought leaders to see if BPA's position paper was something that would ever reflect the interests of its owners. BPA creates energy, OPALCO brings it to us. It makes you energy experts. You should have tapped into the esteemed fish and whale experts to make a truly balanced decision that members can support.

Besides an exhaustive list of whale experts (including Giles who was at the meeting) the County has Byron Rott, who is a marine and fish scientist and who has served SJC as the Lead Entity protecting salmonids as part of the Marine Resources Committee of which I am the current Chair. The MRC (and many other organizations on the islands) has a lot of knowledge about salmon and we have invested much time and energy in restoration of habitat. We get the grants and we find the projects with the most merit and then we monitor the implementation of the project. I know (and I speak as a citizen to you) what it takes to create more salmon. From the day someone has an idea to actual implementation it takes roughly 10 years. Because habitat restoration takes so long we need to invest in all facets of marine environment protection and we need all options on the table including the breaching (not the removal) of the 4 Lower Snake River Dams. While that fish will never come here in our waters it will supply the larger PNW system with a revitalized resource able to produce fish currently not available in the range of the SRKWs.

The Governor created a SRKW task force. That multi agency group is about to review the EIS that was funded by the state specifically to consider all the pros and cons of dam removal and BPA strategically undermined that process by making you and other Cooperatives support their agenda. Therefore I request you rescind 2-2019. It is vital that OPALCO is not part of the special interests that want to preserve a system that has failed nature.

The Southern Resident Killer Whales are an apex species. They are on top of the food chain and are affected the most by our pollutants, by our noise, and by our over-fishing. As fish eaters they are affected the most by the decline of their main prey and it is our collective duty to do whatever we can to fix what we have destroyed. The dams are only one part of that solution. We have to do this not because the whales are beautiful and mesmerizing but because their demise reflects what is going on in the Salish Sea. If our marine environment is not a balanced ecosystem we humans cannot be healthy either and eventually our kids and grandkids are left to deal with the horrific consequences of today's decisions. Again, please rescind 2-2019 and allow the Task force and the State to go through the democratic process.

Respectfully,

Karin Roemers-Kleven
Call or text: 253-820-3397
Friday Harbor

Re: Please help protect orcas

keara a <keara.a@outlook.com>

Thu 1/9/2020 6:56 PM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

Hi Krista,

I have read the Board packet--thank you.

I was glad to hear elsewhere that this resolution is being reexamined.

I wish I could attend the Opalco board meeting, but like most of the non-economic-elite Opalco members, I have to work during the week.

Moving board meetings to the weekend would be an excellent show of good faith that the board actually wants input from Opalco members. Until then I guess the retired and rich will be attending.

Thanks,
keara

----- Reply message -----

From: "Krista Bouchey" <kbouchey@opalco.com>

To: "keara a" <keara.a@outlook.com>

Subject: Please help protect orcas

Date: Mon, Dec 23, 2019 8:34 AM

Thank you - we have received your letter. We share your concern for the health of our sea and the whales.

Please be sure to review the latest information regarding this topic in our December Board Packet. Pages 28-46 outlines the information and research the board used. https://www.opalco.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/December-2019-Board-Materials_FINAL-1.pdf

Our board meetings are typically the third Thursday of each month. They are public meetings where member comment is welcome. Each month we publish the agenda and board materials on the Monday prior to meeting. We always strongly encourage member participation. Please check our calendar for the board meetings schedule and stay tuned for the follow up meeting regarding this topic. <https://www.opalco.com/calendar/>

Thank you,
Krista Bouchey

From: keara a <keara.a@outlook.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 22, 2019 10:39 AM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Subject: Please help protect orcas

I am writing to strongly urge the OPALCO board to rescind Resolution 2-2019 in support of keeping the Lower Snake River Dams.

As a member of OPALCO, I am troubled that you adopted this resolution without input from your members, and apparently failed to take into account that removing the dams is the last, best shot we have at saving the resident orcas.

I appreciate the need for clean energy, and that this includes hydroelectric energy. But in this case the cost of keeping these dams thereby killing salmon is just too great.

