

# Say Hello to Nathaniel Hill



White Salmon office welcomes new staking engineer

Nathaniel Hill assumed the key role of staking engineer at Klickitat PUD's White Salmon office in December.

He will assist new and existing customers in the design, staking and process of getting power to their property or upgrading an existing electric service. Other duties include patrolling and inspecting existing power lines for failed equipment, fire or tree hazards.

During outages, staking engineers are the eyes on the ground and in the air, helping identify outage-related damage.

KPUD uses drones to provide a different perspective during damage inspections and to cover more ground thoroughly. Drone use improves outage prevention and response times.

Nathaniel is local to Klickitat County. He was born in Goldendale and raised by his mother, Jenny Montgomery. After graduating from Goldendale High School, Nathaniel attended college in Spokane, earning a technical degree and an associate degree in aircraft maintenance and technology. He obtained his pilot's license, which pairs well with drone piloting.

Following college, Nathaniel began using his skills at Pioneer Surveying as its surveying drone pilot and surveyor, learning GNSS/GPS technologies. This experience gave him many of the skills he uses in his career with KPUD.

Nathaniel says he is excited to continue learning, not only to benefit KPUD but the customers the utility serves.

"Working at the PUD has always been a goal of mine," Nathaniel says.

He and his girlfriend, Annikah, have set down roots in Klickitat County and look forward to starting their family here.

Outside of work, Nathaniel flies drones as a hobby.

"I'm also passionate about cooking and hosting barbecues," he says. "I'm undefeated in the game of cornhole. All challengers are welcome." ■

## Call 811 Before You Dig

As the weather improves, many of our customers will undertake outdoor projects. Klickitat PUD reminds you to use caution while you work outdoors, especially around power lines. Overhead and underground power lines can pose a danger.

811, the national Call Before You Dig number, was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Failing to call 811 and making risky assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call—even small projects such as planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for large fines and repair costs.

One call to 811 automatically notifies electric utilities, natural gas providers and communication providers who may have underground lines at your work site. Utility personnel will mark or stake the horizontal path of their underground facilities, provide information about or give clearance to dig.

This simple service protects you from personal injury and protects underground facilities from being damaged. You can also visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).



While progress has been made on the White Salmon office renovation, it is not open to the public yet.

## White Salmon Office Still Closed to Public

The White Salmon PUD office will continue to be closed to the public through mid-June due to construction delays. KPUD looks forward to welcoming you in person soon.

In-person transactions and assistance must be scheduled by appointment or completed at the Goldendale office. The

White Salmon office is still available by phone during business hours at 509-493-2255. The White Salmon office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A drop box will remain in place and will be checked daily, with the exception of May 31 through June 3.

Payment options include pay-by-phone

by calling 888-255-5303; by mail; and online at [www.klickitatpud.com](http://www.klickitatpud.com) using the one-time payment option and SmartHub or the SmartHub mobile app.

We appreciate your patience during this time. We are happy to assist you in any way we can. ■



### Budget Billing Enrollment HOLD THE LINE



ARE **FLUCTUATING** POWER BILLS, DURING TIMES OF HEATING AND COOLING, CAUSING ADDITIONAL **FINANCIAL STRESS**? **Spring** is a great time to enroll in **Budget Billing**.

- KPUD will base your budget on the previous 12 months of energy consumption.
- If you pay for more energy than you use, we will recalculate your budget to include the credit—reducing your new budget payment.
- If you use more energy than you pay for on the Budget, we will increase your new budget to recover the shortage.
- Rural customers will continue to submit monthly meter reads.

### Budget Plan Billing Example

