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WA-18

**Ron S. Ihrig Receives Lifetime Achievement Award**

I am honored and delighted to announce that Ron Ihrig, our chief operating officer, received the Washington PUD Association's lifetime achievement award at its recent annual meeting. This award is the highest honor awarded by the association. The association also presented Ron with a 35-year tenure award for his years of service at Klickitat PUD.

Ron began working for KPUD in 1979 as a ground-man on the line crew. Shortly thereafter he entered into the apprentice lineman program to follow in his father's footsteps. In 1983, Ron earned his journeyman lineman status. In the following years, he received various promotions within the utility. In his 35 years of service, he has held the positions of journeyman lineman, line foreman, line superintendent, assistant operations manager, operations manager, director of operations and generation, and chief operations officer.

Although we are a small utility, we are more diverse than most utilities of our size, which means our employees carry many responsibilities. In addition to the "normal" transmission and distribution operational functions that provide electric service, Ron also oversees our 15 water and wastewater systems, the operational aspects of our wind and hydro projects, our methane gas generation facilities and our 230-kilovolt transmission system. He also supervises the customer service and engineering departments.

During Ron's tenure, the PUD has built new wastewater treatment facilities in Lyle and Klickitat. Ron is also a key player in the development of a new water system in



**From left, Commissioner Dan Gunkel, retired Commissioner Harold Hill, retired General Manager Tom Svendsen, Chief Operating Officer Ron Ihrig, General Manager Jim Smith, Commissioner Randy Knowles and Commissioner Ray Mosbrucker.**

Bickleton. Under his leadership, we built more than 50 miles of 230-kV transmission lines and eight 230-kV substations that interconnect more than 900 megawatts of renewable wind development in our state.

Ron has a direct management style and is unwavering in his standards for work, quality and overall service. Despite his tough-acting exterior, Ron is sensitive and caring. He has spent many sleepless nights pondering employee issues and situations most of the organization did not know existed.

Ron's name is synonymous with "PUD" in Klickitat County. I could not be more proud of him. Congratulations, Ron, on this great achievement!

**Kip Graves Recognized for Service**

I also am pleased to recognize Kip Graves, our line foreman in White Salmon, who has served you for 35 years. Please see page 8 for his story.

Thank you, Kip. Everyone appreciates your leadership and dedication.

**Jim Smith, General Manager**