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www.klickitatpud.com

Goldendale Office
1313 S. Columbus Ave.
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-5891
(800) 548-8357

White Salmon Office
110 NE Estes Ave.
P.O. Box 187
White Salmon, WA 98672
(509) 493-2255
(800) 548-8358

WA-18

We Remember

It is a sad time for us here at your PUD. One of our past commissioners, and a longtime supporter of public power, Harold Hill, passed away recently.

Harold served as your District 2 PUD commissioner for 30 years, from 1974 to 2004. He continued to support our utility even after he stepped down as commissioner by attending employee meetings and offering his advice. His influence both here at the utility and in Olympia was always guided by balancing doing the right thing in the short term with doing the right thing in the long term for our customers.



Harold Hill

Harold was at the forefront of many power issues during a time when certainty in the industry was a thing of the past. He saw the end of stable and unlimited hydro-power from the Columbia River—to a world where energy crisis and unpredictability are now commonplace. Harold, along with his other two commissioners, reasoned the only way out of this circle was to take hold of Klickitat PUD’s own generation.

Through vision and perseverance, this idea has grown from a seed to a reality that now has KPUD as one of the regional leaders in development and operation of renewable generation projects. These include the H.W. Hill Landfill gas-to-energy project—named after Harold— and half ownership of the McNary Hydro Fishway Project.

Harold was the first to realize the potential of wind power generation in the county. He was delighted when KPUD chose to partner with Last Mile Electric Cooperative, which allowed KPUD to play an instrumental role in the White Creek Wind I project.

Harold’s easygoing, jocular personality belies his keen business sense and ability to take risks when the end result warrants the action. He jokingly referred to himself as the ABS of the PUD Commission—the Automatic Braking System.

At the close of his tenure as commissioner, Harold was quoted as saying, “I’ve had a great time being commissioner. Listening and responding to people’s concerns for 30 years was very important to me.”

Klickitat PUD wishes to recognize Harold and say “thank you” for his years of service not just to Klickitat PUD, but the entire community we serve.

Jim Smith
General Manager