

Steve Hudson was raised on San Juan Island. He began a career in telecommunications here in the sixties with what was then the local Mom and Pop phone company. He is retired from a position with responsibility for service to 50,000 customers; capital and operating budgets of \$10 to \$15 million; up to 150 employees; and plant infrastructure around \$75 million spread over diverse geography covering much of the state of Oregon. He's familiar with retail delivery of telecom services and the responsibilities of public utilities.

Steve's public service experience includes the San Juan Island school board, two planning commissions, an economic development council, a professional association, and three non-profit boards.

For Opalco Steve believes in the ongoing pursuit of excellence in its people, plant, and core purpose. He sees opportunity in evolving technology and believes it must be wisely pursued. As a board member, acting on behalf of you, the owners of Opalco, he'll promote thorough and transparent prudence, especially on questions of capital commitments that must be repaid by member rates.

Unlike electric service, communications is intensely competitive and evolving rapidly. New developments can quickly make large investments obsolete. There are many potential benefits of expanded broadband, but the economic case for Opalco's pursuit has not been made clear.

On top of this absence of clarity, recent by-law and policy changes being considered by the board appear intended, in part, to stifle debate, communication and initiatives of both members and individuals on the board.

Opalco is at a historic fork in the road. Members are the owners of the co-op. It is the ratepayer's money being spent. You deserve assurance and data demonstrating that it is being spent wisely, and that electric ratepayers are not subsidizing noncore pursuits.

Steve has two grown children and four grandchildren. His primary hobbies are reading and sports.