

## KLICKITAT PUD



Mike Nixon, KPUD operations manager



Wade Griffith, KPUD journeyman lineworker

# Welcome Friends New and Old

Klickitat PUD's Operations Department is versatile. It coordinates line crews and the office, contracts linecrews and tree crews, collaborates with engineering, works planned and unplanned outages and much more.

Operations also encompasses the line crews, who maintain, repair and install the equipment and material to provide electric service to KPUD customers. It is essential to fill open positions with well-qualified and experienced individuals.

KPUD recently welcomed two new hires: Mike Nixon and Wade Griffith.

Please join us in welcoming Mike and Wade!

### Mike Nixon

Mike was hired as KPUD's operations manager in January 2022. Mike explains his role in the utility as coordinating the line maintenance and vegetation management crews to ensure the integrity of the KPUD electrical system. Mike is involved in the line apprenticeship program, recruiting and training employees from the pre-apprentice level through journeying out as qualified linemen as well as chairing the KPUD safety program.

Mike is happy to return to the Pacific Northwest. The Washington native was born in Walla Walla and raised in Northport, near the Canadian border. After graduating high school in 1985, he moved to Spokane,

where he attended community college and got his associate degree.

When the company he was working for shut down, Mike opted to attend Avista/Spokane Community College line school. Upon completion, he began a lineworker apprenticeship with Turlock Irrigation District in Turlock, California, in 2002.

Mike worked his way up from apprentice lineman to journeyman lineman to crew foreman and then division manager in 2015. In that position, Mike gained experience and knowledge coordinating and supervising contractors, inspectors and locators.

With the opening for operations manager at KPUD, Mike had the opportunity to move back to Washington and be closer to his and his wife's family. Mike and his wife, Shannon, have been married 21 years. They enjoy spending time with family—especially their two grandchildren—camping, and going out on their side-by-side.

### Wade Griffith

Wade, a journey lineworker, previously worked at KPUD from 1992 to 2001. He completed his lineworker apprenticeship with KPUD in 1997, so he is a familiar face in the county.

The PUD is pleased to have Wade rejoin its White Salmon line crew. ■

# Be Prepared Before An Outage Hits

Power can unexpectedly go out at any time, even if it is usually restored within a few hours. During inclement weather, the chances of power outages greatly increase, and the duration could last several days while the line crews identify and repair damages that could impact multiple communities at one time within Klickitat County.

Is your family prepared to hunker down through a widespread outage that could last for extended periods of time?

Prior to outage season, Klickitat PUD would like to remind customers to ensure they have current contact information on file with the utility. To make updates, contact KPUD Customer Service at 800-548-8357 or log into your SmartHub account. Current phone numbers and service addresses help with the response and restoration verification process during an outage event.

KPUD recommends customers should have an emergency kit on hand and accessible. Some items to consider including in the emergency kit are:

### **Flashlights with extra batteries.**

Keep flashlights with fresh batteries accessible, as they will likely be the first item you will need to locate in a dark house.

**Candles and matches.** To supplement flashlights, candles are a great source of light in a dark house. When burning candles, never leave them unattended and ensure they are out of reach of children. Remember to keep them away from all flammable objects, such as curtains, tablecloths and bedding.

**Food.** In the event of a storm or widespread outage, many restaurants and grocery stores may also be impacted. While food in the refrigerator can last for several hours, everyone should plan to have enough nonperishable food and water to sustain their family for several days. Additionally, you should also have access to a manual can opener.

**Communications.** If you have a landline phone, keep a corded phone accessible, as wireless home phones will not work without power. Keep a charged portable power pack



in your outage kit to keep your cellphone charged. During widespread outages, a battery-powered radio may allow for regular updates as provided by the local radio stations.

**Keep warm.** If you have wood burning or an alternate fuel source for heat, keep an ample supply available during the winter. Ensure your heat sources do not need any electricity to operate. You should also have enough blankets for each person in your home to stay warm.

**Medical necessities.** KPUD cannot prioritize outage restoration based on medical necessity due to the nature of outage restoration processes. As such, customers should verify they have adequate supplies to cover their medical needs during an outage event, such as:

- Prescription medications.
- Backup oxygen tanks.
- Alternative power sources for CPAP machines.
- First-aid kits.

**Backup generator (optional).** Backup generators are a great option to get power to your house during an outage. Customers who wish to install a backup generator should consult an electrician and notify

KPUD. An improperly installed generator could cause an injury or death to both users and our line crews working to restore power. Without proper installation, the possibility of back feeding the generated power back onto the de-energized line exists.

When a power outage occurs, KPUD asks customers to promptly report their outage either by calling 800-548-8357 or reporting the outage through your SmartHub account. Please note any issues you have witnessed, and remember to steer clear of downed power lines. If possible, please leave on a porch light so KPUD crews can quickly verify power has been restored to your neighborhood before leaving the area.

Periodically check for updates on [www.klickitatpud.com](http://www.klickitatpud.com) under "Outages" or follow us on Facebook. You may also view our outage map through SmartHub. We reflect the progress our crews are making on these resources.

For more information about outage preparedness, call the KPUD operations department at 800-548-8357. ■