I also appreciate your staff's expertise, but don't believe it surpasses that of the 55 scientists who wrote in favor of removing the dams to protect wildlife I the letter attached here.

Please vote to rescind this resolution.

Thank you,
Keara Axelrod

Fwd: Rescind OPALCO resolution regarding Snake River Dams

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Sun 1/12/2020 10:36 AM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

I only have my phone..... I can't upload to Dropbox . Can you help? I'll reply to each one.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kenneth Balcomb III <kenbalcomb@gmail.com>

Date: January 11, 2020 at 11:40:11 AM PST

To: Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Subject: Rescind OPALCO resolution regarding Snake River Dams

I wish to add my vote in favor of **rescinding** the ill-advised resolution by the OPALCO Board of Directors to adopt an anti-dam removal posture in the consideration for our energy future. Truthful representation of the issue to the OPALCO cooperative members is a necessary starting point for this discussion, and that did not occur. Rescind and start fresh!

Ken Balcomb

LSRD

Kirman Taylor <kirmant@gmail.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 8:22 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

It appears OPALCO might have been hasty in passing a resolution "which opposes the removal of the LSRDs and opposes further studies on this issue, considering them "a wasteful use of taxpayer money."

Why wouldn't you wish to hear the results of the EIS before acting?

It suggests that by truncating the process OPALCO has something to hide from its members. This sort of thing needs vetting at the member level.

Let's be open and communicative. We are a Co-op, not a private corporation. You should always refer to your members about major policies.

Thanks for your consideration,

Kirman Taylor
Lopez Island

Rescind Resolution 2-2019 regarding Lower Snake River Dams

Liz Scranton <cwf@rockisland.com>

Thu 1/9/2020 8:59 AM

To: **ContactTheBoard** <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Cc: jamies@co.san-juan.wa.us <jamies@co.san-juan.wa.us>

Dear Board Members:

I am writing to request that the OPALCO Board **rescind the 2-2019 resolution regarding removal of the Lower Snake River dams** (LSRDs). I do not support any resolution that opposes removing or breaching the LSRDs, when there could be alternative sources for reliable and low-cost low-carbon renewable power that don't harm fish.

The OPALCO Board did not adhere to its own principles of engaging with the membership before making such an important controversial decision and this very much concerns me. **We are a member organization.**

The Board did not need to go out of its way to adopt such a resolution at this time. **What is the reasoning behind such a rushed decision**, especially while crucial federal and WA state studies on the LSRDs and their impacts on salmon and orca are funded and underway?

It does not appear that the Board engaged in listening to experts in the field of salmon and orca whales, even though many of these experts reside here in the San Juans. **Why were these experts not consulted before such an important resolution was voted on?**

Investments in cost-effective, low-carbon energy alternatives could replace electricity from the LSRDs without threatening survival of salmon and orcas, yet there seems to have been little discussion or consideration of these investments. Why are these investments not being considered?

I am also concerned that the OPALCO board has taken an unnecessarily antagonistic position against the San Juan County Council who support a stakeholder study on the social and economic impacts of the LSRDs. The Southern Resident Orca Task Force and Governor Inslee both support the study. **Why did the Board take this antagonistic position and rush to pass this resolution without member input?**

In summary, **I am extremely disappointed and upset with the OPALCO Board**, which seems to be acting like a corporate private entity rather than a member organization working for the good of our county.

Please rescind this resolution and **appoint a committee with stakeholders to study this issue** and review the many options available to the Board at this time.

Sincerely,
Liz Scranton
4559 Center Road
Lopez Island, WA 98261
360-622-9299 or 468-4383

--

Liz Scranton
Custom Wood Finishes

Our endangered salmon and orcas

Lorna Reese <lornareese@gmail.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 5:44 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Good morning, Opalco

Our endangered salmon and orca whales need our support so I'm asking the OPALCO board to rescind your 2-2019 resolution opposing dam removal. We do not want our collective voices on a resolution that opposes removing or breaching the LSRDs, when there could be alternative sources for reliable and low-cost low-carbon renewable power that don't harm fish.

