

City of McCleary

STAFF REPORT



To:	Council
From:	Paul Nott
Date:	2/4/2025
Department:	Light and Power

Hello All,

First and most importantly, the Light and Power crew want to thank Deputy City Clerk Lindsay Blumberg for her many years of dedicated service to the citizens and employees of the city of McCleary. Lindsay, as your coworkers and union brothers we all hate to see you go, but as your friends we couldn't be happier for you to move on to your new adventure. All of us back here in building "C" wish you the best and as always, if you ever need back up we will always be there...

Since our last report we have had we responded to 4 outages, 2 customer service WO's, line maintenance and continued the 4th Street rebuild as weather allows.

This last weekend and into the week were busy for the crew with outages.

Friday 3/31 the crew was dispatched to an outage affecting the north end of town. During our patrolling we found a wire down and burning on the road by the wells. To make the repair we had to de energize CKT 12-2 which feeds the entire north end of town.

Saturday 2/1 we were dispatched to the entire town being out of power. It was a tree that fell into the transmission and distribution lines between McCleary and Elma. The transmission lines are 69,000V lines that feed our substations from Bonneville but are owned by GHPUD. The PUD crews did a great job getting the city energized quickly with the large amount of repair work that was required. Due to low temperature, we anticipated a cold load pick up issue and isolated certain circuits to bring our system up slowly, but we still experienced cold load and had to isolate even more areas to get the system back to normal.

Cold load occurs when a large load area is out of power for an extended amount of time. When it comes time to reenergize, the initial demand of load exceeds the fusing and blows the protective fuses that are located throughout the system. One example is, everyone's houses get colder when the power is out, and when the power comes back on, the furnaces run wide open trying to get the houses back to 70 degrees all at the same time. To eliminate this, we need to shut down higher load areas, heat up the distribution and let it "cook" for a while until the initial load balances out and then

we can add additional load slowly. That's why in some areas you might not have power, but a house approximate to you may. It all depends what your circuit is on. It is a tremendous help if when your lights do go out to turn off most of your lights and any large load appliances, then once power is restored, start turning on your appliances one at a time slowly.

Monday and Tuesday 2/3-4 evenings we were dispatched to 2 separate underground faults that affected the Oak Meadows and Bonnieview area. Unfortunately, these customers were impacted by all 4 outages during some very cold evenings. The crew understands this, and we worked as hard as we could to get everyone's heat back on as quickly as possible. We did have some delays due to chaining up the equipment and one of the faults being located under a 40-foot alder which needed to be removed to make the repair. Although we have replaced sections of underground in this area there is still some old conductor left that fails. It is included in the CIP for replacement by priority. Also, I did some research regarding the last underground fault that occurred in the area, and I was even shocked to see that prior to the most recent events, the last fault we have had out there was in November of 2023.

We can't mention it enough that during these stormy months it is vital that everyone stays away from down power lines, practices safe generator operation and always be prepared for extended outages. We can't control what mother nature deals us.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us...

Paul