



Upcoming KPUD System Improvements

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With the slowdown in the economy during the past several years, we have seen a decline in new electrical service installations for new customers throughout Klickitat County. As a result, our crews have had the opportunity to devote more time on maintaining our systems, and we are using fewer contractors.

This results in reduced system improvement costs, while ensuring we are making improvements that are necessary to maintain your reliability. Transmission system improvements planned for 2013 include rebuilding 2 miles of 69-kilovolt transmission lines that feed east from Goldendale toward the Bickleton area, rebuilding a portion of the Wishram transmission system that has been susceptible to snow and ice storm damage, and the continuation of transmission system pole replacements. We also plan to improve the reliability of our distribution system. We are working with the Port of Klickitat on a plan to build a new feeder from our substation in Dallesport to the Murdock area. This essentially will isolate the Murdock area from the main Dallesport circuit.

There are further plans to replace some aging underground line in the White Salmon area, in conjunction with a planned project done by the City of White Salmon. We also will have a June or July nighttime outage at the Bingen Substation to do critical maintenance and testing. We anticipate this outage to be no more than eight to 10 hours. In 2012, we started a long-range project that will sectionalize Goldendale with separate feeders from the EE Clouse Substation.

By dividing the city into sections, we can minimize the effects of some outages, and have the ability to provide power from other sources.

Our engineering department is also investigating the possibility of sectionalizing Bingen and White Salmon so outages will not affect an entire city. This work is tentatively planned for 2014.

There are also aggressive plans to continue replacing aged conductors in several areas during the next several years.

Water and wastewater system improvements include replacing aging and leaking steel pipe in Lyle, drilling a new well and applying for additional water rights in Lyle, drilling a new well in Roosevelt, and installing a new water main from that well.

We also plan to start replacing and upgrading the Human Machine Interface systems at both our Dallesport and Lyle wastewater facilities, and the operating system for the Dallesport lift stations. These systems are critical to the monitoring and operational requirements for the plants.

As Ron Ihrig discussed last month, we have systems and processes to assist us in identifying areas where reliability needs to be addressed. This analysis and the resulting system improvements will ensure we continue to provide safe and reliable service to all of our customers. With the cooperative work and planning of all the departments within the PUD, we strive to not only provide safe and reliable service, but to use as many PUD resources as we can to keep our costs at a minimum to achieve these goals that benefit our customers.

Ron Schultz, Chief Engineer