Thank you for listening.

Love and blessings,
(I sign all email this way.)

Lorna

--

Welcome each moment as though you had chosen it. - Eckhart Tolle

Lorna Reese
Lopez Island, WA 98261

FW: New request from Main Contact Form

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Mon 1/6/2020 2:22 PM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

From: no-reply=opalco.com@mail.wpengine.com <no-reply=opalco.com@mail.wpengine.com> **On Behalf Of** no-reply@opalco.com

Sent: Monday, January 6, 2020 1:45 PM

To: Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Subject: New request from Main Contact Form

Recipient

Contact the Board

Name

Mary Gropp

Email

marygropp10@gmail.com

Phone

(360) 376-6835

Comment

Dear members of the OPALCO Board,

I am writing to express my concern about Resolution 2-2019, which states OPALCO's opposition to removal of the Lower Snake River dams. First, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the OPALCO organization for forward thinking and aggressive planning to address the need to reduce our carbon footprint in electricity production. I acknowledge that hydro power has a very low carbon footprint, compared to some other electricity producing options. However, I feel that in passing this resolution opposing breaching or removal of the LSRDs does not represent the opinion of many of your constituents. Instead, the Board seems to have approved a resolution which was handed to them by WRECA, without asking for input on this very sensitive local issue. The Resolution includes claims that the salmon populations are thriving, and that the dams can remain, and that we can have healthy fish and orca whale populations. Studies exist to support these findings, but you can also find verifiable studies and statements from scientists in the field which would contradict that positive outlook.

Governor Inslee is currently conducting a stakeholder study on the future of the LSRDs. A new EIS is out early this year. The OPALCO board should not have weighed in on this issue until the results of this process are on the table. By signing in agreement with WRECA, you give them permission to use our Cooperative's name and geographical location in their support of the dams in lobbying efforts to keep the dams in place.

I ask that the Board rescind this resolution. If you doubt the support of your cooperative membership on this issue, please take it upon yourselves to poll the members, or at least to hold a public forum to take input and discussion.

Thank you,

Mary Gropp

13 January 2020

Sent via email to kkoral@opalco.com

RE: OPALCO Board of Directors Resolution 2-2019 Supporting the Federal Columbia River Power System, Recognizing its role in Environmental Stewardship, and Opposing Removal of the Lower Snake River Dams

Dear OPALCO Board Members:

According to OPALCO's December 23rd press release, "The Board agreed to put the brakes on Resolution 2-2019 until they can revisit the issues with greater collaboration from the membership." Using the phrase "putting the brakes on" is meaningless as long as the Board allows the resolution to stand. We again ask you to formally rescind this resolution at the January 23rd Board meeting.

There are at least two (2) compelling reasons the board needs to immediately rescind:

- Violation of the Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control
- Lack of due diligence / allowing influence by lobbyists with motives contrary to member interests

1. Violation of the Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control

Democratic Member Control is one of seven (7) Cooperative Principles that OPALCO ascribes to in its values statement. According to the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), this principle is described as *"Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their Members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership."*

After the December 19th OPALCO meeting, Sandi was told by an OPALCO staff member that Democratic Member Control was NOT violated with the passing of this resolution because OPALCO believes that democratic control simply means that members elect directors.

If this statement is accurate, and OPALCO staff and Board believe that elections are the limit of members' democratic power, then it's time that Staff, the Board (and the members!) become educated on the true meaning of the principles and values of a cooperative. To aid that education, we attach *Guidance Notes to the Co-Operative Principles* by the [International Cooperative Alliance \(ICA\)](#). Please refer to page 15 in the Guidance Notes (**Enclosure #1** in attachments to this letter), which includes the following:

"Democracy is also not just linked to voting in elections and general assemblies... In democratic systems there is a spectrum of democratic engagement: from representative democracy through the election of representatives every few years, through deliberative democracy on major issues, to participatory democracy with continuous engagement of members in day to day decision-making. Co-operatives tend towards the deliberative and participatory end of the democratic spectrum. Members should be engaged in proposing and approving key strategic policy decisions and regularly, in general assembly, holding elected representatives on boards or committees and senior executives to account... The defining characteristic of a democratic organization is that its members are the ultimate authority. This sentence emphasizes that members ultimately control their co-operative. It also stresses that they do so actively in a democratic manner, through having the right to vote on key strategic policy decisions and to participate in electing the representatives who control their co-operative's day-to-day business activities."

