

KPUD Welcomes Lineman Bill Richardson

Wichita, Kansas, may be halfway across the country, but it was not too far for Northern Wasco PUD to advertise for a lineman in the early 1980s.

Bill Richardson saw the ad and he and his wife, Jo, made the trip to The Dalles for an interview. During their first trip to the Northwest, they witnessed one of the biggest snowstorms in years. Despite the weather, the Richardsons were undeterred and made the move, where Bill started as a journeyman lineman.

Now, Bill is making the move to Klickitat PUD as a new lineman with our White Salmon line crew.

He decided to return to line work after working at Northern Wasco as operations superintendent and serving in that capacity for nine of his 28 years there.

Bill also dedicated 10 years to the Mid-Columbia Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, where he helped initiate positive changes to rules and regulations journeyman linemen must follow.

"I have known Bill for a number of years, and he is an excellent addition



Bill Richardson

to our utility due to his background and his years of experience," says KPUD Operations Manager Ron Ihrig.

Bill enjoys spending time with his family and is proud of his sons and two grandchildren.

Bill is ready to get away from management and get back to his line work roots.

He started at Klickitat PUD October 20.

This Wichita Lineman is still on the line. ■

Tree Trimming Crew Adds a New Employee

Congratulations to Kirt O'Leary, who was selected to fill the position of tree trimming crew groundman, and started his first day November 16.

Kirt joins Klickitat PUD with 16 years of experience with the family business, O'Leary and Son Excavating. Kirt and his wife, Lisa, make their home in Goldendale. They have three children: Kailyn, 13; Dane, 5; and Ike, 2.

Kirt and Lisa enjoy watching their daughter become involved in sports, and they never miss one of her seventh-grade volleyball matches.

In his spare time, he is renovating the farmhouse where his family lives, although Kirt says he won't mind when his remodeling



Kirt O'Leary

project is complete so he can have more hunting time again. Kirt enjoys most outdoor activities, and can be found snowmobiling, four-wheeling, hunting and fishing.

Kirt is pleased with his new position and glad he can now spend more time at home with his family. ■

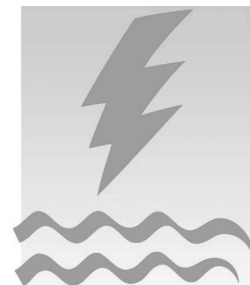
Generator Safety is Crucial

Generators can pose serious safety hazards when used improperly. The National Electrical Safety Code prohibits anyone from connecting a portable generator to household wiring or any other source leading to KPUD's power lines. In doing so, the generator's electrical energy, through your panel, meter and service wire, could back-feed to the transformer and generate up to 7,200 volts in the power lines. This could result in deadly consequences for our KPUD linemen.

A permanently installed generator requires installation of a control panel and transfer switch to isolate the generator from the PUD's power supply. Always check and follow local, state and national fire and electric codes. It is safest to have a licensed electrician install the switching system. Call the PUD when installation is complete to let us know about your backup system.

Remember, you are responsible for any injuries or damages to your property, your neighbors' property, or PUD equipment and personnel for an improperly installed or operated generator.

Lastly, never run a generator indoors. It emits poisonous fumes. ■



Klickitat PUD
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