



## Pilot Program for AMI Meters

KPUD is testing advanced metering infrastructure effectiveness

Klickitat PUD continues to look for ways to invest and leverage assets to benefit consumers. As technology advances and solutions become more affordable, KPUD can improve reliability while decreasing costs.

Through the years, KPUD has invested in large-scale projects that provide stable revenues that benefit rates. A new project being evaluated could provide a similar return on investment directly to customers through improved efficiencies and services, and offer new account management features.

One of the more useful tools is advanced metering infrastructure, also known as smart meters. Advanced metering provides a tool to identify power quality issues and outage locations. It also aids outage response

times and the ability to more effectively manage the electric distribution system. Through advanced meters, customers can access their daily energy use—and manage and budget use more effectively—through KPUD’s SmartHub portal.

Smart meters require communication networks capable of delivering accurate, reliable and voluminous data streams in a timely manner.

KPUD is evaluating a mesh web radio system that connects smart meters to head-end systems, which manage the data and other information systems. The head-end system transmits and receives data, can send operational commands to distribution equipment, and provides interval load data from smart meters to support customer billing.

Klickitat PUD has strategically deployed 50 meters in the central part of Klickitat County to test the limits of the meter communication range. This pilot program will allow KPUD to evaluate the effectiveness of the wireless network within our

challenging terrain.

This pilot, which began in February, is expected to last into May. Knowledge gained during the pilot will help staff evaluate whether a larger deployment is feasible or if further evaluation is necessary.

Following a successful evaluation of the pilot, a plan will be developed to expand the installed infrastructure. KPUD will share the plan with customers.

As with any new project, there may be questions. Klickitat PUD wants to ensure customers have time to express their thoughts on a system of this type.

The purpose of the plan is to create a more robust network that gives customers the ability to have more control over their electrical use and help KPUD continue its commitment to provide cost-effective, reliable service.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Klickitat PUD engineering supervisor Brandon Johnson at [bjohnson@klickpud.com](mailto:bjohnson@klickpud.com). ■