Clearly, Resolution 2-2019 rises to the level of a key strategic policy decision and its unilateral adoption by the Board violates the Cooperative Principle of Democratic Member Control. Just for this reason alone, 2-2019 needs to be rescinded immediately, at the January 23rd Board meeting.

2. Lack of due diligence / Allowing influence by lobbyists with motives contrary to our interests

In August 2019, the lobbying group Washington Rural Electric Cooperative Association (WRECA) asked its member utilities to pass resolutions opposing the removal of the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs). WRECA provided a sample resolution to OPALCO, which staff then distributed at the August Board meeting (Staff did not include the sample resolution in the August meeting materials for the Board's advance review.) Though a formal vote wasn't taken at the August meeting, it's clear from the minutes that the Board made the decision to adopt the resolution in principle at that time because staff was merely directed to move forward with revising it, presumably to add language reflecting our unique position in the Salish Sea. Neither staff nor board members were asked to find more data, seek out experts or further examine statements made in WRECA's proposed resolution. The ultimate resolution that the Board adopted in September was ≈95% boilerplate language included in WRECA in sample resolutions. (See **Enclosure #2**, in attachments to this letter, of Resolution 2-2019 with yellow highlights indicating copied text from sample resolutions.)

Through our subsequent research, we've been able draw clear proof that OPALCO's passing of this resolution was part of an orchestrated industry strategy to keep the Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs) at any cost or consequence amidst scientific evidence of the dams' impact on endangered species. Further, it was purposefully sequenced to weigh in on the February 2020 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) before it's released. The goal is to divert attention away from any evidence that supports removing the LSRDs. By and large, the lobbyists and their chief supporters are seeking to protect the non-hydro benefits of the LSRDs, and some groups have gone so far as made attempts to shut the case once-and-for-all by advocating for removing the affected endangered fish from protection of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Here are some telling actions, beginning after May 2016 when a Federal judge for the fifth time over 20 years rejected the government's plan to protect salmon in the Columbia River Basin:

- November 2016 [Irrigators in Eastern WA ask president-elect Trump to invoke the God Squad to exempt the endangered salmon](#). The God Squad is a little-used provision of the Endangered Species Act, allowing the heads of several federal agencies to decide to lift ESA protections.
- 2017 NW River Partners (NWRP) present the God Squad option at a WRECA conference
- 2018 NW River Partners/WRECA/PNGC lobby for HR 3144 – Branded by some as the 'Dam Protection Bill' and others as the 'Salmon Extinction Act', this bill introduced by Cathy McMorris Rogers aimed to overturn two U.S. District court decisions that ruled federal hydropower management plans were illegal for violating the ESA and risking the extinction of wild salmon with their operations.
- June 2019 NW River Partners Presentation at WRECA annual meeting lays out a "Hearts and Minds" campaign to sway opinion in favor of keeping the dams in time for public comment on the EIS: *"It is our goal to connect with new audiences and increase the favorability of hydropower to ensure a positive outcome when the public comment period opens. In February of 2020, the EIS will be released and the public comment period will begin. This is a crucial time for Northwest RiverPartners to have public opinion in our favor and be able to encourage them to participate in public comment."*

In addition to a new website, logo, social media campaign, consistent press releases and lobbying in DC, planned themes to be used in the NWRP campaign include:

