

Local Control and Service Remains Our Guiding Principle

The week of October 3rd is Public Power Week. This is a time to reflect on the advantages and values of public power. Local control and local access are the guiding principles for public power.

Sixty-seven years ago, the citizens of Klickitat County decided to take over the electric system and run it themselves. They wanted a utility that would listen and make decisions based on what was best for Klickitat County, not some shareholders who may not have even heard of Snowden or Wishram.

Decisions are still made here, with our citizens and our local economy in mind. If you have a question or complaint, you can call the general manager or your board member and have a frank discussion. I guarantee we will listen. Try doing that with a utility conglomerate in some faraway city.

Our corporate headquarters are right here in Klickitat County. Our offices are not going anywhere.

Many of the smaller offices for private utilities have been closed in corporate cost-cutting moves. If you live in some towns in the Gorge, you better be able to explain to someone in Salt Lake City how to get to your house when you have a problem with your yard light.

Not so here. Chances are the person who comes out to fix your light is the same person who put it in and not only remembers how to get there, but also remembers the color of your house and your neighbors' names.

KPUD has offices and staff in both Goldendale and White Salmon. We are in your community every day, and are happy to help and be a part of the communities. We are proud of our employees' commitment to the area in which we live. Each year, we recognize KPUD employees for their volunteer efforts in the communities. It always amazes me how much they care and how much of their time they give.

KPUD also holds community meetings throughout the county to better understand your needs and to communicate what is happening here at the PUD and in the utility world in general. Watch for meeting announcements in your community or give us a call, and we will let you know when we will be meeting with you.

Tuesday, October 4, we are having an open house in both our Goldendale and White Salmon offices to celebrate Public Power Week. Please come in for refreshments and let us tell you how much we appreciate your support.

Tom D. Svendsen, General Manager