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WA-18

Celebrating Success at KPUD

Klickitat PUD reached a significant milestone last month. On June 4, the H.W. Hill landfill gas electric generation facility was shut down to allow for the completion of the renewable natural gas facility.

The landfill gas operating team—led by Kevin Ricks and supported by many PUD employees—operated the combustion turbine engines for 56,000 hours without a lost-time accident. That is almost seven years accident free. This is a major achievement given the daily maintenance and operation requirements of the facility.

In addition, your KPUD team accomplished the following:

First, Solar Gas Turbines said we would need to rebuild the jet engines at about 30,000 hours. They expect a gas turbine engine operating on natural gas from a natural gas pipeline to last about 45,000 hours. Our units were running on the methane gas coming from the Republic Services landfill in Roosevelt and, based on their experience, they believed we could only achieve 30,000 hours and still meet our air quality permit requirements. During the past seven years, our employees and support team improved cleaning system operations. This caused the gas delivered to the gas turbines to remain at such a high quality the turbines lasted almost twice as long as Solar expected. As a result, we did not have to rebuild the turbines, which saved more than \$5 million in rebuild costs.

Second, the team maintained the generation facility so well it was available 98 percent of the time. Typical availability for a generation facility running on landfill gas is about 85 percent. This is even more remarkable given the fact that during the four-year period from 2013 to 2017, the team also reduced operating and maintenance costs 22 percent—from \$5.5 million to \$4.3 million.

I am proud of their efforts to continue to improve every day and not accept “good enough.” The attention to safety is important to us to ensure our employees get home safely every night.

The renewable natural gas facility construction is coming along nicely. We expect to be producing renewable natural gas by the end of August. I continue to be excited about the potential positive impacts the facility will have on your PUD.

Jim Smith
General Manager