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WA-18

Community Input is Important

I mentioned last month that I think it is very important for your PUD management and commissioners to visit community councils, community action groups and other meetings each year.

Last year, we attended in the order of 20 community meetings to provide updates about Klickitat PUD and answer questions you had as customers. I am planning to do the same this year between February and June.

Last year, we visited Bickleton irrigators, Centerville irrigators, the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce, White Salmon Rotary, Trout Lake, Glenwood, Appleton, Snowden, Lyle, Klickitat, Dallesport, the Port of Klickitat, Wishram, Ponderosa Park, Rimrock homeowners, the city of Goldendale, Roosevelt, Alderdale, Goldendale Kiwanis, the Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce, the city of Bingen and the Bickleton Community Action Planning Committee.

It is a significant commitment of evenings, but I firmly believe that as a service provider to the community, you as owners of the PUD should have access to timely and consistent updates in many forms. One such form is our website, which we are in the process of revamping.

I participate in radio talk shows. We

do newspaper articles. We also communicate in your monthly Ruralite magazine. When we survey our customers every two years, Ruralite continues to be the single most preferred method of communication that we provide. As a result, expect to continue to see Ruralite articles from us in the future as our customers tell us it has value.

At our community presentations, we run through how the current economic climate and the Bonneville Power Administration are affecting us. We talk about the electricity markets, how that affects our forecasting and how we are planning our business as a result of those realities. We talk about our rate outlook and provide updates on our generation and transmission projects. We also talk about our financial performance and the challenges we face as we move into a more commodity-based marketplace.

These are tumultuous times, which create many opportunities and pitfalls. But I think it makes for extremely interesting discussions.

I encourage you to support your community action groups and attend local meetings. Involvement in your community is crucial, and it is important to make sure your voice is heard.

We try to advertise our schedules in newspapers, or you can call us any time and ask where we will be. If you are interested in having me and maybe some of my staff attend your group's meetings, please give us a call.

Jim Smith, General Manager

