



Help Keep Lineworkers Safe


Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working around high-voltage power lines in all kinds of weather conditions.



 **Slow down and move over in utility work zones.** Crowding workers can cause accidents.

 **Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power when it goes out;** please be patient.

 **Do not post signs on a utility pole,** especially with staples and nails, which can puncture protective gear.

 **Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet,** which can cause voltage to back feed into the BLP's distribution system.

Help Celebrate National Linemen Appreciation Day, April 18, 2020 - if you see our crew out in the community, give them a wave or a thank you.

Lakeshore Earth Day Fair

Saturday, April 18, 2020
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Grand Haven Community Center
421 Columbus Avenue, Grand Haven

Visit our booth and pick up your
FREE tree seedling.
First come, first served!



WAWL Home/Garden Show

Saturday, April 25, 2020

1:00pm - 7:00pm

Sunday, April 26, 2020

11:00am - 3:00pm

D. Baker and Son Lumber Company
720 Pennoyer Avenue, Grand Haven

Stop by our booth for FREE
giveaways and Energy Smart
information. First come, first served!



Your Board of Directors:

Jack Smant, Chairperson

Gerald Witherell, Vice Chairperson

Todd Crum, Director

Larry Kieft, Director

John Naser, 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



March &
April 2020

Operations Cease at J.B. Sims Generating Station



The Board of Light & Power (BLP) is continuing its progression through its Strategic Plan objective to transition from primarily one fuel source to a more sustainable, economical, and diversified power supply portfolio for the community. Mid-afternoon on Thursday, February 13, the J.B. Sims Generating Station on Harbor Island burned through its final coal inventory and ceased plant operations.

“The Board approved ceasing operations of the Sims Power Plant on June 1, 2020 at its April 2018 meeting and City Council ratified this decision at their November 2018 meeting. Transition efforts to move the utility to a diversified power supply portfolio began and the Board has now successfully burned through approximately \$6.8 million dollars of coal inventory that was on its dock in late 2018. This achievement could not have happened without the dedicated efforts of the many Sims employees, who have been working short staffed over the last several months due to reductions in its workforce created through attrition,” stated David Walters, General Manager.

“This achievement is a win for our community,” stated Gerald Witherell, Board of Light & Power Vice Chair. “We set a goal to shut the plant down after we have burned through all inventory to ensure the utility would not sustain further financial losses. Plant employees should be commended for their efforts to continue running a power plant that has reached the end of its useful life.”

Following the shutdown, the BLP will purchase 100% of its power supply through the Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA), as it has done for many years during planned and forced outages. MPPA has already secured lower cost power supply commitments on Grand Haven’s behalf for the next year. BLP staff is also in the process of evaluating longer-term options and the installation of smaller backup natural gas-fired generation on Harbor Island that may make economic sense to supplement and complement purchases from MPPA.

The BLP awarded the Sims demolition contract to Bierlein Companies, Inc. in the amount of \$5,053,333 at its December 2019 meeting. Decommissioning efforts have already begun following the plant shutdown with demolition and site remediation efforts to begin in earnest after June 1, 2020. Grand Haven’s snowmelt system heat will be supplied by the plant’s auxiliary boiler for the remaining portion of this winter. A longer-term snowmelt solution was approved by the Board at its February 20, 2020 regular Board meeting.

Pictured L to R; Erik Booth, Mitch Duram, Brad Bakale, Kevin Simpson, Mike Kellogg, John DeWolfe and Adam McConnell



Central Air Conditioners

Many newer residential central air conditioners are called “split-systems” because they have an outdoor component with a condenser and compressor and an indoor component with an evaporator coil. It’s very important to replace both of these units at the same time. Installing a new outdoor unit without replacing the indoor unit is likely to result in low efficiency and may lead to premature failure of the system.



ENERGY STAR qualified central air conditioners have higher SEER and EER ratings than today’s standard models.

What is SEER? Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio

SEER is the most commonly used measurement of efficiency for air conditioners. It measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate over an entire season.

What is EER? Energy Efficiency Ratio



EER measures how efficiently a cooling system will operate when the outdoor temperature is at a specific level (95 degrees F).

Central air conditioners also need a blower motor, which is usually part of the furnace, to blow the cooled air through the duct system. The only way to ensure that your new air conditioner performs at its rated efficiency is to replace your heating system at the same time, especially if your furnace is over 15 years old.

Source; A Guide to Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling at energystar.gov