



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor names Ray Hoffman as Acting Utilities Director

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today announced the appointment of Ray Hoffman as acting director of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU).

“Ray brings years of experience in the utility industry and has played an integral role in the steady leadership at Seattle Public Utilities. He is the ideal person to shepherd the utilities’ nationally recognized programs and core services — drinking water, solid waste, drainage and wastewater,” Nickels said.

Since 2001, Hoffman has served as SPU’s director of corporate policy and performance, overseeing the utilities’ external governmental relations, legislative affairs, risk management, performance measurement and Superfund response.

“Seattle Public Utilities has a long tradition of providing high-value services to our customers,” Hoffman said. “I’m excited about the opportunity to help make those services even better, while ensuring that SPU continues to develop innovative solutions.”

Hoffman, 52, replaces Chuck Clarke, who announced on Dec. 19 that he will become the chief executive officer of the Cascade Water Alliance, a consortium of eight King County municipalities and water districts. Hoffman will lead SPU while a search is conducted for a permanent utilities director.

Before coming to SPU, Hoffman served as an advisor to former Seattle Mayor Paul Schell, on utilities and environmental issues. Before that, he was SPU’s lead for regional affairs and negotiations, and had worked in recycling planning and solid waste program development for the department. He had previously served as executive director for Washington Citizens for Recycling.

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Hoffman has a doctorate from the University of Washington School of Business, as well as a bachelor's degree and master's degree in accounting from the University of Illinois. A native of Illinois, Hoffman moved to Seattle in 1980. He is an avid cyclist and gardener who enjoys all sorts of outdoor activities with his wife and son.

In addition to providing a reliable water supply to more than 1.3 million customers in the Seattle metropolitan area, SPU provides essential sewer, drainage, solid waste and engineering services that safeguard public health, maintain the city's infrastructure and protect, conserve and enhance the region's environmental resources.

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