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800-548-8357

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WA-18

Impact of High Temps



I am happy our electric, water and wastewater systems operated at high reliability levels during the record-breaking high temperatures throughout the Northwest. Extreme temperatures can place added strain on both the district's electric distribution system and the regional electric transmission grid.

In most years, Klickitat County summer temperatures do not peak until late July or August. This year, the heat came early. KPUD's peak load for June based on Bonneville Power Administration data was recorded on June 28, registering 88.91 megawatts. To put this in perspective, KPUD's June 2020 peak load was 73.75 MW. This is a significant increase.

By now you may have noticed your July electric bill—which generally covers the power you used in June—was likely higher than normal. In the heat, air conditioners, fans and water pumps all had to work harder. It is a good time to think about energy and water conservation. KPUD has sections on our website dedicated to energy conservation. Please check them out or give us a call at 509-773-5891.

Klickitat PUD implemented additional safety precautions due to the high temperatures. These include modified work schedules to keep our workforce productive and safe; monitoring lines and voltages in areas where equipment is highly loaded; targeted vegetation management; and installing additional safety equipment on lines within high fire danger zones. KPUD strives to restore power to customers as quickly and safely as possible. With the dry conditions, we focus on safety first. This summer, some of our outages may be a bit longer. This is due to our increasing line patrols before reenergizing lines in high fire danger areas (for more information, see Be Prepared for Fire Season on page 8).

In the event of a widespread outage, we will notify customers using our automated call system and our normal media channels. Please ensure you have current contact information on file with KPUD, and follow KPUD on Facebook to receive current outage information.

Customers play a big role in helping KPUD troubleshoot outages and improve response time. If you experience an outage, please contact us immediately. The more customer outages reported, the better we can predict the full extent of the outage and direct our crews accordingly. In addition to reporting outages, it is helpful when customers report power quality issues such as blinking or dim lights. This information is tracked and investigated proactively to fix issues before they escalate and cause outages.

Outages can be reported by calling the Goldendale office at 800-548-8357 or White Salmon office at 800-548-8358 any time, any day. Additionally, outages can be reported using SmartHub, which is useful when service availability is limited.

Jim Smith
General Manager