

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 OF FERRY COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMISSIONERS
July 6, 2026

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by President Dan Fagerlie at 9:00 a.m. Present in person were Commissioners Doug Aubertin, Chris Kroupa and Dan Fagerlie, Attorney Steve Graham, Manager Steve VanSlyke, Superintendent Mike Brown, Auditor Sue Nush, and Treasurer Pam Allen.

Visitors: None.

The special meeting was called to discuss and take action on emergency response measures related to an oil spill incident, including authorization of contracts for containment, remediation, environmental services, and any associated waiver of competitive bidding requirements.

Vandalism at the Kuehne Substation in Keller resulted in damage to a spare transformer stored there and the release of mineral oil that was inside of it. The transformer was damaged beyond repair. BPA found multiple vandalisms during routine substation checks in June and notified the District. Colville Tribal Police and the Ferry County Sheriff's Department have been notified. BPA provided Superintendent Brown with the name of an environmental cleanup company in Spokane, Clean Harbors, that they use and highly recommend. Superintendent Brown contacted Clean Harbors and they came to the site and provided the District with an estimate of the cost to clean the site, report to the appropriate agencies, and monitor the site to ensure no oil remains. They advised Superintendent Brown to cover the site with a tarp to stop rain from spreading the oil. There may also be damage to the substation grounding grid under the ground but that is unknown until the cleanup begins. Routine oil samples tested previously on the transformer show that no PCBs were present.

Commissioner Fagerlie asked how long the regular bid process would take. Superintendent Brown would need to contact several companies with a Request for Proposal (RFP), have them physically come on site to inspect the property, and then wait for their RFPs. After discussion, Commissioner Kroupa made a motion to authorize emergency response measures be taken to deal with the oil spill incident at the Kuehne Substation, including authorization of contracts without competitive bidding. Commissioner Aubertin seconded the motion. Attorney Graham added that the District needs to act because unforeseen circumstances beyond its control will likely result in damage to the surrounding property. After further discussion, the amended motion was unanimously approved.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Public Utility District Number One
Ferry County, Washington

President

Vice-President

ATTEST:

Secretary

APPROVED:

Manager