- Repeating hydro's role in combating climate change (but obviously excluding any mention of other renewables that can also combat climate change without harming fish)
- Showcasing the efforts and large dollars spent on protecting salmon (no mention of the overall demise of wild stocks due to the dams)
- This exact quote: *"Shifting the conversation away from hydro (relieving negative attention towards dams) by discussing what the public can and should be doing to help salmon"*
- *"tie Snake River Dams to the overall hydro system"* (i.e. they do NOT want the LSRDs examined on their own merits)

These same campaign tactics are employed in OPALCO's Resolution 02-2019 as well as the 13-page LSRD Overview provided to us on December 9th. (Note: It does not escape our attention that though OPALCO staff compiled the LSRD Overview in December in response to a November 20th letter by the Orcas Women's Coalition's Environmental Action Team, in December Foster Hildreth describes the Overview in a memo to the Board as a "study [that] was the basis for the Board's resolution on the Lower Snake River Dams in September 2019".)

The June 2019 NWRP presentation took place after the Clean Energy Transportation Act (CETA) was passed. Nowhere in the NWRP presentation materials to their members do they mention a projected shortfall of energy supply and/or that the LSRDs are crucial components to the Columbia River Power System. That's because NW River Partners represents large corporate farms, ports, barging companies, businesses, and utilities w/transportation-dependent customers who want to keep the status quo LSRDs in place for economic/transportation reasons. This is not surprising because the creation of navigable waterways was actually the primary reason the dams were constructed in the first place – not for hydropower, and prior to their construction it was predicted that the dams would destroy native salmon stocks:

State of Washington Dept. of Fisheries

Annual Report for 1949

Arthur B. Langlie, Governor

Alvin Anderson, Director of Fisheries

Lower Snake River Dams

Another serious threat to the Columbia river fishery is the proposed construction by the US Army Corps of Engineers of Ice Harbor and three other dams on the lower Snake river between Pasco Wash, and Lewiston, Idaho, to provide slackwater navigation and a relatively minor block of power. The development would remove part of the cost of waterborne shipping from the shipper and place it on the taxpayer, jeopardizing more than one-half of the Columbia river salmon production in exchange for 148 miles of subsidized barge route. The transportation "saving" to the shipper would amount to \$2,000,000 annually, while salmon runs having a wholesale value of about \$9,000,000 would be threatened with destruction.

This policy of water development, the department maintains, is not in the best interest of the over-all economy of the state. Salmon must be protected from the type of unilateral thinking that would harm one major industry to benefit another.

- December 6th 2019 – An energy industry publication "Clearing Up" publishes the article [27 Public Utilities Adopt Resolutions Supporting Snake River Dams](#) – excerpted here:

Just before retiring in November, Debbie Bone-Harris, senior public affairs manager for Franklin County PUD, told Clearing Up about a growing concern by public-power utilities across Washington over the prospect of removing four lower Snake River dams. She provided resolutions adopted by boards and commissions of 27 electric cooperatives and PUDs that support those dams, and oppose removing or breaching them... The resolutions are part of a public-information effort about the importance of the dams, and to voice concerns to public officials about new calls for breaching them, she said.

The member-owner protest at OPALCO's December 19th meeting has already (on Jan. 6, 2020) been picked up by the press: [Washington Co-op to Revisit Lower Snake River Dam Support Following Outcry](#). Predictably, this industry-sponsored publication gives almost ALL of the coverage to the actual wording of the WRECA-sponsored resolution, its (questionable) claims, and presents support for maintaining the status quo on the LSRDs by other power companies (in locations with very different concerns/agendas/politics from OPALCO) as if it were almost unanimous. There is no presentation of the reasons OPALCO members oppose the Board's action, and in fact the article amplifies everything we stood up against. Of course we expected this kind of press and it's EXACTLY why we asked that you rescind this resolution in December.

