

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Omak Chronicle

Roger Harnack  
Editor  
Omak Chronicle

Mr. Harnack,

As a general rule, I do not engage in journalistic prattle. However, I believe it is important to respond to your editorial in the June 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Omak Chronicle so that Okanogan PUD customers who read your paper have an opportunity to be fully informed.

In your editorial you seem upset that I do not return calls to the Chronicle staff. That is simply untrue. I always return calls from your reporter, Sheila Corson. I also return calls from Marcy Stamper, a reporter for the Methow Valley News and Emily Hansen and Jennifer Marshall, reporters for the Oroville Gazette Tribune and the Quad City Herald. These women consistently demonstrate their integrity as journalists and their commitment to fair, honest, unbiased reporting of the facts. In my opinion, you and your assistant editor, Dee Camp, do not demonstrate those characteristics. That is the reason I don't return your calls. We have three articles reporting the public meeting held on April 19<sup>th</sup> on our PUD web site. I encourage everyone to read your article, the article by Marcy Stamper and the article by Emily Hansen and then draw their own conclusion. Roger, when you and Dee elevate your work product to the level of your peers, I assure you, I will return your calls.

In your editorial and articles, you continually represent the PUD commissioners and management as unresponsive and uncaring. Again Roger, that is simply not true. We always listen to our customers and try to address their concerns. Unfortunately, our customers do not always like or agree with the answers we give or the decisions that we make. PUD commissioners and management are tasked with operating and maintaining a utility that is facing more challenges than any time in our past. Our PUD commissioners are well respected throughout the industry for their knowledge and expertise. When they make tough decisions like setting rates, building new facilities, adding to new generation or transmission lines, it is not done in a vacuum. They ask for input from management, expert consultants and our customers, and they make very informed, educated decisions. Our rate payers continue to enjoy the fifth lowest rate in the state, and the lowest rates of any utility that does not own its own generation. Through the decisions that have been made, PUD commissioners and management have insured that Okanogan County residents will continue to have the fifth lowest rates in the state.

By all objective metrics, Okanogan PUD is a well run, financially stable utility that is respected throughout the region and on Wall Street. PUD commissioners, management and staff are all committed to delivering the highest quality of service to those we serve.

John R. Grubich



General Manager  
Okanogan PUD