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WA-18

All in a Year's Work

Once a well-kept secret, Klickitat County has emerged as an attractive destination for families seeking the quiet of rural living without sacrificing modern conveniences. Families from busy cities and suburbs have embraced this scenic region, captivated by its expansive landscapes and welcoming communities.

The shifting population set in motion a series of challenges and opportunities for Klickitat Public Utility District. To confront these challenges, KPUD has developed a multiyear plan of action. This plan entails strategic upgrades and capacity improvements across various areas within the county that have experienced significant growth.

Last year, KPUD's engineering team was extremely busy designing and managing several projects throughout the district as part of our long-range plan. Accomplishments in 2023 include:

- Several thousand feet of aged, faulty underground electric cable was replaced in the town of Dallesport. Last year's efforts will significantly improve the electrical reliability for the Dallesport community.
- We used drones to survey more than 50 miles of KPUD's electric infrastructure in the Glenwood Valley. Several issues were identified and addressed ahead of fire season as part of our fire mitigation efforts.
- Significant upgrades to power lines were completed on Woodland Road, just east of Goldendale. Three miles of overhead power lines were rebuilt. This was the first phase of a multiyear plan to improve power quality in the Satus Pass area.
- The transmission line that serves the community of Bickleton and surrounding areas also received some upgrades. Approximately 2.5 miles of the transmission line—originally built in the 1940s—was replaced along Dot Road. Several more miles will be replaced over the next couple of years.

We also completed smaller system improvements in many areas of the county. These consisted of systematic aging infrastructure replacements, increased line capacities in localized areas and other upgrades to improve service and reliability levels on the electrical system. The information received from AMI will help the engineering team prioritize future upgrades to ensure we meet the reliability expectations of our customers and make prudent fiscal decisions.

Thank you to the KPUD team for their continued dedication and commitment to designing, scheduling, managing and completing these projects. I know we all are looking forward to accomplishing even more in 2024.

Have a happy new year!

Brandon Johnson
Engineering Manager