

KPUD Charts Trends in Outages

Klickitat PUD's (KPUD) Operations Department recently released the 2007 power outage statistics, with only 211 outages overall.

The numbers include KPUD's planned outages.

In 2000, KPUD served more than 10,000 electric customers. By the end of 2007, the number of accounts had grown to almost 12,000.

In 2002, KPUD had 1,262 circuit miles of overhead distribution line and 189 circuit miles of underground distribution line. By 2007, that had grown to 1,307 overhead distribution circuit miles and 245 underground distribution circuit miles.

KPUD has 166 circuit miles of transmission line.

"When you look at the numbers over a period of years, you see that outages were mostly due to weather," says Ron Ihrig, operations manager. "There will be several good years in a row, and then several rough years."

Ron explained that KPUD's goal is to continue improving the system so when we experience an outage, it will affect fewer customers.

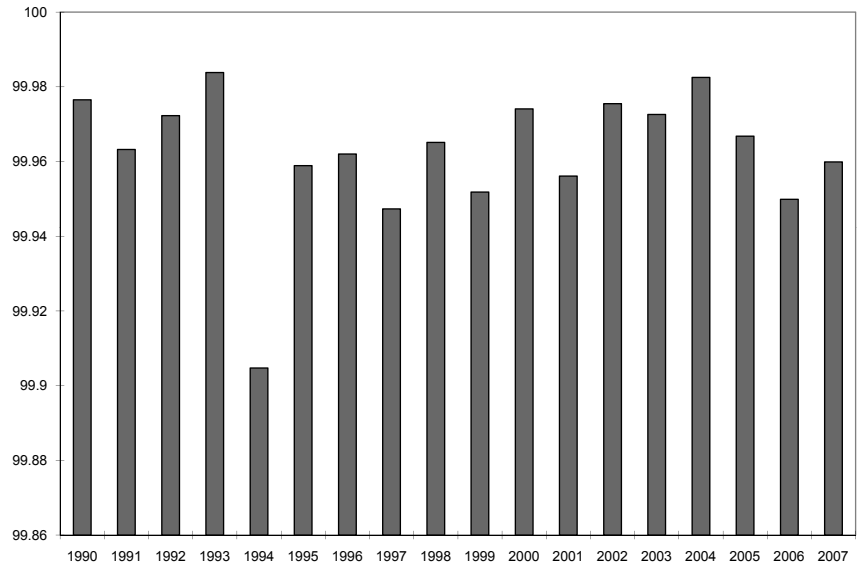
Even if the number of unplanned outages increases, they will affect fewer people for a shorter period. Equipment fatigue and failure has caused a large number of KPUD's outages, with trees falling across lines as the next-largest cause.

The hours of outages caused by trees have been drastically reduced, but problems caused by storm conditions such as ice, snow and wind were up in 2007.

A total of 38,263 customer outage hours were recorded in 2007, which averages to a little more than 3.54 outage hours per customer.

"We kept the lights on 99.96 percent of the time last year," says Ron. ■

Service Reliability 1990-2007



Number of Outages per Year 1999-2007

