

KPUD Board Adopts Budget

The Klickitat PUD (KPUD) Commissioners adopted the 2006 budget at their December 27 meeting, approving the proposed \$29 million budget.

The new budget is consistent with the board's expectations to not increase rates.

Electric

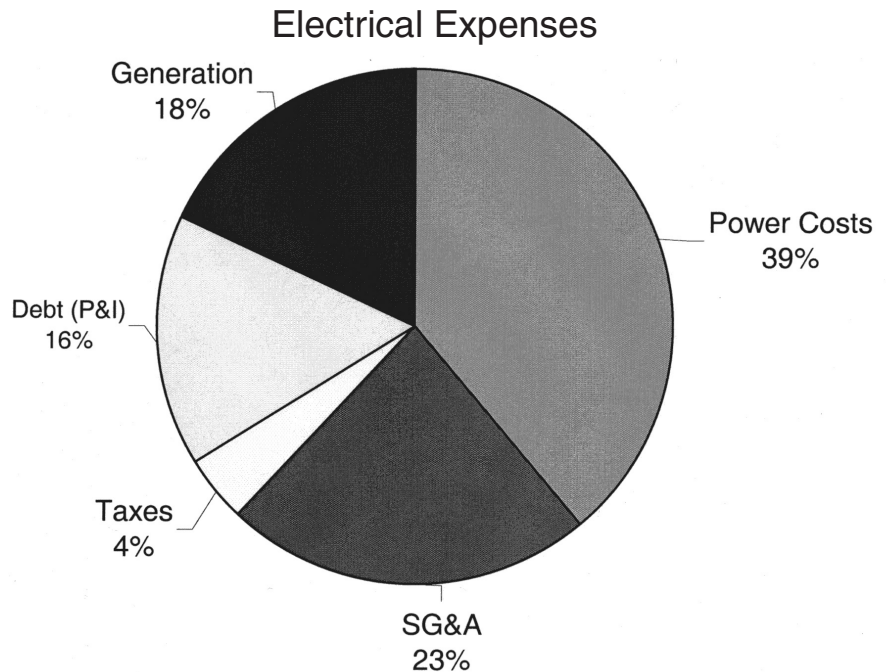
Revenue collected from rates continues to be the majority of the revenue at 65 percent, which is split almost equally between residential and commercial services.

The cost of power is the biggest expense to KPUD, which is expected to account for 39 percent of total expenditures.

The power supply for KPUD's load includes the purchase of power from the Bonneville Power Administration and a declared amount of power from McNary Dam generation.

The next highest expenses of the 2006 budget are salaries, administrative and general expenses, which includes the KPUD support staff, operational and maintenance costs.

Those combined account for 23 percent of KPUD's total costs.



KPUD will fully fund its capital projects through rate revenue. The expenditures include exploration of wind projects, line extensions and replacement of aging plant.

Water/Wastewater

KPUD operates and maintains eight water systems and five wastewater systems, which are all man-

aged separately.

Because each system is individually maintained, they are also separately analyzed for individual profitability.

KPUD operates the systems through rate revenues and managed costs, to allow pay off of debt that now plagues each system. ■

Bad Weather, Uncontrollable Events Cause Annual Outage Hours to Climb

By Brandi Meech

The year's outage report is in, and while the numbers for total outage hours are higher than last year, there were many snow and ice storms at the end of this year to account for the high figures.

This year's outage hours totaled 31,716, which is almost double what was experienced last year, when the total was 16,764. That is the equivalent of 10,000 customers out of power for 3.17 hours within a 12-month period of 365 days, 24-hours a day cycle.

Even with the bad weather and problems that can't be controlled, KPUD kept the power on for 99.9668 percent of the time. That is an amazing number considering the weather the last few months and the amount of work the crews have put in to keep Klickitat County's lights on.

KPUD crews were kept busy the last two months with outages due to ice and snow, which accounted for 10,742 of the total outage hours.

Another factor contributing to almost half of the total outage hours was an incident involving

Pacific Power.

In December, one of Pacific Power's lines in White Salmon went down for 7.5 hours, causing 15,705 outage hours at KPUD.

Weather, trees falling into power lines, high winds and other natural factors usually account for most of KPUD's outages, as seen in this year's report. Other causes are people digging into lines, transmission overloads, faults in lines and equipment failure.

No matter what the reason for the outage, KPUD crews work quickly to locate the problems and restore power to customers. ■