Cold Load

When power is restored, a surge of devices coming back online can damage transmission equipment—and cause more outages

When power is restored after an outage, there is often a sudden surge in electricity demand. In the industry, this is known as cold load pickup, a common occurrence that can be particularly challenging during inclement weather.

At Klickitat PUD, managing cold load pickup involves careful planning and execution. However, even with the best preparations, difficulties can arise.

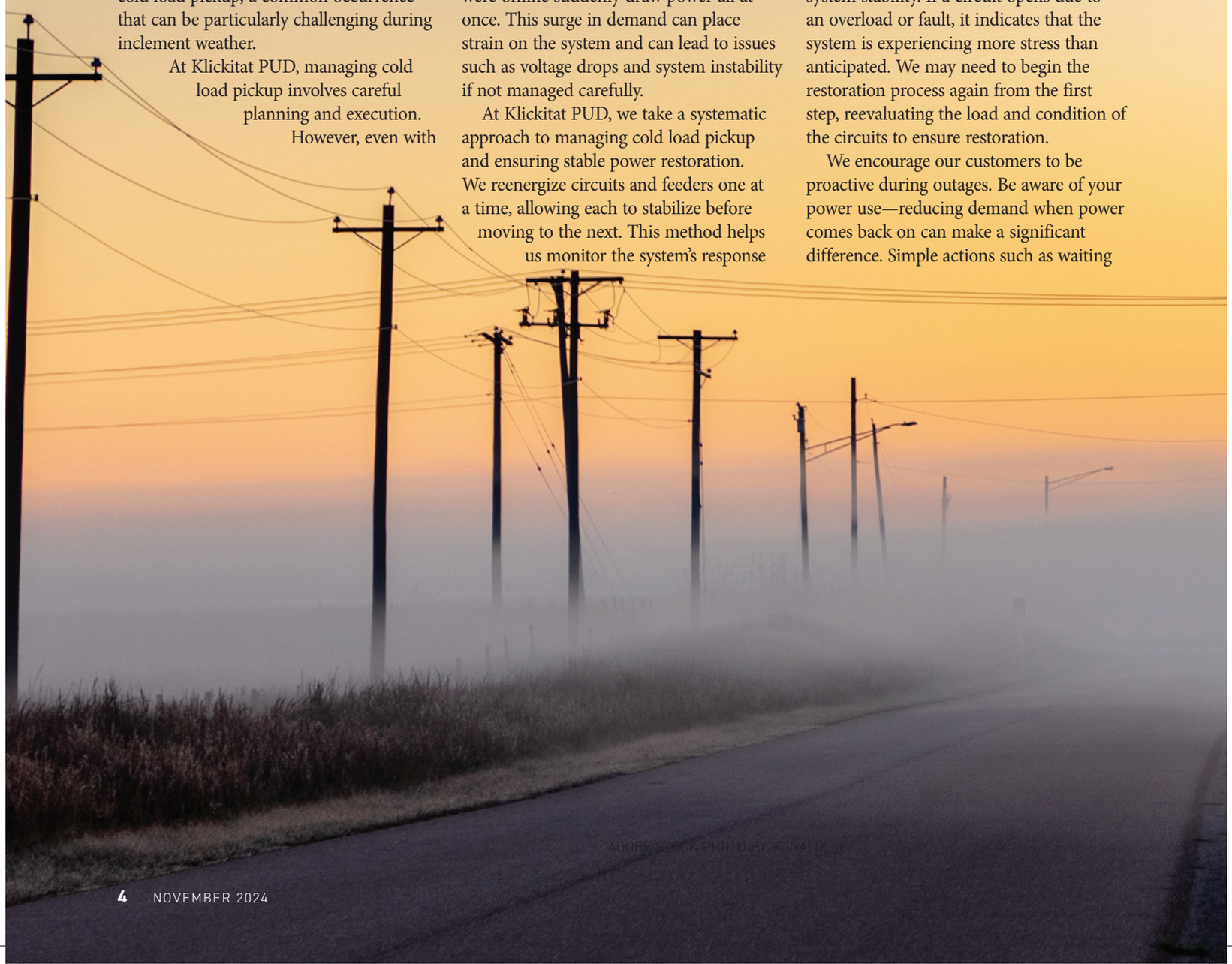
Cold load pickup happens when power is restored. Devices and appliances that were offline suddenly draw power all at once. This surge in demand can place strain on the system and can lead to issues such as voltage drops and system instability if not managed carefully.

At Klickitat PUD, we take a systematic approach to managing cold load pickup and ensuring stable power restoration. We reenergize circuits and feeders one at a time, allowing each to stabilize before moving to the next. This method helps us monitor the system's response and prevent overloads.

Despite our best efforts, complications can sometimes occur. One common issue is when a previously energized circuit opens under load and deenergizes again while we are working on another breaker.

This situation can force us to restart the restoration process to maintain system stability. If a circuit opens due to an overload or fault, it indicates that the system is experiencing more stress than anticipated. We may need to begin the restoration process again from the first step, reevaluating the load and condition of the circuits to ensure restoration.

We encourage our customers to be proactive during outages. Be aware of your power use—reducing demand when power comes back on can make a significant difference. Simple actions such as waiting



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY RONALD

Pick-Up

a few minutes before turning on large appliances can help ease the strain on the system and support a smoother recovery.

Here's How You Can Help

- Turn off your thermostat.
- Turn off the breaker to your water heater.
- Turn off appliances and electronics, leaving one light on so you know when power is restored
- When power is restored, turn things back on one at a time in 10-minute intervals to reduce demand.

If you notice persistent problems or unusual behavior in your power supply, let us know immediately. Quick reporting helps us address issues promptly.

Cold load pickup can occur year-round, regardless of weather conditions. While adverse weather can complicate cold load pickup, Klickitat PUD is well prepared to handle these challenges throughout the year. We use effective strategies to manage cold load pick up when we need to restart the restoration process to ensure stability.

We greatly appreciate our customers, which helps us restore power more efficiently. ■