Let's be clear about the politics at play here, and the stance of the lobbying organizations OPALCO has aligned itself with. We understand that some OPALCO directors are certified by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA - WRECA's umbrella organization). NRECA was 2011's biggest contributor of Dirty Energy Money to politicians, outspending Koch Brothers by double: <http://priceofoil.org/2011/04/12/the-new-dirty-energy-money-champions/>. For NRECA's 10-year lobbying track record, please see **Enclosure #3** in the attachments to this letter. While almost all of these lobbying efforts are antithetical to the values of OPALCO member-owners (and to OPALCO's general rhetoric), numbers 29, 35, 37, 38, 43, and 44 on this list are relatively recent actions and particularly egregious. From this list, we absolutely KNOW that NRECA is not interested in clean energy and renewables, much less the survival of salmon runs, the orcas or health of the ecosystem, which OPALCO members value highly.

As mentioned earlier in this letter, HR 3144 was sponsored by Rep Kathy McMorris, one of the most ardent opposers of LSRD breaching who called the court decisions "a veiled attempt to force their [LSRDs] removal ... all in the name of endangered salmon and orcas". OPALCO's May 2018 board materials included a letter to the Board from Foster Hildreth indicating staff's support for HR 3144, and the subsequent meeting minutes show that the Board supported HR 3144 by consensus. It's difficult to square all this with the values that OPALCO espouses in its communication with membership, which includes the stated support for the whales and salmon.

It's deeply disturbing to learn that this is the ethical stance of the organizations currently using OPALCO's resolution (and its member-owner dollars) to lobby against action on the LSRDs and for the status quo. Anytime NRECA/WRECA, PNGC or NW RiverPartners asks OPALCO to take a position on something, it must be highly scrutinized by the Board as well as the co-op's member-owners.

To repeat the message we've been sending OPALCO since November: we understand clearly that the ultimate political purpose of Resolution 2-2019 is to be used by the lobbying groups for the February 2020 EIS release related to the LSRDs, and we do not approve or authorize our member-owner voices to be used in this way. At the December meeting, we did not hear acknowledgement from the Board of the

political influences at work, or acknowledgement that the co-op's democratic principles have been violated.

To this date there has been no explanation from the Board as to why OPALCO quickly signed on to WRECA's resolution on the LSRDs--a resolution explicitly intended to preserve the status quo and influence lawmakers not to take any action on the LSRDs, at the continued peril of wild Chinook salmon that our endangered Southern Resident Killer Whales rely on. What would OPALCO have gained or lost by remaining (at the very least) silent on an issue that transcends all political considerations, and strikes so close to home? At the December 19th meeting, the Board vaguely cited general concern about future power supply as a reason, however, the draft Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) that OPALCO released in August presents OPALCO as well-positioned to implement a positive strategy to cut reliance on mainland power by 50% over the next 20 years. In addition, the vast majority of utilities reliant on the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) – including those with presumably no plan or at least less robust plans to wean off of hydropower – have not adopted a resolution opposing the removal of the LSRDs.

Despite palliative language in OPALCO's December press release, as long as Resolution 02-2019 stands, "the brakes" are not on. To recap, the unacceptable playbook so far is this: At the request of a lobbying organization, OPALCO quickly signed onto a politically-motivated resolution without member-owner knowledge or assent (and with no debate, deliberation, or expert consultation). The resolution has, and will be, used against us (in that it aligns us with organizations and agendas antithetical to our values and steals our political 'voice'); it will be used against the salmon, against the orcas. WRECA will continue to use the resolution as a lobbying tool, now and during public commentary on the EIS. In sum, WRECA called the shots, OPALCO did the damage control, and the status quo prevails. We object in no uncertain terms to this as the final outcome.

Respectfully and with all due force, we urge you make good on the promise of your December 23rd press release and truly apply "the brakes" to Resolution 02-2019. This means rescind it. Take it off the table. Remove your endorsement. We ask you to 1) make a motion at the January board meeting to rescind the resolution, 2) to make an on-the-record commitment that says explicitly you will not allow the current resolution to be entered into the public commentary on the EIS, and 3) to follow through with this commitment by notifying WRECA to this effect prior to February.

Please be aware that we've been respectfully holding back the tides when it comes to petitions, media campaigns, etc. because we want to give the Board another chance to reconsider and act on our request. No action by the Board on this issue at the January board meeting can only be understood as a decision on OPALCO's part to let the resolution stand for the EIS public commentary period. Since that outcome is unacceptable to us, if the Board does not rescind 2-2019 on January 23rd, we will have no choice but to fully exercise our democratic member control and pursue other actions.

