

Power Management is a Team Effort

By Lori K. Froehlich

Have you ever wondered how Klickitat PUD knows how much power it needs to provide a smooth, uninterrupted flow of electricity to its customers?

This is a primary responsibility of KPUD's Power Management Team.

Holly Dohrman was named the interim manager of the team in January and took over the reins permanently April 1. The team is made up of Holly, Jim Moss, Sharon Ohnstad, Billie Quantrell and Mike DeMott. Each team member has a valuable role to play in making sure KPUD meets each customer's power demands.



Holly Dohrman

Holly feels conservation is one of the best ways there is to manage growth. This is why Sharon Ohnstad spends her days focusing on our conservation program.

If you have received a rebate or conservation loan from KPUD, you probably have met Sharon. As KPUD's energy services specialist, she works directly with customers over the phone and even makes house calls.

"Sharon does a really great job and works hard to help customers understand the benefits of conservation," Holly says.

KPUD strongly encourages all customers to conserve power. Not only does it help customers save on their power bills, every kilowatt-hour saved is one less kilowatt-hour KPUD has to buy or generate for its own use.

Billie Quantrell is KPUD's scheduling and compliance coordinator. Her power management responsibilities are twofold. Billie gathers data for KPUD's generation sources and production, mostly at the



KPUD's Power Management Team includes Sharon Ohnstad, left, Billie Quantrell, Mike DeMott and Jim Moss.

One Way to Conserve

Conservation conscious customers can go to Klickitat PUD's website, www.klickpud.com, for information about "green tags," a program administered through the nonprofit Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Green tags make it easy for residents and business owners in Klickitat County to support renewable power. Weatherization rebate information for residential customers also is listed on the website, or call Sharon Ohnstad at (509) 773-7622.

H.W. Hill Landfill Gas (LFG) Power Plant and McNary Fishway Hydro Project, and coordinates power scheduling. She sends data to KPUD's scheduling agent, The Energy Authority (TEA), which needs the information to know how to market the generation.

For example, the power generated at the LFG plant is marketed as green power that can be sold for more revenue than it costs to produce. This helps stabilize KPUD expenses and keep customer rates low.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has a list of requirements for how generation is marketed. It is up to Billie to make sure these requirements are met. She works with TEA to ensure enough power is scheduled to come from BPA to KPUD and its customers.

Billie also works closely with BPA and each KPUD department to ensure the utility is compliant with Western Electricity Coordinating Council regulations. System reliability and the building and maintaining of transmission lines are two examples of important compliance issues.

Jim Moss, products and services

analyst, and Mike DeMott, power management analyst, take the financial pieces of buying and selling power, and analyze the data.

Jim analyzes the KPUD customer load and how KPUD can meet these needs financially, now and in the future. He also looks at the associated costs to buy power compared with generating it.

Mike focuses on future power needs and power generation labeled as renewable. He follows how KPUD-generated power is marketed and the financial result for the utility.

For example, Oregon is the only state to view power generated at KPUD's McNary Dam project as a renewable resource. However, every state views power generated by wind and landfill gas as renewable.

Analysis from Mike and Jim includes pending changes in the way KPUD will purchase power from BPA.

"The new slice contract will dramatically change the way we do business," Holly says. "I'm very thankful to have Jim and Mike on our team to help us understand all these differences."

Mike and Jim analyze the situation from every angle to ensure it will be a smooth transition in October 2011 when the change takes place.

The management, billing and collecting of revenue from contracts with companies that use KPUD's transmission lines is yet another aspect of the Power Management Team's duties.

Holly helps coordinate all of these tasks within her department while working closely with BPA.

BPA's policy implementation, budgeting and rate issues can and do affect KPUD.

Each team member's specific job is just a part of a larger process that, when put together, enables KPUD to achieve its mission statement: to provide safe, reliable, cost-based utility services at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business principles. ■

Landfill Gas Engineer Served Aboard a Nuclear Submarine

Kevin Ricks came to work with Klickitat PUD at the H.W. Hill Landfill Gas (LFG) Power Plant in May 2010 as an operator. In August, he was selected to continue in his new role as LFG plant engineer with the LFG plant expansion startup team.

Kevin, his wife, Kathi, and their four children—Justin, Lauren, Spencer and Jeremiah, ages 8 to 18—relocated to Washington for the clean air and open spaces.

Their family also includes two horses, two dogs, a turtle and a rabbit.

While Kevin enjoys fishing, computers and

music, the favorite Ricks family activity is camping. Their summer of 2011 already is scheduled with the great outdoors.

Kevin spent nine years with the U.S. Navy. During his Navy tenure, he was an electrician's mate first class on nuclear submarines, an instructor at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Unit at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory in Idaho Falls and spent 4½ years onboard the USS Florida, a nuclear-powered Trident ballistic missile submarine based in Bangor.

After leaving the Navy, Kevin worked for Bridgestone/Firestone, Air Products and Chemicals Inc., the Northern California Power Agency and

Puget Sound Energy. Kevin also has a certificate in project management from the University of California Davis.

"I hope to be a project manager someday, when I grow up," he says.

Kevin helps coordinate construction and startup activities of the LFG expansion project. His responsibilities include ensuring the plant is built per contract specifications, and that all plant systems function properly.

"It's challenging and rewarding because I get to work with people from the PUD, the general contractor, the project management company and all of the vendors."

His knowledge, skills and abilities will continue to bring value to the LFG team as the expansion project progresses into commercial operation.

"Kevin brings a wealth of experience along with the ability to teach others. He will be an integral part of the KPUD LFG Team going forward," LFG Plant Supervisor Jonah Humphreys says, adding with a smile, "We all enjoy ribbing him about being an engineer with the 'knack.'"

"Everyone at the PUD is so very nice and supportive," Kevin says. "It's fulfilling to be part of a project that will have such a positive impact on the PUD and everyone in the county."

Kevin enjoys his new position and the ability to be part of a small organization that has a family atmosphere. Please join Klickitat PUD in welcoming Kevin as its newest employee and family member. ■



Kevin Ricks

Help KPUD Celebrate Public Power Week

During the week of October 3 through October 9, Klickitat PUD is celebrating Public Power Week along with 2,000 other electric utilities that collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans.

Residents throughout Klickitat County are invited to stop by the Goldendale and White Salmon offices for refreshments and free logo items on Friday, October 8, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help us celebrate Public Power Week and Klickitat PUD's 72 years in operation.