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WA-18

A Look Ahead at Your PUD

The past year has been an interesting one for all of us at Klickitat PUD.

We have seen an increase in requests for new electrical service, which usually means the economy is rebounding. Requests range from what I would call normal load growth to new large irrigation loads and, more recently, bitcoin mining operations and small data centers. The requests mean our electric loads are increasing, which is usually good for your PUD in the long term, as there are more customers to share the administrative costs we incur. These increases can, however, burden specific areas of our existing infrastructure.

Klickitat PUD regularly completes long-range electric system planning. The most recent plan is almost complete. The plan helps us determine the lowest-cost method to serve our increasing customer base and dictates the system improvements necessary to support load growth in our county. We complete a similar process for our water and wastewater systems.

In 2018, we will complete major upgrades to the substation that provides power for the Bingen, White Salmon and Snowden areas. This expansion increases the capacity of the substation to ensure we can supply continued load growth in these areas.

We also will be completing projects that increase electric system reliability in these areas. These improvements are meant to localize most outages to smaller areas so fewer customers are impacted by each outage.

We also are seeing continued load growth on the east end of our county. As a result, we are completing a large system upgrade determined by the long-range plan. These improvements include a new substation near Sixprong Road—about halfway between Roosevelt and Alderdale—along with the required transmission line to feed it. This project allows us to move some existing load from a substation on Alderdale Road to this new substation. In turn, this will allow us to serve more loads in the future throughout the entire east end of the county. The transmission line that will be built is also the first half of a future plan to bring another source of power into the area that will provide a greater level of reliability to our customers.

We are also completing smaller system improvements in many areas of the county. These consist of systematic aging infrastructure replacements, increased line capacities in localized areas and other upgrades to improve our service and reliability levels on the electrical system.

The largest improvement planned for 2018 with our water and wastewater systems is a new well for the Lyle water system. Other projects include the installation of radio-read water meters in the Glenwood, Ponderosa Park, Rimrock and Roosevelt water systems; the start of a two-year project of videoing and cleaning the sewer lines in Glenwood; and completing the 1-inch jumper on the end of the water line on Columbia Drive in Lyle.

As always, Klickitat PUD staff will continue to ensure you receive safe and reliable electric, water and wastewater services in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Ron Schultz
Chief Engineer