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Insights

A monthly newsletter for all GPA Customers
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Hardening Guam's Grid for the Next Storm



The tropical storm-force winds Guam experienced during the near passages of Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi reinforced the need to continue hardening the island-wide power system. Stronger transmission and distribution infrastructure can reduce storm damage, protect critical services and support faster restoration when outages occur.

GPA is pursuing federal funding to strengthen critical transmission infrastructure. Priority projects include hardening the northern transmission loop between the Harmon Substation and Dededo Power Plant, establishing an underground connection between northern and southern Guam, and strengthening the southern loop through additional underground transmission lines.

GPA is also pursuing approximately \$300 million in bond funding for underground distribution projects. These investments would include underground distribution lines serving critical infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems, communications facilities, medical facilities and high-density areas.

Another major effort is the Naval Base Guam Underground Transmission Line project. Once completed, the Navy will transfer the underground lines for GPA to operate. The underground system includes a connection to the Apra Substation, which serves the

communities of Hågat and Santa Rita-Sumai. GPA also continues to invest in distribution improvements, such as the upgrade to Feeder P-87, which serves several water wells.

Recent storm recovery efforts demonstrate why these investments are necessary. GPA reached 99 percent system restoration eight days after COR 4 following both Sinlaku and Bavi. Restoration began with transmission lines and substations, followed by distribution circuits/feeders, major laterals, damaged transformers and individual customer repairs.

Although Bavi restoration reached 99 percent by July 15, Phase III and Phase IV work continued, focusing on more extensive repairs, streetlights, and power quality issues. GPA will provide a complete restoration report after recovery is completed.

The storms also required substantial materials. Sinlaku restoration used 28 transformers, approximately 26,000 feet of wire and eight power poles. Bavi recovery has used 53 transformers, approximately 24,000 feet of wire and seven power poles.

Grid hardening cannot prevent every outage, but it can reduce vulnerabilities and improve GPA's ability to restore the services Guam depends on.

BAVI BY THE NUMBERS

All crews participating in Typhoon Sinlaku restoration efforts in Saipan returned to Guam before Super Typhoon Bavi impacted Guam on **July 4, 2026**.

COR 4 was announced on July 7, 2026, at 10:00am

- Restoration crews worked **12-16 hour shifts** night and day.
- Vegetation clearing required in multiple villages
- Adequate inventory was available to support ongoing restoration efforts

RESTORATION RESOURCES

Days 1-8

- **15 active line crews** with bucket trucks supported post-Bavi restoration efforts.
- **8 additional bucket trucks** that had been deployed to the CNMI for mutual aid following Typhoon Sinlaku were coordinated to return to Guam. They arrived on Guam on July 14, 2026.

After Day 8 (Phase III)

- **18 active line crews** with bucket trucks supported post-Bavi restoration efforts.

PUC Approves 62 MW Phase IV Renewable Energy Award

PUC APPROVAL ADVANCES PLAN TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON IMPORTED FUEL

The Guam Public Utilities Commission has approved the fourth Phase IV Renewable Energy Acquisition Award, advancing GPA's broader plan to increase solar generation, reduce Guam's reliance on imported fuel and meet the island's renewable energy requirements.

Guam currently imports approximately three million barrels of fuel oil each year. According to the PUC order, as much as \$365 million may leave Guam's economy annually to pay for fossil fuels. The Ukudu Power Plant and GPA's Phase IV renewable energy projects together are projected to reduce oil imports by up to 1.7 million barrels annually by 2029.

Reducing imported fuel strengthens Guam's energy security and limits the island's exposure to global events that can drive oil prices higher. It also allows more of the money currently spent on fuel to remain within the local economy.

The Phase IV projects are also a major part of GPA's renewable energy portfolio. Guam law requires renewable energy to account for 50 percent of net electricity sales by 2035 and 100 percent by 2045. GPA has set an earlier internal goal of reaching 50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The latest award covers four projects proposed by Sunenergy 1 LLC, Sunenergy 2 LLC, Sunenergy 3 LLC and Sunenergy 4 LLC. Together, the projects would provide up to 62 megawatts of solar photovoltaic capacity and 35.5 MW, or approximately 209 megawatt-hours, of battery energy storage. The battery systems are intended to shift a portion of the solar energy produced to non-daylight hours.

According to the PUC order, the Sunenergy projects are projected to increase renewable energy's share of GPA's electricity sales to as much as 46 percent by 2028. The additional capacity will also help GPA prepare for anticipated increases in demand associated with military expansion, data centers and electric vehicles.

The PUC has now approved or conditionally approved all four groups of Phase IV awards. The projects remain at different stages of contract review, finalization and development.

For the Sunenergy projects, the June 25 order authorizes GPA to proceed with finalizing four Renewable Energy Purchase Agreements. Final approval remains subject to review and approval by the Office of the Attorney General, execution

by GPA and the contractor, and confirmation by the PUC that the completed agreements contain no material changes from the versions reviewed in the docket.

The renewable targets and projected 46 percent share are addressed on page 8 of the order. The current fuel imports, estimated annual spending and projected reduction of up to 1.7 million barrels are on page 10.



