



2015 Board of Directors Election Candidate Information

Board candidates assume all responsibility for content submitted to PEC, which appears exactly as submitted. PEC takes no position on issues and expresses no preference for any candidates.

Director District 6

Board Position: Director District 6

Paul Graf

Town: Spring Branch



Paul Graf lives in western Comal County in Spring Branch with Debi, his wife of 46 years. They have lived in the area for over a decade. He is a native Texan, fiscally conservative and a registered Texas Professional Engineer. Paul wants to serve PEC customers/members and employees because of his unique experience in and knowledge of the electrical power industry. He "grew up" in the power business receiving a scholarship from the electric company serving south Texas to attend Texas A&I University in Kingsville. There Graf received a BS in Electrical Engineering, graduating Summa Cum Laude. He began his career as a transmission planner and progressed through the ranks working in and managing practically all areas of engineering and customer service, along with the ERCOT relationship. The corporation saw his potential and sent him to several business schools within Texas and in Michigan to learn the financial side of the business including rate making and its impacts, financing, financial analysis, project management, and contract negotiation. Graf also was an expert witness at the PUC of Texas for the corporation on several occasions. He finished his 30 year utility employment as a senior executive in an international power company where he developed projects, managed risks, and

served on Boards for international business investments totaling approximately \$10 billion. Graf continues today to stay active as a management and energy consultant. He has consulted for investor owned utilities, municipal utilities, cooperatives, water companies, and many small businesses. Graf understands all aspects of the electric utility business. He will know which questions to ask to make sure PEC stays accountable to its members and employees.

Graf's top priorities for PEC will be:

- **Lower electric rates and increase economic development to provide a better income base for the Coop**
- **Greatly expand transparency to the members**
- **Manage risks and provide checks and balances**
- **Tools and training to expand employee horizons**

Lower rates and economic development—PEC's rates are among the highest in the state. Some of the neighboring utilities have rates at least 20% lower. Low rates and economic development go hand-in-hand. The best form of economic development is to offer businesses and families competitive rates. Texas will continue to experience explosive growth in the next several years, especially along the IH-35 corridor. PEC needs to reduce rates down to a level that will lure some of the lucrative businesses that are considering Texas.

Greatly expand transparency—Executive sessions at PEC board meetings are unnecessarily long and contain business more suited to a public session. Other industry executive sessions are almost always reserved for real estate transactions, personnel matters, or sensitive contract issues. Graf will work to limit executive sessions to only those appropriate matters and have all other business matters conducted in open sessions.

Manage risks and provide checks and balances—The PEC board would be far better served, as would the members and employees, if there were more checks and balances. For example, the board can currently unilaterally set electric rates without oversight of the Texas Public Utilities Commission. Graf will work to make sure proper controls are in place to avoid theft, money laundering and fiduciary misapplication of property of the PEC Coop.

Tools and training to expand employee horizons—Graf believes the best distinction and resource of PEC are its employees. He will work to insure employees are provided with tools to work safely, to reach their full potential and personal goals, and provide excellent service to members.

Beside Graf's extensive experience in the electrical power industry he:

- Serves as a volunteer appointed Commissioner on the Board of the Comal County Emergency Services District #4.
- Serves as a volunteer on the board of a large non-profit with a \$6 million budget that provides emergency services in 216 square miles in Comal County, benefiting over 35,000 residents.
- Serves as volunteer President of the Bulverde Spring Branch Emergency Services Council that coordinates activities and expenditures across several of the ESD's in Comal County.
- Serves as volunteer President of the Coalition for Equitable Water Rates that has successfully opposed water rate increases by the local water company monopoly.
- Served as the volunteer President of the River Crossing POA and has Chaired several committees.

Paul and his wife Debi are active in their local Bible church and have two adult children. Paul enjoys hunting, collecting military weapons, and an occasional game of golf. Paul and Debi enjoy spending time with extended family in Frio County and both enjoy meeting new people.

PEC has had some heart-wrenching challenges in the past, but that can now be put behind them. PEC can go forward proudly with its head held high. Paul Graf will serve and guarantee this continues by utilizing his unique background experience.