



From left, Water Waste-Water Coordinator Sharon Blodgett, Trainee Dakota Whitner, Washington Department of Ecology's Andy O'Neill, WWW Lead Operator Brandon Walter, Operator Rod Kiser, Operator Tim McMurrin and KPUD Commissioner Ray Mosbrucker at the June commissioners' meeting where the staff were recognized for their outstanding performance. Not pictured is Operator Greg Watson.

Klickitat PUD Staff Recognized

Area wastewater treatment plants awarded for dedication, hard work and safe water

The Washington State Department of Ecology recently recognized the Klickitat, Lyle and Wishram wastewater treatment plants as recipients for the 2014 "Wastewater Treatment Plant Outstanding Performance" awards.

Each plant was evaluated for compliance with its effluent limits, monitoring and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment and other regulatory activities to stay in full compliance with their discharge permits. These important obligations must be met to protect Washington's water quality.

Out of about 300 wastewater plants in the state, Klickitat PUD's systems are three of the 127 to achieve full compliance with their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This is the seventh consecutive year of achievement for Klickitat, the ninth consecutive year for Lyle and the sixth

consecutive year for Wishram.

Water Quality Program Manager Heather Bartlett writes, "It takes diligent operators and a strong management team working effectively together to achieve this high level of compliance. Ecology appreciates the extraordinary level of effort your plant operators demonstrated throughout 2014. Talented and proficient operators are critical to successful plant operations and protecting the health of Washington's waters. Your excellent record is a credit to the dedicated operators who are responsible for operating this award-winning plant."

The communities of Klickitat, Lyle and Wishram and the dedicated KPUD operators are congratulated for their efforts, having worked hard to maintain compliance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. ■

Why Do the Lights Blink?

Klickitat PUD staff often is asked why consumer lights blink.

Blinking lights usually are the result of momentary outages that occur when some type of disturbance exists on the line. This could be a lightning strike, an automobile striking a power pole, or an animal or tree branch coming in contact with an energized power line.

Because today's microprocessors are so intolerant, brief outages are more noticeable than in the past. When the lights blink, it actually may indicate the PUD's equipment is operating properly. Blinking lights reflect the operation of equipment that protects the lines and keeps the power from going off for more than just a moment.

Klickitat PUD's distribution system includes special devices, called re-closers, which operate much like a switch or a self-resetting circuit breaker. Whenever there is a short circuit on the line, the re-closer interrupts the flow of electricity. If the short circuit is temporary, which often is the case, the re-closer allows power to continue flowing through the line with only a brief interruption of service—meaning your lights blink.

Without this device, every short circuit—temporary or

otherwise—would shut off the power until Klickitat PUD could send a lineman to restore service.

Re-closers usually operate automatically three times before stopping the flow of electricity and causing a power outage. The re-closer operation protects the lines from damage.

A word of caution: If you have lights blinking on a continuous basis, it may indicate a problem. You should contact the PUD. While we strive to deliver steady, consistent and high-quality power, sometimes circumstances beyond our control cause power disturbances. For protection of your valuable appliances and sensitive electronic equipment, we recommend protective power-quality devices.

An estimated 80 percent of power-quality problems originate inside the home. Culprits include motors starting or shutting down, improper electrical wiring and grounding, and overloaded circuits.

If you experience continuous blinks or improper power quality, please check the electrical equipment and wiring in your house first, but please call us anytime. We are always here and happy to help you. ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 2016

Every Saturday—Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Ekone Park, Goldendale

Every Saturday—Saturday Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trout Lake

8/5—Outdoor movies, free, starts at dusk, bring blankets and chairs. Sunshine Mill, The Dalles

8/5-7—Annual Trout Lake Fair.

8/6—Annual Founder's Cup Golf Tournament, Indian Creek Golf Course, Hood River

8/6-7—W.E. Rock Climbing event, 290 Pipeline Road, Goldendale, www.werocklive.com/events

8/7—Jam session at the American Legion, 1 to 4 p.m., Goldendale

8/9—Klickitat PUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale

8/9-13—Umatilla County Fair & Rodeo, Hermiston

8/12—Outdoor movies, free, starts at dusk, bring blankets and chairs. Sunshine Mill, The Dalles

8/12-14—Cruise The Gorge Classic Car Show, The Dalles, www.midcolumbiacarclub.org

8/13—Waterfront Music Festival, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Stevenson

8/16-23—Washington bicycle ride, Grape Vines & Mountain Climb, starts in Goldendale

8/17-21—Skamania County Fair & Timber Carnival, Skamania County Fairgrounds, Stevenson

8/18-21—Wasco County Fair & Rodeo, Wasco County Fairgrounds, Tygh Valley

8/19—Outdoor movies, free, starts at dusk, bring blankets and chairs. Sunshine Mill, The Dalles

8/19-21—Trout Lake String Music Camp

8/19-21—Festival of Wheels, Motorcycle & Car Show at Ekone Park, Goldendale

8/20-21—Port of Toledo Annual Wooden Boat Show, family-friendly weekend, Bend

8/20-21—Apple Valley Summer Fruit Festival & Country BBQ, Apple Valley Store, Hood River

8/20-21—Maryhill Ratz celebrates Tad's 60th birthday with non-competition skateboarding, Maryhill Loops Road.

8/23—Klickitat PUD Commission meeting, 2 p.m., Goldendale

8/23-27—Benton-Franklin County Fair & Rodeo, Kennewick

8/24-28—Rally in the Gorge, County Fairgrounds, Hood River, www.soundrider.com/rally/schedule.aspx

8/25-28—Klickitat County Fair & Rodeo, Fairgrounds, Goldendale

8/26—Outdoor movies, free, starts at dusk, bring blankets and chairs. Sunshine Mill, The Dalles

8/28—U.S. Navy Band Country Current, free concert at Maryhill Winery Amphitheater, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Goldendale

September 2016

9/2-4—International Bigfoot Conference, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick

9/2-4—Tumbleweed Music Festival, Howard Amon Park, Richland

9/2-5—Trout Lake Area Annual Rummage Sale

9/3—Car show and flea market, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with more than 140 antique vehicles, Bickleton

9/3—Chris Isaak concert, Maryhill Winery, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., Goldendale, www.maryhillwinery.com

9/3-5—Apple Valley Labor Day Peach Celebration & Country BBQ, Apple Valley Store, Hood River

9/3-5—Labor Day weekend celebration at Maryhill Winery, live music 1 to 5 p.m., Goldendale

9/4—Jam session at the American Legion, 1 to 4 p.m., Goldendale

9/5—Roy Webster Cross-Channel Swim, 5:30 a.m., 720 E. Port Marine Drive, Hood River