

# Regional Disposal Company Helps Roosevelt Community

**By Doug Miller**

*Water-WW Project Manager*

In 1997 the community of West Roosevelt determined its water and sewer infrastructure needed to be replaced, and that some growth in the town would be beneficial.

Regional Disposal Company (RDC) and Harris Farms had previously formed a partnership called Roosevelt Associates and purchased the town site from an investor-owned utility company.

With their support toward new infrastructure, the development of West Roosevelt was pushed forward.

Roosevelt Associates created a new subdivision. New water, sewer and electric utilities were planned in conjunction with Klickitat PUD (KPUD), which purchased the systems in 1964.

Telephone improvements were negotiated with Sprint.

Bids for new water and sewer systems were received. The low bidder started construction in 2000. Within a year the town had new water mains, sewer mains, service lines and a new water tank and booster station.

To ensure the project moved forward, Roosevelt Associates agreed to help pay the rates on up to 20 lots, with payments to begin five years after the project was complete. It also supported future growth by donating an additional 10 lots for the development of low- to-medium income housing.

It was anticipated this would bring in families with children to help increase enrollment for the community school.

While there was growth in the town, it was at a slow rate. The issue of debt payments



*A low- to medium-income housing development springs up in West Roosevelt.*

for the construction loans began to weigh heavily on the shoulders of ratepayers and the KPUD Board of Commissioners.

After several community meetings, it was determined an increase in connection fees would further limit growth in the area.

The community did not want to bear the cost of the new systems through its rates, which would have

more than tripled.

A solution was found to help out all of the existing residents. Use of a Local Utility District (LUD) levy moved half of the debt to individual lot owners.

This required lot owners to petition KPUD Commissioners for approval to form an LUD.

Roosevelt Associates helped by agreeing with LUD formation.

When the final tally came in, there were enough votes to pass the LUD.

With Roosevelt Associates owning the largest number of lots, it became the underlying source of payment.

With the passage of the LUD, lots have been selling. The community has grown from 23 water and sewer connections to 61. Roosevelt Associates not only met its obligation of connecting 20 lots, but additional lots, too.

That commitment to the success of the town is still being underwritten by passage of the LUD, which is helping the community maintain reasonable rates for services. ■

## **PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 of KLICKITAT COUNTY 2006 Fuel Mix Report**

Biomass	0.21 percent
Coal	3.88 percent
Cogeneration	0 percent
Geothermal	0 percent
Hydro	84.94 percent
Landfill Gases	0.01 percent
Natural Gas	1.27 percent
Nuclear	9.65 percent
Other	0 percent
Petroleum	0.04 percent
Solar	0 percent
Waste	0 percent
Wind	0 percent

**TOTAL 100 percent**