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WA-18

## Ensuring System Reliability

Last year, I reported that with the slow-down in the economy during the past several years, we saw a decline in new electrical service installations for new customers throughout Klickitat County. As a result, our crews could focus more time on maintaining our systems than may be possible during peak construction times.

This year we are seeing a turnaround that has resulted in a large increase in new electrical installations, both residential and commercial. We assure you we are still doing everything we can to ensure reliability by doing maintenance where we know it is needed, and upgrading some of our existing facilities and systems.

You might wonder how KPUD decides where it is going to do maintenance.

Basically, we use two methods: known problem areas where we have either consistent or newly discovered problems, or items from our electrical long-range plan.

Several years ago, Klickitat PUD worked with a consultant to develop a 20-year plan based on infrastructure age and construction, historical growth and load forecasts.

We took that plan and set a five-year plan, and we continue to set an annual work plan. As part of our annual work plan, we include our first criteria of known problem areas or those requiring critical maintenance and ask, "How does that fit within our long-range plan?"

We use the same philosophy and planning for the water-wastewater systems that we do for the electrical systems, but the water-wastewater systems may also have mandatory requirements for upgrades or maintenance that often leave us no choice

in deferring for another year.

Transmission system improvements planned for 2014 include rebuilding portions of five 69-kV systems throughout the county and the addition of a temporary substation in the Alderdale area to allow for increased customer load.

Distribution system work we have planned includes integrating the temporary substation in Alderdale, sectionalizing in Bingen and replacing aging underground in the Simmons Road area of White Salmon. We have several projects in the Goldendale service area to replace aging or damaged infrastructure.

Water and wastewater system improvements we are working on include commissioning a new reservoir at Ponderosa Park and installing a new alarm system for our sewer lift stations in Dallesport.

We will upgrade and replace the human machine interfaces in the Dallesport and Lyle wastewater treatment plants. Both plants are functioning on the original systems installed when the plants were built. Their useful life has exceeded standard expectations. We can no longer support them, as the software and computer components are no longer available. Given that operational failure is not acceptable and we are already experiencing issues, we will upgrade both of these sites this summer. We also continue work in Lyle to replace aging and leaking steel water pipe.

We have a lot of work planned to continue to offer reliable and efficient services to our customers. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to give us a call.

**Ron Schultz, Chief Engineer**