

WHATCOM PUD

January 13, 2026

For Immediate Release

In mid-December, Chris Heimgartner, our General Manager, announced his intention to retire at the end of June 2026. When we made the decision to hire him, a little over four years ago, he let us know his time horizon in this position would be no more than five years. True to his word, after forty-five years in the utility industry, he is now ready to enjoy some long-deferred travel plans and time with his family.

During Chris's four years with PUD No. 1 of Whatcom County he has thoughtfully led the organization towards new opportunities and in improving our existing infrastructure. He has hired new leadership, supported transitions and mentored, and helped us deliver a new Strategic Plan. Chris has done a stellar job, and we celebrate his accomplishments. He will be missed not only by our team but by our colleagues in the industry.

We have engaged a nationally known utility recruiter, Mycoff Fry & Associates, to help us find our next General Manager. Our goal is to have the new person on board early enough for a warm hand off.

Please join us in congratulating Chris on a well-deserved retirement. We have been delighted with Chris's leadership and the progress we have made together. We extend our thanks for bringing us to this point of transition, and we wish him well.

Eddy Ury – Commission President
Jaime Arnett – Commission Vice President
Atul Deshmane – Commission Secretary

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