

Candidate Questions:

1. As a Rural Elective Cooperative our primary mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power. Sustainable, renewable, and carbon free energy characteristics derive from the more recent WA. State mandate, the Clean Energy Transformation Act of 2019. The latter must be a guiding principle but cannot override our primary mission.
2. a) Capital investment to provide adequate renewable resources will likely be well beyond our ability to borrow using usual resources for working capital. We will need to secure large grants or very favorable Power Purchase Agreements to make this possible.
b) OPALCO will need to purchase additional renewable power off the open market. These resources may be considerably more expensive than BPA Tier One rates, which will make our combined power purchases less affordable for our members. Alternatively, we will need to consider the impact of CETA Penalties on the cost of power.
3. San Juan County must provide OPALCO with permitting certainty regarding permitting of solar farms on Ag. Land. Otherwise OPALCO will not be building further solar farms.
4. OPALCO has been good at dealing with NIMBY type objections in the past. Listening, careful consideration, accurate and polite responses, backing down, if necessary, has generally been OPALCO's modus operandi, and should continue.
5. This is not strictly true. Doubling in 25 years is a steady growth of 3% per year. This has been predicted for the entire state. 0.5% - 1%/year is a better projection for power growth in San Juan County.
 - a) BPA Tier 2 power purchases, or local tidal generation in the Salish sea, backed up with battery storage.
 - b) Only where OPALCO has permitting certainty.
 - c) No more so than permitting and cost issues.
 - d) Ultimately the rate payer.

6. This is already the case. OPALCO should continue to increase the energy cost annually (if necessary), and balance this with an increase in the fixed charge to provide the required revenue.
7. The most effective way is through active membership in the statewide organizations WRECA and PNGC.
8. As a Board we must provide competitive wage rates for all staff. I do not recommend OPALCO provide subsidized housing for employees. This would not be considered a “core competency” of the Cooperative.
9. Effective and frequent communication on a broad range of subjects that are important to members.
10. Very. Witness the number of people that moved to San Juan County during Covid, following a fast rollout of Rock Island internet.
11. Provide lower cost fiber to the remaining neighborhoods.
12. See 13. Or all OPALCO ratepayers.
13. Additional Corporate capital and expertise.