

PROPER METER CLEARANCE



Each month the electric meter at your residence is read by a Board of Light & Power Electrical Meter Reader to determine how much electricity has been used. Please

maintain a clear path to your home's meter to help keep our employees safe. If we are unable to read your meter due to severe weather, a locked gate, a dog, or overgrown shrubs or trees, we will estimate your bill based on your past usage. If you are unable to provide us with clear access to your electric meter, call and speak with one of our Customer Account Representatives at **616-846-6250** or email us customerservice@ghblp.org

WINTER METER CLEARANCE TIPS

- Be aware of your meter's location when using a snow thrower or plow
- Never shovel snow against or on top of your meter
- Use a broom or your hands to remove snow and ice from the meter rather than a shovel, salt or ice-melting chemical
- Never kick your meter to break up snow and ice
- Protect your meter from melting ice dripping from overhead



WGHN's Family, Health & Home Show will be held at the:

Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Avenue
Grand Haven

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2019
10 am-6 pm**

Stop by our booth for
FREE giveaways and
Energy Smart information.



Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smant, Chairperson
Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson
Larry Kieft, Director
John Naser, Director
Jim VanderMolen, Director

Grand Haven Board Of Light & Power
1700 Eaton Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
616.846.6250 | ghblp.org

PLUGGED IN

News and Information from your Community-Owned Electric Utility
Grand Haven Board of Light & Power

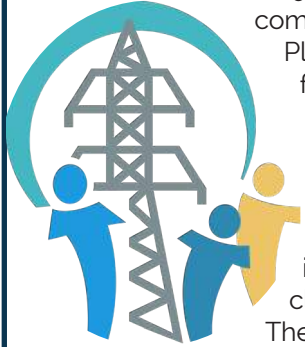


January & February 2019

GHBLP Power Supply Planning

Throughout our 122 year history, the Board of Light & Power (BLP) has locally generated most of the electricity we distribute to our customers.

Since 1961, this power has largely come from the Sims Power Plant on Harbor Island – first, from Units I and II, and since 1983, primarily from Unit III. Units I and II were retired in 1986.



The Sims power plant is now scheduled to close on June 1, 2020.

The last remaining operable generating unit at our diesel plant on Harbor Drive will also be retired on this date.

We at the BLP believe the closure of these facilities presents the tri-cities community with a once in a generation opportunity to move away from our reliance on a single, now relatively expensive and undependable, carbon intensive power plant and replace it with a more diverse, less costly, more reliable and sustainable power supply portfolio.

In November 2018, the Board of Light & Power hosted five public forums with the community's decision makers, business leaders, and the general public, where the national engineering firm, Burns & McDonnell, presented us with several alternate paths to achieve the objective the Board established and approved in its five-year strategic plan in April 2016 - to transition away from Sims to a future where we may utilize a more sustainable, economical, and diversified power supply portfolio.

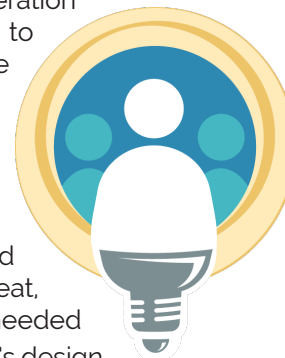
Burns & McDonnell agreed with the recommendations of BLP staff and two other respected national engineering firms - that Sims will reach the end of its economically useful life in June of 2020 and should be retired.

Burns & McDonnell recommended the following two paths: one where the BLP purchases a diversified mix of power options entirely from others to meet all BLP system needs, and a second where the BLP buys power from others but also supplements and complements these diversified purchases with a local, more flexible, modern, natural-gas fired generating plant, about one-half the capacity of Sims.

The BLP's Board of Directors, at its November 2018 meeting, approved Burns & McDonnell moving forward to complete the next phase of engineering study on this proposed local power plant through the completion of a "Project Definition Report." These efforts will answer more of the community's questions and provide a more in-depth look at the design and future operations of the plant.

The new power plant is proposed to be constructed within the same footprint of Sims; however, the smaller plant will occupy significantly less of the site. Although the site reuse plan has yet to be fully developed, it is anticipated that increased public access to the Grand River and Linear Park, mitigated wetlands, and potentially a community solar power garden may be incorporated into the site redesign and remediation plan.

Finally, the new generation facility will be designed to house the heat source for the downtown snow melt system. Although we do not yet know exactly the best configuration to do so, the BLP is committed to continue to supply heat, and incorporate the needed equipment into the plant's design.



Updated Website Coming Soon!

According to our 2017 Customer Satisfaction Survey, over one-third of customer respondents visit the BLP's website for news and information vs reading the bi-monthly customer newsletter. In response, we are redesigning our website with the goal of creating a user-friendly browsing experience for our valued customers. We hope you enjoy the overall design and improved navigation aspects of our website.



How much can you really save with Energy Efficient Improvements?

Replace your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with ENERGY STAR models. **\$75 per year**

Save up to 10% each year on heating bills by turning back the thermostat 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day. **\$83 a year**

Using sleep mode and power-management features on your computer can save up to 4% on your annual electric bill. **\$30 a year**

Seal uncontrolled air leaks to reduce loss by 10%-20% and save on your annual heating and cooling bills. **\$83-\$166 a year**

Source: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/how-much-can-you-really-save-energy-efficient-improvements>