Sincerely,

Norris Carlson and Sandi Friel

Enclosures:

1. *Guidance Notes to the Co-Operative Principles* by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)
2. Resolution 2-2019 with yellow highlights indicating WRECA-provided language copied from sample resolutions
3. EPA Rules on which NRECA has commented 2007-2017

Re: Resolution 2-29

Pam Weeks <pamweeks@comcast.net>

Mon 1/13/2020 10:43 AM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

Honorable Board Members:

I am relatively new to Lopez Island. I've been a home owner since April 2019 and there for a Co op member since then. This note is to put my feelings out that the decision regarding the dams without consultation from members is not in the spirit of a co op. And there fore not inline with Democracy. Please open the meetings to further input from members. And consider that in put regarding your previous stand.

Thank you for your service,
Pam Weeks

Dear Kelly,

I'm joining the Orcas Women's Coalition's Environmental Action Team in urging the OPALCO Board to rescind its resolution re "Support of the Federal Columbia River Power System and the Four Lower Snake River Dams."

I have been actively involved for the last couple of years with many others on Orcas and throughout our region in pushing for the breaching of those dams. I have witnessed very compelling presentations by Jim Waddell, who spoke at the Salmon Homecoming event on Orcas in 2018. (He has thorough presentations online as well.) In his years working with the Army Corps of Engineers, Jim worked on those very dams. What he has to say about the economics of the Lower Snake River dams and the very damaging impacts they have had on the Chinook salmon population, despite a huge amount of money spent to alleviate that problem, must be heard by the OPALCO Board.

I do not believe it's possible to support both the Southern Resident Orcas and the four Lower Snake River dams.

I was at the governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force meeting in Anacortes with several others from Orcas and San Juan Island. We did the best we could to give our testimonies, though the public comment period was short and several of us didn't get to speak despite having signed up. I think one of the most important comments that day was from Jim Youngren, who drove home the point that the hatcheries alone won't produce the salmon that the Southern Resident Orcas need to survive, and that the four Lower Snake River dams must be breached (not "removed," which is a much longer, more costly process) in order to help restore the Chinook salmon population for the Southern Resident Orcas that for eons have travelled up to our area from California.

The Southern Resident Orcas are not only essential to the economy of San Juan County, but they are a valuable part of who we are as a community, what we love, and what we are charged with protecting.

I believe that we must become energy independent in San Juan County, and that we can do that with energy efficiency and sustainable renewable energy. The dams may be renewable (maybe not, depending on temperatures and snowpack), but they are not sustainable.

So please pass along my message to the OPALCO Board to rescind its resolution in opposition to removing (or more accurately, breaching) the four Lower Snake River dams.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Abreu
18-year resident of Orcas Island
Environmental and Climate Change Educator

--

Sharon Abreu
Executive & Artistic Director
Irthlingz Arts-Based Environmental Education 501(c)(3)
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(917) 626-5781 (cell)
www.irthlingz.org
www.ClimateMonologues.com
www.MelteseDodo.com

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Resolution 2-2019 & Lower Snake River Dams (LSRDs)

Susan Bauer <earthtosue@gmail.com>

Tue 1/7/2020 9:18 AM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>; ConnectWithFoster <ConnectWithFoster@opalco.com>; Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>; Suzanne Olson <SOlson@opalco.com>

Dear Staff & Board Members:

I feel that OPALCO is openly frustrating member-owner input on this issue by not adhering to its own "strategic initiatives" adopted in June, 2019, especially items 5 & 6 from that document (shown below). Also, the actual minutes from the most recent (December, 2019) board meeting are not on the website and many of us were unable to attend. Frustrating!

