



Dignitaries, Klickitat PUD commissioners and staff join in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility on September 18. From left, Johannes Escudero of RNG Coalition, Sen. Curtis King, KPUD Commissioners Doug Miller and Dan Gunkel, KPUD General Manager Jim Smith, Gov. Jay Inslee, Dan Jameson of Republic Services, KPUD Commissioner Randy Knowles and KPUD Renewable Energy Asset Manager Kevin Ricks.

Photo by Beth Schroder

## A Visionary Accomplishment

*Dignitaries and public attend H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas facility ribbon-cutting*

**By Beth Schroder and Jim Smith**

Klickitat PUD's H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility in Roosevelt hosted dignitaries, community members, project participants and the media September 18. The assembled 140-person group took part in the dedication of the new facility.

Governor Jay Inslee expressed his appreciation for the foresight and dedication of Klickitat PUD commissioners and staff in working with Roosevelt Regional Landfill owner Republic Services to bring the RNG facility to completion and operation. He called it a "visionary accomplishment".

Inslee recognized KPUD General Manager Jim Smith, as Washingtonian of the Day, noting that Smith was recognized

for his management and leadership of Klickitat PUD.

In addition to Governor Inslee, dedication speakers included Washington Sen. Curtis King; Johannes Escudero, CEO and executive director of RNG Coalition; and Dan Jameson, vice president of government and regulatory affairs for Republic Services.

Sen. King thanked the governor for signing the bill he, Rep. Gina Mosbrucker and then Rep. Norm Johnson proposed giving PUDs the authority to produce and sell renewable natural gas. King recognized Republic Services' Roosevelt site as one of the best in the nation.

Escudero applauded the project for putting waste to use, creating a renewable fuel source. He said he believed that as long as



there is human and animal life on the planet, there will be some level of waste. Collecting and utilizing it is key to our future.

Jameson noted the commitment Republic Services and its local workforce have in supporting the continued growth of the site and the environmental stewardship that is part of the Klickitat PUD-Republic Services partnership.

Smith finished the presentations by thanking the many partners who help make a project of this magnitude possible in a small rural area. He praised the foresight of the commissioners from Klickitat PUD and Klickitat County, and commended the many employees who helped get the project built.

During guided tours, those attending the dedication learned about the many years of renewable development that the facility has gone through to reach this phase of operation, dating back to 1998. Each of these previous projects provided an opportunity for the team to learn, grow and build upon previous successes.

Using components of previous projects, the RNG project provided additional equipment and systems to process the methane further to produce renewable natural gas that is clean enough to meet pipeline injection standards. The cryogenic nitrogen removal system is a technology never before used in a landfill application.

The partnerships developed between Klickitat PUD, Klickitat County and Republic Services were essential in bringing benefits to KPUD customers.

With the operation and dedication of the H.W. Hill Renewable Natural Gas Facility, Klickitat PUD continues to embody its vision of using renewable assets and other resources to provide stable, low-cost rates. ■



**Clockwise from top left, Klickitat PUD's Kevin Ricks, right, gives a tour of the H.W. Hill RNG Facility to Gov. Inslee and Commissioner Knowles. Dedication attendees tour the RNG facility following the ribbon cutting. Klickitat PUD's H.W. Hill RNG Facility adds to the utility's resources. Inslee, left, talks with Travis Gray of Republic Services, center, and RNG facility operators Tim Madsen and Jonah Humphreys.**

Top left and bottom right photos by Beth Schroder  
Top right and center photos by Kathi Ricks

