They’re Grounded!

Our motto is “Power. People. Progress.” Under Progress, we asked ‘why not?’ and will be saving many hours of time.

Substations transform high voltage electricity to lower voltages powering homes and businesses. Time, and the coast’s moist salt air, degrades equipment, requiring extra maintenance, and potentially more frequent replacement.

Traditionally, building the “low side” of substations begins with a steel frame about 15 feet in the air. Then, journeymen who specialize in substation construction install aluminum “bus bar,” which conducts electricity; insulators; and switches. But working 15 feet from the ground is inefficient; substation workers must do installation from bucket trucks, wearing harnesses, working in tight clearances, having to frequently lower their buckets, move their truck, and then go back up in the bucket again, over and over.

Our substation foreman, Dave, mulled the process over. “I thought it would be more efficient if we all could be working on the low side at the same time, and not have to work from buckets,” he says. “What if we assembled the structure close to the ground, and then when much of the work was finished, hoist it into place?” The completed portion would weigh about 15,000 pounds. Some didn’t think lifting a structure that heavy would be possible.

And then Dave mentioned his brainstorm to Central Lincoln’s civil associate, Don. “He just showed up with a plan one day—I didn’t even know he was working on it!”

Don had calculated that with two trucks and a crane doing the lifting with proper equipment, the mostly-completed assembly could indeed be safely hoisted high, and bolted to the support legs below.

“I love it when a plan comes together!” General Manager Randy Grove says happily. “Dave’s idea was simple, yet ingenious, and I’m very pleased it went perfectly.”

It went so well, we’ll be using Dave’s method for many more substation builds and rebuilds. His idea means his crew’s work will be done even more safely, and it will be done much more quickly—saving about two weeks in labor for each low side build. Dave’s already planning. “The next one will go even better!” he says with a shy grin.
Same Bill, Less Mess: Available Online Anytime

Getting your Central Lincoln bill electronically in SmartHub is simple—and free!

Receiving bills in the mail can be inefficient and untidy. And, each paper bill we mail out each month costs 66.5 cents due to printing, processing and postage costs. The bills available online in SmartHub are identical to our paper bills. Customers who use SmartHub can view and print their current or past Central Lincoln bills this way:

1. Click on Billing and Payments

2. Then on Billing History

3. And then click on “View Bill” for any bill of interest

And going Paperless is as easy as going into your Smart Hub account and...

1. Clicking on “My Profile”

2. Choosing “Update My Paperless Settings” from the drop-down menu

3. And clicking on “ON”

$136.00 View Bill

Pay By Phone: 1-844-239-0076
Outage Line: 1-866-484-3783
Energy Efficiency Programs: 1-888-883-9879

Call us toll free at 1-877-265-3211.
Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport or Reedsport.

Office Hours: Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Florence: 966 Highway 101
Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway
Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Reedsport is closed 12-1 p.m.)

Website: clpud.org
Email: info@clpud.org
Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/CLPUD
Facebook: Central Lincoln PUD

Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.