

Celebrate Public Power Week!

October 6-12, 2019

What does "Public Power" mean?
It means low rates, high reliability, customer responsiveness, community focus, and local control.



Stop by our office at 1700 Eaton Drive
October 7-11, 2019 to pick up your free
treat & gift in celebration of your
community owned Public Power provider,
the Grand Haven Board of Light & Power.



Sims Farewell Celebration

Community Open House

Saturday, October 5, 2019

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

- Plant Access | Refreshments | Live Music
- Free shuttles to and from Sims will be provided from Downtown Grand Haven and Harbor Island starting at 10:45 am.

On-site parking is not available.
Refreshments provided to first 500 guests.

Come visit our booth during

Fire Prevention Open Houses



We will be giving away FREE Halloween bags
and fun promotional gifts!

Spring Lake Fire Department

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6-8pm
(Spring Lake Central Park)

Grand Haven Township Fire/Rescue

Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 5:30-8pm

City of Grand Haven Department of Public Safety

Saturday, October 12, 2019, 11am-1pm

Ferrysburg Fire Department

Monday, October 14, 2019, 6-8pm



Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smart, 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

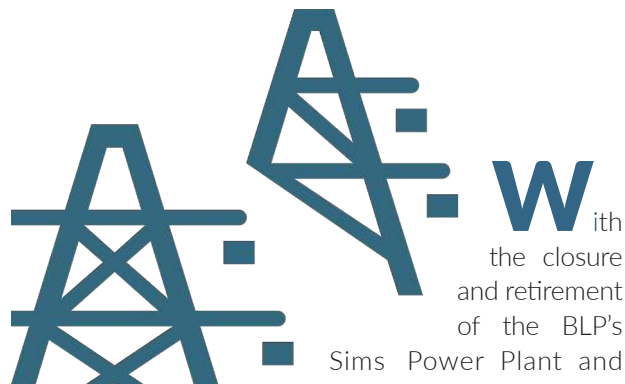
PLUGGED IN

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



**September &
October 2019**

BLP to Improve Grid Transmission Service on June 1, 2020



With the closure and retirement of the BLP's Sims Power Plant and the Diesel Plant on June 1, 2020, many customers are asking where the system's needed power will come from, and if these new sources will be as reliable as that demonstrated historically.

The BLP has been preparing for this transition over the last three years with the rebuild of major portions of its distribution system, more specifically the higher voltage power lines that connect our distribution substations to each other and the regional transmission grid. However; these local improvements, costing approximately \$6 million, are most beneficial and cost effective when coupled with a higher level of transmission service provided by the regional grid.

Throughout the BLP's history, it has generated locally most of the power it has sold. As such, the BLP only used its interconnections with the regional transmission network to supplement its owned and operated generation; therefore, the BLP wasn't as dependent as others on the State's high voltage transmission lines. The BLP also did not pay for, or receive, the higher level transmission service. In other words, the back-up transmission service the BLP purchased was not as reliable as it could have been because the BLP chose not to pay for a service level it would not be fully utilizing. The level of service the BLP purchased instead is called "point-to-point" transmission service, which was available to the BLP

on an as needed or "interruptible" basis. This type of service has been available when the BLP has needed it in the past, but the regional grid operator has not committed to doing anything to ensure its future availability under the "point-to-point" tariff. Under these past circumstances, the BLP's supply of power was only as reliable as its local generating resources with an "interruptible" back-up supply from the grid.

The BLP filed and has now received conditional approval for "Network Integrated Transmission Service", or NITS, from the regional transmission system operator to begin June 1, 2020 (the date Sims and the Diesel Plant are to retire).

NITS provides the BLP access to networked and integrated resources of the regional transmission system equal to all other NITS users.

The idea here is that a "network of resources," operated in an optimized integrated fashion, should always provide a more cost effective and reliable power supply to all NITS users than any single utility could ever do on its own. Since 2002, the regional transmission grid has been operated by an "independent" system operator ensuring no one utility receives preferential treatment in the dispatch of their generating resources or preferential access to the network of their loads under NITS.

The result of our newly constructed system improvements in combination with gaining NITS from the regional grid will provide the BLP new opportunities for access to a more reliable, sustainable, less costly, and diversified power supply portfolio, reaching a goal the BLP set in its strategic plan developed in 2016.

A Great Color: 'Green' Homes Can Make You More Green



Energy-efficient upgrades can not only shrink your utility bill; they can also increase the value of your home.

Home buyers are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of energy-efficient homes. In fact, they're often willing to pay more for homes with "green" upgrades and for good reason.

Even if you're not planning on selling your home in the near future, there are several energy-friendly improvements that can help keep you comfortable and save money on your energy bills.

Return on Investment

Attic Insulation: In 2017, homeowners recouped more than what they paid (107.7 percent) for attic insulation according to 2017 National Cost vs. Value Averages.

Exterior Door: According to 2019 cost-versus-value data, if you replace your older, inefficient exterior door with an energy-efficient steel version, you'll get a 74.9 percent return on your investment. A fiberglass door had a 71.9 percent return. While that may not sound great, compare it to a mid-range bathroom remodel, which brought a 67.2 percent return.

New Windows: In 2019, upscale wood and vinyl window replacement is reported to have about the same return: 70.8 and 73.4 percent, respectively.

Other energy-friendly options for your home

- Install energy-efficient appliances
- Repair old weather stripping around doors and windows
- Update your HVAC components and water heater (depending on their age)

Source: safeelectricity.org