



The following questions have been posed by Commissioners prior to the scheduled Board Meeting on July 6, 2021. Staff responses are included below and are sorted by Agenda topic.

**Financial Planning (Capital Improvement Plans, Long-Term Financial Plans, 2022 Budget Assumptions) (HART)** - On charts in attachment 3 & 4 we are using 1600 kWh and 9 Kgal for our comparisons to other communities, however on attachment 5 pg. 59 when comparing % of median household income we are using 1050 kWh & 7 Kgal and do not include Springfield in the comparison. Is there a reason for this discrepancy?

**RESPONSE:** *Based on feedback from a prior Board that many single family all electric households use higher than the average amount (which is impacted by apartments and homes with natural gas) we adjusted the metric to calculate the bill comparison for the typical single family all electric home (1600 kwh/9 gal). For the percentage of median household income (MHI) calculation however, we rely on census data. Income data is by average household and makes no distinction between single family home and apartment and so for this calculation we use average consumption. Historically, we have tracked SUB as a direct comparator, not generally as it relates to MHI.*

**Why are we finding more water leaks now? Is it just that our aging infrastructure is catching up, or is something else going on? And as the climate heats up, does that have any impact on pipes and lines underground? (I had read that underground electric lines were vulnerable to extreme heat waves, but I am not sure if that's true and/or if it applies to water lines as well.)**

**RESPONSE:** *For at least the last three years, we have been worse than the national benchmark for leaks and breaks per 100 miles of pipe. Over the last 10 years we have replaced pipe at a modest pace, but to bring the breaks metric to within reasonable industry benchmark, we need to increase pipe replacement pace (and funding) as proposed in the latest Water 10-year CIP.*

*Both underground water pipes and electric wires are impacted by seasonal changes in the soil moisture content. As the ground seasonally saturates or dries out, it can shift and damage underground equipment and we typically see increased outages as a result. Heat and lack of moisture are particularly damaging to the insulation on underground electric wires and we experience a noticeable rise in electric outages in July/Aug/September. As a note, extreme heat is the enemy of all electrical equipment, but the recent record-breaking heat in the month of June did not increase our outages beyond historical norms.*

**2021 State Legislative Session Update (HEUSER)** - Why does the Clean Energy Standard bill only apply to IOUs? I am curious as to what the strategy was behind that.

**RESPONSE:** *Oregon Rural Electric Cooperatives were strenuously opposed to facing any compliance obligations under the 100 Clean Energy Bill. Republican Legislators hinted that inclusion of consumer-owned utilities (COUs) in the legislation could prompt a walkout that would again indefinitely deprive the legislature of a quorum required to conduct business. Most Oregon COU's have an energy mix that is 90 percent or more clean on average, and because the Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) remains in place they will be required to meet most future load growth with clean resources under existing RPS compliance obligations established in 2007. In light of these circumstances, the legislature opted to exempt Oregon COU's in HB 2021. EWEB did not ask for nor lobby for the COU exemption and had participated in legislative workgroups early in the legislative session in the pursuit of a compliance obligations that would be well designed for any Oregon electric utility and ratepayers.*