

April 2008

Our Energy, Our Future

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

We've spent the last couple of months looking at issues that will impact your electric bill. This message was echoed at our first annual irrigators meeting. We planned the meeting to answer questions and concerns about Sunday load control. NPPD was invited to give their perspective on issues that will impact rates. Although the turn out was tremendous, I wanted to pass along a couple of items that affect all of our customers.



Traci Bender, NPPD CFO, discussed the January 2007 storm damage.

A production cost adjustment was implemented in 2007 to cover higher priced energy purchased while the transmission lines to Gerald Gentleman Station were down. Gerald Gentleman is the lowest cost plant in the region. She went on to describe the construction necessary to get the system operational. FEMA covered 75% of the cost.

Traci then talked about the future. With the uncertainties surrounding climate change legislation and other cost drivers, there will be increased pressure on rates. Everyone expects higher cost fuel for generation. The unknown is environmental controls and requirements for climate change.

John Sunneberg, NPPD, described the system load patterns and how they follow load during the peak summer months. Everyone contributes to increased summer demand. This includes irrigation, air conditioners and the general daily loads.

Sunday load control has been implemented to reduce the demand on Sundays during peak conditions and shift it to non-peak times. The very successful load management program is a cooperative effort between NPPD, their wholesale customers and irrigators. The program has grown to over 600 MW's. This represents one power plant. This means load management or energy efficiency has saved us the cost of one base load generating unit. I would like to thank everyone involved in load control for making that happen.

My presentation described the issues we face as a nation and at Custer. We touched on the significant costs of climate change legislation, how the increased costs of renewable energy will affect rates, and the generation mix at NPPD. Currently Nebraska ranks as one of the lowest cost states for electricity. We need to keep an eye on economics while we capitalize on our renewable energy resources. We need to slow our approach with some of these issues to decrease the risk of paying and not seeing results.

I would like to thank everyone who responded to our customer survey. I appreciate your open and honest answers to some tough questions. We will continue to focus on our mission to safely deliver electricity to our customer/owners, keep the District in a sound financial position and exceed expectations in service and reliability. Together we have the power to make a difference.

From the Board Room

There is a growing need for lineman everywhere in the electric industry due to a large percentage of the workforce reaching retirement age. The Directors reviewed the guidelines for the District's Utility Line Scholarship. The board established the scholarship in 1991 and since has provided 18 scholarships to seniors entering utility line programs in Nebraska and surrounding states. The board re-affirmed their commitment to the program. They agreed with changes to the guidelines allowing students within CPPD's service territory outer boundary to be considered for the scholarship. However, preference will be given to individuals who reside within Custer's service territory.



Director Bradley

Director Bradley pointed out, "students can learn a lot about careers in the utility business by attending the Energy Camp. This is an excellent chance to investigate available opportunities while there is time to plan for enrollment in one of the programs." Manager Nelson said, " We will continue to attend career fairs and give the students a chance to visit with linemen about the work they do on a daily basis. What many people don't realize is that there are waiting lists to get into some of the schools. Job opportunities continue to be excellent, almost 100% of the graduates find employment immediately upon graduation."

Nebraska Public Power District staff and NPPD Director Darrell Nelson were on hand to outline NPPD's Wind Study Project in Custer County. With the help of Jim Jenkins and Kim Stefka, NPPD will be securing locations in Nebraska for wind studies.

Congressman Adrian Smith and field representative Barb Cooksley stopped by for a short visit as they were in town for another meeting. Congressman Smith discussed one of the means of communication he has with his constituents, the telephone town hall meetings. Within the course of an hour, 5,000 voters can be on and off the line giving their opinions on a variety of topics. Another communication tool he has found to be effective is the recent mail-in survey. Manager Nelson said he was very glad to hear that Congressman Smith had included several questions relating to the electric industry in his questionnaire. "We have some potential legislative issues being proposed," said Manager Nelson. "Having feedback from our customers on these issues is critical."

The April board meeting will be held at the Broken Bow office and is scheduled for Thursday, April 24.



Please send me 2008 Energy Camp Information.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone# _____ Age _____ Custer Power Customer # _____

School _____ Grade _____

Parent's or Guardian's Name _____

By May 1, mail to: Carol Fritzler

Custer Public Power, P.O. Box 10, Broken Bow, NE 68822

A Welcome Smile



It's our goal. Customers will be greeted with a welcome smile whether you hear it on the phone or walk in the front door of the office.

Jeannie Myers started her full-time position as customer solutions representative in December. She and her husband Kim farm

and ranch north of Broken Bow. Jeannie grew up in Sidney and met Kim while he was in college. They have four children, Brandon, Kristi, Dustin and Kelsie, and nine grandchildren. Before coming to Custer PPD, she was employed at the hospital in Broken Bow. Jeannie brings to her job many years of experience in customer service. Although she enjoys playing golf, Jeannie admits she doesn't have much time to practice. She keeps very busy cheering for Kelsie at sporting events.

Kaylene Pracht, started working part-time as a billing office assistant late last summer. Growing up in Benkelman (Dundy County) with a father who worked in the utility department, she has a good appreciation of the industry and the importance of helping customers. Kaylene and her husband, Eugene, live in Broken Bow. They have four children and six grandchildren. She keeps busy with her daughter and three granddaughters who live nearby. Kaylene enjoys spending time with her horse, church activities, and needlework projects.



The District is very pleased to have both Jeannie and Kaylene on our team!

Criminal Mischief Could Have Been A Deadly Mistake



A recent act of criminal mischief in the Village of Stapleton could have been a deadly mistake for the person or persons committing the crime.

Logan County Sheriff, Pat McNeil reports that electric meters were pulled at Stapleton Public Schools, the Logan County Courthouse and at one private residence around 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, February 24, 2008.

Custer Public Power personnel were on hand at Stapleton Public Schools Friday morning, February 29, to show students just how deadly these acts can be when they shared a high voltage demonstration.

"When conditions are right the three phase meters can explode like a bomb," said Mike Needs of Custer PPD. "Whoever did this was very fortunate they were not seriously injured."

When a seal is cut on an electrical meter it is also a federal offense, as well as criminal mischief.

The incident is still under investigation. Anyone having any information about this incident should contact Logan County Sheriff, Pat McNeil, who is in charge of the investigation.

Asian Beef Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups instant brown rice, uncooked
- 1 lb. boneless beef sirloin steak, cut into thin strips
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) frozen stir-fry vegetables, thawed, drained
- ¼ cup Good Seasons Asian Sesame with Ginger Dressing
- ¼ cup lite soy sauce

COOK rice as directed on package.

MEANWHILE, heat large nonstick skillet sprayed with cooking spray on medium-high heat. Add meat and garlic; stir-fry 2 min. Add vegetables, dressing and soy sauce; stir-fry an additional 3 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender and meat is cooked through.

SPOON rice onto serving platter; top with the meat mixture.

JAZZ IT UP by sprinkling with 2 Tbsp. chopped PLANTERS COCKTAIL Peanuts.

Yield: 4 servings
Serving size: 2 cups each

Nutrition Information Per Serving:

Calories: 400
Total fat: 11 g
Saturated fat: 3 g
Cholesterol: 60 mg
Sodium: 740 mg
Dietary fiber: 4 g
Protein: 27 g
Carbohydrates: 45 g
Sugars: 7g



Source: krafffoods.com

Taste tested by employees at Custer PPD who thought it was delicious and quick to fix!

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

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and Loss Control
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Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.