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Klickitat PUD Evaluates Advanced Metering



Klickitat PUD continues to look for ways to invest and leverage assets for the benefit of consumers. As technology advances, solutions become more affordable, allowing us to decrease costs and improve reliability.

Over the years, KPUD has invested in large-scale projects that have provided stable revenues benefiting rates. A smaller-scale project is being evaluated that could provide a similar return on investment directly to customers and offer new services.

Advanced metering technologies help identify power quality issues and outage locations. It also improves outage response times and the ability to more effectively manage the electric distribution system. Advanced meters offer customers the option for increased flexibility in making payments, accessing daily energy use and budgeting more effectively through KPUD's SmartHub portal.

Klickitat PUD is determining what advanced metering technology will be the most effective in our challenging terrain using a strategic deployment. This will provide an opportunity for customers and the utility to maximize the benefits of new technology and realize a significant return on the investment.

Multiple types of advanced metering are on the market. We already have evaluated many of them. We are in a trial phase of a cellular-based alternative. During the trial phase, we will move several meters throughout the district to determine cellular coverage.

The low upfront cost of a cellular-based option allows us to deploy meters strategically. This means advanced meters can be placed in customer-requested locations or where they will provide the most benefit to the utility. At this point, an incremental approach to advanced meter placement, rather than a systemwide implementation, will maximize the benefit.

Klickitat PUD is hopeful this technology will provide new resources for KPUD operations and customers. The trial period is expected to last three months. A decision regarding the viability of the technology will be made after the trial period. As we continue down the path of advanced metering technology, Klickitat PUD will communicate additional services and benefits as they become available.

Jim Smith
General Manager