



The H.W. Hill Renewable Gas Facility will produce the energy equivalent of 18 million gallons of gas annually. PHOTO BY KATHI RICKS

Klickitat PUD Signs Deal With PSE to Sell Renewable Natural Gas

Klickitat Public Utility District has signed an agreement with Puget Sound Energy to sell renewable natural gas starting in July, and continuing through 2040. This agreement helps PSE meet its commitment to the environment and reduce its carbon emissions.

Klickitat PUD has been a leader in renewable energy production for more than 20 years. The renewable natural gas will be produced at the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas facility in Roosevelt. Methane is drawn from the Republic Services landfill. Following processing, the biogas is received at the Williams Northwest Pipeline interconnection. The volume of energy produced at the facility is the

equivalent of 18 million gallons of gasoline annually.

“We have a commitment to the environment and deep decarbonization, so we are excited to have reached a deal that will allow our natural gas customers the option of renewable natural gas,” said PSE Chief Strategy Officer and Senior Vice President David Mills. “To meet the anticipated energy needs of the region in the coming years, we will continue to look for resources on behalf of our customers.”

Under the first phase of the agreement, PSE will purchase an estimated 550,000 dekatherms per year for the first three years. Under phase two, PSE will purchase an estimated 1.65 million to 1.9 million

Klickitat PUD Implements COVID-19 Small Business Customer Assistance Program

Program administration is handled in partnership with Klickitat County Economic Development

Klickitat PUD has concerns about the impacts on our community due to the COVID-19 crisis and state-mandated business closures. In the interest of public safety and regional economic stability, improving access to energy assistance for customers affected by COVID-19 is a priority.

Klickitat PUD commissioners recognized the lack of energy assistance available specifically for small businesses and asked staff to work on a proposal to address this need. In coordination with Klickitat County Economic Development, staff developed a COVID-19 Small Business Customer Assistance Program. KPUD commissioners approved implementation of the program at their meeting on April 28. The intent of the program is to take reasonable action to mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our small business utility customers. The program extends discounts to impacted small businesses depending on business type. It encourages appropriate reopening of businesses that are struggling to keep the lights on due to this crisis, or have had to close their doors due to state mandates.

Klickitat PUD has partnered with KCED for the administration of the program. KCED is a local, familiar third party with the ability to take and review applications, and provide recommendations to KPUD regarding eligible businesses.

KPUD appreciates this partnership and is optimistic that,

together, we can reach many of the small businesses struggling to qualify for other assistance programs.

Small businesses are the heart of a community, and provide jobs and services needed for our day-to-day lives. Loss of small businesses impacts all of us and decreases the tax base upon which our rural communities rely for hospitals, schools, roads, etc.

Eligible small businesses will receive a discount on their electric bill for three consecutive months upon reopening or being approved. Small business eligibility criteria include: being in business as of January 1, 2020, within Klickitat County; having between one and 10 employees; and having been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Agricultural producers do not qualify for the program.

The discount percentage on kilowatt-hour use is dependent on the type of business. Storefront businesses are eligible for a discount of 50% and waiver of the monthly basic fee. Home-based businesses are eligible for a discount of 30%. Discounts are applied to the active KPUD account.

To apply, visit Klickitat County Economic Development's website and complete the KCED survey at www.klickitatcounty.org/1193/Covid-19. Klickitat PUD's website will be updated with relevant information to aid in the application process.

dekatherms per year, which could grow to as much as 2.5 million, for the remainder of the contract.

"After having developed hydroelectric, wind and renewable biogas electricity projects, and after having facilitated over 900 megawatts of wind development in Klickitat County, this contract is a crowning achievement for us," said Klickitat PUD Board President Dan Gunkel. "Klickitat PUD has worked hard to utilize the resources located in our county to benefit our customers and improve our local economy. This agreement will bring the long-term, stable value to our customers that we have been working toward."

In addition to the staff at Klickitat PUD and PSE,

substantial assistance in completing the agreement was provided by Ralph Epling of Sustainable Energy Ventures.

This agreement helps PSE to support Washington House Bill 1257 by enabling it to offer a voluntary Renewable Natural Gas program to customers. PSE will also be able to propose an RNG supply program for the broader pool of customers. Additionally, the gas may allow PSE to continue running natural gas power plants with renewable fuel instead of seeking other options. ■

For more information, visit KlickitatPUD.com