

## Low Income Elderly Discount Available

Klickitat PUD offers its Low Income Elderly Rate Discount for billings issued December 2015 through May 2016. The program is monitored through Klickitat County Senior Services, which determines eligibility and provides the PUD with a list of eligible customers.

If you are 62 or older and want to

Discount	Yearly Income
35 percent .....	\$10,800 or less
25 percent .....	\$10,801 to \$15,150
15 percent .....	\$15,151 to \$18,380
5 percent.....	\$18,381 to \$21,600

take advantage of this discount, contact Klickitat County Senior Services.

- ▶ In Goldendale/East County, call Virginia Dunham at (509) 773-3757 or toll free (800) 447-7858.
- ▶ In White Salmon/West County, call Jill Parrott at (509) 493-3068.

## Prevent Frozen Pipes

Frozen water pipes are inconvenient and costly to repair. There are ways to prevent frozen pipes and thaw those already frozen. Klickitat PUD Water/Wastewater department recommends the following:

- ▶ Let the water run at a slow constant drip during extreme cold temperatures.
- ▶ Insulate all water pipes from cold, moving air and keep them dry.
- ▶ To thaw a frozen pipe, heat the area around the frozen part with an electric space heater, a hand-held hair dryer or a heat lamp. If this is a problem, call a plumber.
- ▶ If you have questions, call KPUD.
- ▶ White Salmon office: (509) 493-2255 or (800) 548-8358
- ▶ Goldendale office: (509) 773- 5891 or (800) 548-8357

# KPUD Says Goodbye to Rex Hicks

By Lori Froehlich

Rex Hicks hung up his hat in the meter shop for the last time in September. He was committed to serving the people of Klickitat County for the past 15 years as a meterman and substation wireman.

Rex was an electrician for 42 years. When he came to Klickitat PUD in 1999, he brought with him experience that included electrical construction, troubleshooting, maintenance, and repair and layout work. He has worked with hydraulics, servos, programmable logic controllers, back-up generation systems, computer-controlled lighting, security and fire systems.

Rex also served in the U.S. Air Force, and worked for the mill in Klickitat and the Port of Portland.

“When we hired Rex, one of the key factors was that he brought things to us that we couldn’t teach him,” says General Manager Jim Smith. “Those skills have contributed to the success of the meter shop and have added to our ability as a utility to provide safe and reliable service to customers.

“His shoes will be tough to fill. Not just the years of experience and the knowledge that he takes with him, but the solid, reliable person that is underneath all of that technical ability.”

Since joining KPUD, Rex learned revenue metering, became the go-to guy for distribution system protection and controls, helped develop the SCADA system, and was involved in all stages of the integration of the 230-kilovolt transmission system substations. That included fiber optic and other communications systems as well.

“Early on in my career, I literally spent weeks with Rex in 230kV substations, and he was really patient with me,” says Chief Engineer Ron Schultz. “Rex was good at his job, and he will be hard to replace. He made



**Rex Hicks recently retired after 15 years with Klickitat PUD.**

advancements through the years, was great about mentoring with what he learned, helping whenever he could and guiding others.”

Rick Pimley worked with Rex for more than 30 years and knows Klickitat PUD got its money’s worth with Rex.

“He was a joy to work with,” Rick says. “In the 30 years I worked with him, I don’t remember him ever coming to work in a bad mood. He really was the complete package that most employers look for. He possessed excellent electrical skills and was always willing to learn new skills.

“It wasn’t uncommon for Rex to take a manual home with him so he would be prepared for the next day’s job. Of course, nobody expected this, nor did Rex expect accolades. It’s just who he is, and KPUD was lucky to have that.”

Whether by looking into voltage problems, or by assisting to restore power during big storms, Rex was always there. Please help us congratulate Rex on his next step in life and wish him the best of luck. ■