

Hood River and Wasco County - Key Messages / Questions for Pacific Power
7/1/19 RE: PSPS- Public Safety Power Shutoffs during fire hazard weather

- 1) Due to the high community impact of possible Pacific Power planned power outages in typical hot, windy Gorge summer weather and peak summer tourism season, Hood River County asked that Pacific Power not implement PSPS until next fire season (summer 2020) so we have a year to assess vulnerabilities and plan for cascading impacts of power loss. Power outages could create more impacts than a wildfire.
- 2) We need a lot more time and planning to offset significant impacts to our community from power outages. This is moving too fast. The community is not ready. How can we maintain emergency services? We need power for rural firefighting, emergency response, emergency communications, water and sewer services, radio towers, digital phones, critical infrastructure, internet and cell service. What is the interruption to traffic signals, air conditioning, shelters, vulnerable populations, health care needs, evacuations and public warning? What about economic losses and health implications?
- 3) We've asked Pacific Power to minimize power shut offs and streamline to the bare minimum outage area and minimum duration of time. We're concerned outages could be 2-5 days in length or more, based on California PSPS experiences. We're asking for limited outage hours, (i.e. 5 hour daytime outage with reinstatement overnight when temperatures cool.) We've asked for small section planning, not widespread outages. Can smart meters or other technology minimize outage areas?
- 4) We need more transparency with written plans, so we can gauge how often/how high impact this could be. We want to work with Pacific Power and be a good partner, but we don't have what we need. We are giving feedback, but have no control, only input. We need partnership. We need the Board of County Commissioners in Hood River and Wasco, Hood River City Council, the business community and public to get involved.
- 5) What is Pacific Power doing to mitigate (replace) power loss during PSPS outages? What about economic impacts and losses from tourism sector, banking, retail and our \$300 million annual fruit harvest? Their maps show widespread power outages possible across Hood River and Mosier/Rowena. We need outages minimized and sectionalized to reduce economic losses. We need Pacific Power to provide backup power to critical planning areas and open Customer Care Centers for public use during outages.
- 6) There is high anxiety about medical impacts to vulnerable people in our community and community health in very hot, dry summer weather and recurrent air quality issues exacerbated by power outages. How is this addressed specifically and by whom?
- 7) Modeling and data for PSPS power outages shows extensive outages possible in Hood River and Wasco Counties. Criteria and triggers are not aligned with NWS and ODF data. National Weather Service does not agree with the history of outages you forecasted,

based on your criteria. 16mph sustained winds and 26 mpg gusts are common in summer in Hood River in the urban area, as are high fire hazard days. Pacific Power has its own data and decision making process that is not transparent. How specifically is Pacific Power minimizing the scope of community impacts?

- 8) If, as PP says, Hood River would not have had any PSPS outages in the last 8 years based on their data, why are we planning for this possibility NOW, so quickly, in Hood River and Wasco County and why are they putting the plan into effect now? How is it working in CA? What measures help reduce public impacts and how can they be deployed?
- 9) Pacific Power has requested the City and County submit critical infrastructure lists to align with their PSPS priority customer power strategy. Would these areas be spared from power outages? What are the impacts to these critical facilities and priority customers on the list, and not on the list? We need Pacific Power to work with us and provide their energy usage data to us, so we can plan together for mitigation, energy redundancy and backup power – now, and in future years.

References:

Pacific Power Open House in Hood River on wildfire season 2019, including PSPS is cancelled Wed. July 17, 5:30-7:30p.m.

Pacific Power's current Hood River/Wasco PPS power outage DRAFT plans:

[https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Hood_River_PSPS_Mtg_3_\(6-25-19\).pdf](https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Hood_River_PSPS_Mtg_3_(6-25-19).pdf)

Pacific Power's public announcement June 25 about Hood River/Wasco PPS and fire prevention:

https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Wildfire_Customer_Outreach_Campaign_June_25_Release.pdf On July 1, Pacific Power cancelled the July 17 public Open House in Hood River.

Pacific Power media Q&A on PPS – power outages and fire mitigation/prevention:

https://www.hoodriversheriff.com/images/uploads/documents/Pacific_Power_Wildfire_Season_Media_FAQ_6-25-19.pdf On July 1, Pacific Power cancelled the July 17 public Open House in Hood River.

Pacific Power Oregon Wildfire Mitigation including Hood River/Wasco PUC presentation 6-18-19:

https://oregonpuc.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=412&meta_id=21171

Pacific Power Calif. Wildfire mitigation plan, the template for Oregon Plan (pages 61-70 are PPS plans):

http://www.pacificorp.com/content/dam/pacificorp/doc/Environment/Wildfire_Mitigation_Plan/R18-10-007_PacifiCorp_Initial_WMP_2-6-19.pdf

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