



Cameron Keith



Mike Krause

KPUD's Friendly New Faces

Part of Klickitat PUD's long-range planning is ensuring proper training and continuation of department knowledge as longtime employees near retirement.

To fulfill this goal, the Water-Wastewater Department brought on two operator trainees in 2021: Cameron Keith of Lyle and Mike Krause of Goldendale.

Klickitat PUD owns and operates 10 water systems and six wastewater systems. Experience with and knowledge of the different systems is integral to continue providing valuable services to several rural communities within Klickitat County.

The Department of Ecology has recognized many of our systems for their outstanding performance. This takes high-quality, experienced operators.

Cameron Keith

Cameron started with KPUD in March 2021. As a water-wastewater operator trainee, his duties consist of daily maintenance, new installations and compliance testing and sampling.

He is expected to understand and respond to issues at any system within the county.

Cameron previously worked 15 years in the construction and excavation industry, most recently with Summit Excavation.

"I've laid plenty of utilities," he says.

While in construction, Cameron worked with the KPUD water-wastewater department, assisting mutual customers. This exposure left a good impression and was a factor in why he applied for the position.

"KPUD is a well-run organization," he says.

A longtime Lyle resident, Cameron and his wife have three kids, ranging in age

Please join us in welcoming the latest water-wastewater crew members to Klickitat PUD: Cameron Keith and Mike Krause

"Cameron and Mike are both valued employees and take initiative to get things started and finished in a timely matter," says Water-Wastewater Superintendent Brandon Walter.

"They both take pride in their work, and it shows," says Water-Wastewater Coordinator Sharon Blodgett.

from 1 to 11. His free time is spent with his family.

"As for hobbies," he says, "no time."

Mike Krause

Mike joined KPUD in September.

He describes his position as "operating and maintenance of the KPUD water and wastewater systems." This means understanding everything from water sampling to troubleshooting and repairing meters, lines, pumps or any of the moving parts involved in the systems.

Mike describes his work history as "a little bit of everything," including a variety of positions the last six years with Republic Services in Roosevelt. This prepared him for the often undesirable elements water-wastewater operators encounter. Mike was happy to apply for the KPUD position.

"It was an opportunity to work for a good, local company supporting the local communities," he says.

Mike is a lifelong resident of Goldendale and a familiar face to many. He and his wife have two children, ages 10 and 13. They enjoy trips to the coast and riding 4-wheelers and motorcycles.

Community Meetings to Resume

Klickitat PUD and the water-wastewater department look forward to meeting with communities this spring. We expect those meetings to begin in late March and run through mid-May. Please watch for meeting dates in your area. We are excited to once again interact face to face with our customers.