Readers:

In early 2020, EWEB’s management and Commissioners agreed to develop a better understanding of the impacts of electrification on EWEB’s future planning efforts. I am pleased to present our second analysis of the potential impacts of electrification, this time including economic factors affecting decisions to convert to electricity.

EWEB’s first report, published in November 2020, focused on the potential impacts of electrification without analyzing the costs to customers choosing to electrify. The attached second report seeks to build on that initial analysis and context by considering the economics of electrification from multiple perspectives.

In both studies, the analysis of the transportation sector focuses on light-duty vehicle electrification, while the building sector analysis focuses on the electrification of space and water heating technologies for existing residential and small commercial buildings.

These reports reflect our ongoing assessment of evolving electricity consumption patterns that will help guide decisions and investments associated with electricity generation, delivery infrastructure, utility rate design, and customer program development. These studies do not advocate a position, or necessarily fully align with other agency targets or assumptions but attempt to inform and prepare EWEB for a range of different future conditions.

Prior to 2028, EWEB will need to reassemble an electric supply portfolio for the long-term economic, environmental, and social benefit of our community. These electricity supply decisions can be improved by effectively aligning time-of-use consumption, distributed generation, demand response, and efficiency programs with the increasingly dynamic future of clean energy resources and evolving storage technologies.

Consistent with the values of our customer-owners, EWEB will need to align our electricity supply portfolio with the evolving energy needs of our community, considering the potential effects of climate change, economics, technology, customer behavior, industry variations, and policy changes. All of these factors, including the likelihood, degree, and pace of electrification, will be used as planning criteria in EWEB’s Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), scheduled to begin in early 2022 for completion in early 2023.

Thank you for your interest.

Frank Lawson
Eugene Water & Electric Board
CEO & General Manager