

January 13, 2026

Dear Commissioners Ury, Arnett, and Deshmane,

Last month I let you know I intend to retire at the end of June, 2026. When you hired me, I advised you my runway was at most five years, and at the end of June it will be four and a half. More importantly, after 45 years in the utility business, it is time to spend more time with my family.

During my time we have built a succession plan and a lean and capable staff, with no significant gaps. We have reached a natural pause point in the Nooksack Adjudication, where we are ready to file our claims. We have completed an overhaul of our Strategic Plan and clarified what the utility will look like over the next few decades. We have completed the first phase of financing, and nearly completed the engineering, for the largest capital project in the history of the Utility; the rebuilding of Plant One. We have worked with the Nooksack Tribe in our investigation of a potential geothermal project near Mt. Baker. We have continued to build strong relationships with our customers and have made significant improvements in our culture.

No matter how much time I spend here it will never seem enough. We have remarkable people working here. We have great customers, and an outstanding community that I have been honored to serve. I will miss working with all of them and all of you.

Jodi and I plan on remaining in Whatcom County. We hope to see you from time to time, and know that we will always be with you in spirit, if not in person.

Sincerely,

Chris Heimgartner