Those of us keenly interested in the LSRDs issue feel that we are the majority of OPALCO member-owners of course. Since OPALCO's own directives indicate that an outreach to us on this issue was mandated ahead of adopting this Resolution yet never carried out, we have no way of knowing if ours is the majority opinion. To make matters worse, we've come to find out this particular resolution was spoon-fed to OPALCO by the WRECA association whose tenants include combatting any climate change related legislation and finally adopted by the OPALCO Board practically verbatim.

Why is airing of member-wide discussion of this issue being suppressed by staff & Board? At this point & now that many members have brought our concerns to OPALCO, we can only conclude that the Resolution either has no basis in widely-held energy science predictions for the future or perhaps speaks to OPALCO's disregard for dissenting member opinions when they conflict with political expediency to effect short-term energy costs. (Whew! A wicked, long sentence I know...)

It saddens me that we members had to discover this Resolution was made without the necessary, advance engagement. It also saddens me that I have to write to OPALCO in this 'tone'. It embarrasses me to know some of you may believe I am now a dissenter, troublemaker. etc Yet the environmental issues surrounding our salmonids & other marine life is much more important to me than how you might view my communication style. My views on what's important on this planet require me to speak out to you.

I have been patiently waiting for months for a survey, a special meeting called by Vince or 3 other board members or other "opportunities for member feedback" on the LSRD issue and eventual resolution. You are making this very difficult for all of us.

I am not asking OPALCO to endorse breaching or removing the dams at this time, only to RESCIND this resolution now. Rescind now, call for member input then abide by the consensus of that input. Logical, honest.

Respectfully yours ~Susan Bauer

5. Member Satisfaction

Sustain high levels of member satisfaction as evidenced through periodic member surveys.

6. Communications with Members

Provide regular communication outreach to inform members of relevant issues and to encourage member participation and engagement in co-op affairs. Maintain transparency for co-op governance and operations. Cultivate a culture of listening and provide opportunities for member feedback.

Rescind resolution 2-2019

Summer M Scriver <summer@rockisland.com>

Wed 1/8/2020 8:26 PM

To: ContactTheBoard <ContactTheBoard@opalco.com>

We are asking you to please rescind the 2-2019 resolution, and to do anything and everything possible to protect our environment!!! We are in a state of emergency and we need action now!!!

Let the San Juan islands lead the way to a better future for all our future generations and for our planet! It is Imperative that we act!

Thank you

Summer Moon Scriver

Fwd: Resolution 2-2019

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Sun 1/12/2020 10:38 AM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Todd Spalti <toddspalti76@gmail.com>

Date: January 11, 2020 at 4:08:34 PM PST

To: Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Subject: Resolution 2-2019

Thanks for forwarding this letter to the Opalco board Kelly.

Dear Board,

I will keep this brief. We all know the contents of resolution 2 -2019. We also know the majority opinion of the members of the Opalco COOP. And finally we know the wishes of Bonneville Power.

Unfortunately the opinion of Opalco members and the wishes of Bonneville Power starkly differ. I hope you will reconsider your decision concerning the Snake River dams.

Please listen to your constituency.

No 2-2019.

Regards,
Todd Spalti

Todd Spalti

www.toddspalti.com

Fwd: Snake River Dams Concerns

Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Fri 1/17/2020 10:22 AM

To: Krista Bouchey <kbouchey@opalco.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Deborah Olliff <deb.olliff@gmail.com>

Date: January 15, 2020 at 5:13:43 PM PST

To: Kelly Koral <kkoral@opalco.com>

Subject: Snake River Dams Concerns

Dear Kelly,

We recently attended the showing of the documentary "Dammed to Extinction" here on Orcas Island. It was incredibly sad and eye-opening, to put it mildly, to see what is happening to the salmon because of the Snake River dams. Our beloved orca whales depend on the salmon to stay alive, and their numbers are dwindling due to starvation. It was pointed out that the dams are not necessary, and are in trouble financially as well.

The position to close the dams in question is supported by our local scientific community, county government, and many OPALCO members. Please help by doing all you can.

We thank you, and the whales thank you.

Deb & Don Olliff
OPALCO members
Deer Harbor, WA 98243