

Disconnect/Reconnect Requests for Safety

The safety of Klickitat PUD employees and customers is of the utmost importance. Working on or around energized electrical facilities poses a threat, especially to those who are untrained or unauthorized to perform electrical work.

When KPUD customers work on their breaker panels or home circuits—or do home improvement projects such as siding, painting, roofing or vegetation management—customers should contact KPUD to arrange a temporary service disconnect to provide a safe working environment near deenergized power lines.

While code requires new power installations to have a main disconnect on the customer's side of the meter, older services may not have this option, preventing the customer from deenergizing their breaker panel. Customers cannot deenergize the secondary service drop feeding their meters without a qualified KPUD employee to do so. Otherwise, it leaves the power line energized and is a hazard to work around.

Working with energized power lines and metering equipment can be dangerous and even fatal. There is a potential for an arc flash during meter removal or installation, and the possibility of electrocution or equipment damage.

Klickitat PUD requires removal of a meter from the meter base to be completed by a qualified KPUD employee. If it is determined a meter was removed by anyone other than a KPUD employee—including a licensed electrician—the customer will be assessed a meter tampering fee.

When a customer plans to do work, they should contact KPUD and speak with the engineering department to assess if the project is considered an alteration or relocation of their service—which may require additional engineering design—or if a basic disconnect is needed for the work. Additional planning may be required. Upgrades or changes of service require an inspection appointment to be coordinated with the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries prior to KPUD reenergizing a service with alterations.

The engineering department typically schedules a disconnect within a week of the request. However, that can fluctuate depending on the time of the year and current weather conditions. Customers are encouraged to plan ahead to account for busy construction schedules. KPUD will do its best to accommodate urgent requests for disconnects to allow customers or licensed electrical contractors to perform emergency repairs.

To arrange for a disconnect or reconnect, contact KPUD's engineering department at 800-548-8357. Please be prepared to provide the service address, meter number, scope of work, whether the work is being completed by the customer or a licensed electrical contractor, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries electrical permit number (if applicable), the date and time for the request and contact information.