Phase IV Renewable Energy Portfolio

The four groups of Phase IV awards identified in the order total up to **332.4 MW of renewable energy capacity**:

- **192 MW** from the KEPCO-EWP-Samsung C&T Consortium and Core Tech Solar Energy project
- **18.4 MW** from four PRU projects
- **60 MW** from the PRG CTI Tanguisson project
- **62 MW** from the four Sunenergy projects



GPA's Sinlaku Mutual Aid Mission to Date



Following widespread damage caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku, GPA launched a phased mutual-aid deployment to help the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) restore Saipan's island-wide power system.

A six-member forward team traveled to Saipan on April 25th to assess damage, coordinate with CUC and develop a restoration plan for the area assigned to GPA. That service area extended from Capitol Hill to Kagman and Laulau Bay and included critical power and water infrastructure.

The assessment was followed by the deployment of GPA's first wave of 49 personnel on May

and 3. Crews worked alongside CUC employees to replace damaged poles, repair distribution infrastructure and restore service to communities and essential facilities.

On June 13, GPA deployed a second wave of 30 personnel to continue the work. The rotation allowed restoration activities to proceed while providing relief for employees who had been working extended schedules since early May. Labor estimates were based on 14- to 16-hour workdays, seven days a week.

As of the June assessment, estimated labor costs for the 75-day mission totaled \$3.9 million, while estimated material costs were approximately \$1.9 million. The projected total to date was approximately \$5.8 million. Equipment costs, which were to be calculated based on operating hours, were not included in that estimate.

This was not the first time GPA and CUC worked together following a major storm. GPA assisted Saipan after Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, and CUC crews came to Guam to help restore power after Typhoon Mawar in 2023. The Sinlaku deployment continued that mutual support between the two utilities.

Restoration Progress

AS OF JUNE 9

Recoverable peak demand increased from 3.77 MW to 23.37 MW

Peak recovery reached an estimated 80 to 85 percent

System loading recovery reached 73.03 percent

463 of 790 downed poles were installed or straightened

GPA crews restored service to key CUC water wells so FEMA emergency standby generators could be removed

RESOURCES DEPLOYED

Eight bucket trucks, one auger, one derrick, two step vans and one utility truck

135 concrete poles and 55 transformers

500 crossarms

More than 130,000 linear feet of wire

Ukudu Units Unavailability Contributed to Three July Load Shedding Events

Two of Guam's three load-shedding events in July occurred when generation from the Ukudu Power Plant was unavailable due to delays in returning units to service. A third event occurred during an emergency outage at Baseload Plant Piti Unit 8. Ukudu's steam turbine had been taken offline for planned work from June 23 to July 8, but the outage was extended after an issue was identified with the turbine's turning gear.

July 15 Load shedding lasted **20 min.** **9 feeders** were affected

July 18 Load shedding lasted **2 hrs & 17 min.** **22 feeders** were affected

July 20 Load shedding lasted **40 min.** **3 feeders** were affected

During this period, GPA worked to return generating units to service and coordinated with battery operators to shift up to 16 MW of stored energy to support the grid. Other available generating units remained online, but system demand had reached a record 270 MW in June, leaving less reserve capacity when major units became unavailable. During its first year of operation, the Ukudu Power Plant will continue to undergo testing, adjustments and corrective work as its systems are refined under actual operating conditions. These efforts are intended to improve plant availability, strengthen generation reserves and reduce the likelihood of future load shedding. Addressing these issues now is important not only to improve current performance, but also to ensure the facility is properly operated and maintained before it eventually transfers from Guam Ukudu Power to GPA at the end of the 25-year agreement.

GALLERY | THE POWER TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

UNITED AIRLINES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GIAA - SAFETY, HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

This year, GPA Safety and Communications Teams participated in United Airlines Safety, Health & Wellness Fair on June 24, 2026 at the Guam International Airport.

Staff provided home electrical safety tips and distributed guides covering post-typhoon power restoration and downed line safety, informational guides on energy conservation and efficiency, and discussed other tools and programs available for customers.



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GUAM (SOGU) SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

BIBA SOGU! BIBA GPA!

For the fourth consecutive year, GPA proudly served as a sponsor of the Special Olympics Guam Softball Championship Jamboree. GPA partnered with Academy of Our Lady Guam to coach Team Mawar, who earned a first-place finish at the championship game.

Congratulations to all participating families and employees who helped make this season a success.



Your elected Consolidated Commission on Utilities (CCU) holds two (2) working sessions and one (1) regular meeting monthly. Meeting location is the CCU Conference Room, Gloria B. Nelson Public Service Building in Fadian, Mangilao. For more information and agencies, call the CCU Board Secretary at (671) 648-3002 or visit www.guamccu.org.

Francis E. Santos (Chairman)
T (671) 482-9355
E francis.santos@gpagwa.com

Pedro Roy Martinez (Vice Chairman)
T (671) 488-1957
E prmgua@gmail.com

Melvin F. Duenas (Secretary)
T (671) 777-8400
E melvinduenas@gmail.com

Simon A. Sanchez II (Commissioner)
T (671) 488-1010
E gdcmgr@guamdrycleaners.com

Michael Limtiaco (Commissioner)
T (671) 888-6280
E mlimtiaco671@gmail.com

John M. Benavente, P.E. (General Manager)
T (671) 648-3225
E jbenavente@gpagwa.com

View your energy usage at myenergyguam.com

