



KPUD staff were recognized by the Washington Department of Ecology for their efforts and compliance rate in 2015. From left are Water/Wastewater Coordinator Sharon Blodgett, Operators Noah Halm, Rod Kiser, Greg Watson and Tim McMurrin, and Lead Operator Brandon Walter.

Department Recognition

Each year, the Washington Department of Ecology recognizes wastewater treatment plants that remain in 100 percent compliant with their wastewater discharge permits.

At the January 24 KPUD Commissioners' Meeting, Donna Smith and Steve Miller from the Department of Ecology attended and recognized three of the district's wastewater treatment plants for their outstanding performance in 2015.

These plants serve Wishram, Klickitat and Lyle communities.

KPUD operators responsible for these plants are Brandon Walter, Rod Kiser, Tim McMurrin, Greg Watson and Noah Halm.

Proper operation of a wastewater treatment plant ensures wastewater is properly treated prior to discharge, which is vital to protecting public health and the environment. The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Permits for these plants require meeting end-of-pipe effluent limits for numerous parameters, including biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, pH and fecal coliform bacteria. Permits also require completing water quality sampling; proper operation and maintenance of the plant; and numerous studies and reporting requirements.

These important obligations must be met to protect Washington's water quality.

"This is no easy task," said Water Quality Enforcement Specialist Donna Smith, who presented the awards to the KPUD

operators. "But these operators have done it—not just in 2015, but in previous years as well. This team has achieved this at the Wishram plant for seven consecutive years; at the Klickitat plant for eight consecutive years; and at the Lyle plant for 10 consecutive years."

Donna said the wastewater treatment staff continues to contribute to the well-being of the communities it serves.

"In most cases, wastewater treatment is the single-largest capital investment that a community makes," said Donna. "And these folks— your wastewater operators—work hard to protect that investment, along with protecting public health and the environment. The citizens of Wishram, Klickitat and Lyle should be very proud and appreciative of the hard work these unsung heroes do to ensure that their communities are and continue to be great places to live."

Klickitat PUD is proud of its operators and congratulates them for their efforts and dedication to maintain compliance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

MARCH

3-5—America's Largest Antique & Collectible Show, Expo Center, Portland

8-12—Portland Metro RV Dealers presents the Fall RV Show of Shows, Expo Center, Portland

13—Visit OMSI with Northern Wasco Parks & Rec., call (541) 296-9533

3/14—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale

3/16—Eric Church concert, Rose Quarter, Portland

3/17-19—61st annual Portland Roadster Show, Expo Center, Portland

3/18—Dine 'n Dash Fun Run, hosted by Klickitat Valley Health, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Goldendale

3/18—AMSOIL Arenacross, Rose Quarter, Portland

3/18-19—Wes Knodel's Rose City Gun & Knife Show, Expo Center, Portland

3/23—Computer classes, 1 to 5 p.m., Community Library, Goldendale

3/24—Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale, Community Library, Goldendale

3/24-25—Dance & Drill Championships, Sun Dome, Yakima

3/25-26—GPAA Gold and Treasure Show, Expo Center, Portland

3/28—Klickitat PUD Board of Commissioners' meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale