

March 2008

No Easy Answer

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

Last month we talked about the changing political climate at the Federal, State and even local levels in terms of climate change. This will create many challenges for the Public Power industry.

I expect 2008 and probably 2009 to be pivotal for the industry because of several factors from the national level. Glenn English, former US congressman from Oklahoma and CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently described the situation as a "perfect storm". All of the elements are in place at the Federal level to increase costs of electricity significantly. Climate change legislation or a renewable portfolio standard (the requirement for a certain amount of energy be purchased from renewable energy) have the potential of adding 100's of millions of dollars to electric bills in Nebraska.

There isn't one magic bullet that will solve the perceived problem of the effect of man made carbon on the climate. There needs to be a balanced and well thought out approach that will involve a multitude of technologies and solutions to have an impact.

From a statewide legislative perspective, the coming year may also have significant impacts to our costs in the form of net metering, changes in the requirements for new generation and water issues and a host of others that may not be identified yet.

As we live our lives we sometimes don't appreciate impacts that don't hit us directly and



decisively in the pocketbook. Many of the issues may not initially have an impact, but they do have the potential of significantly increasing the cost of electricity, which will affect everyone's pocket.

At some point in time, we'll need to look past the emotion of these issues and get back to common sense and rational economic thinking. How much are you willing to pay to reduce man made carbon? \$10, \$100, \$200 added to your electric bill every month?

Our position, and one we hope you will support, is this – if we're going to address climate change, then let's do it right. We need to avoid throwing money away without results. If there is going to be money spent, we must have results.

Those of us who work in public power or receive our electricity through this system can be adversely affected if we are not represented and if we are not heard. Over the next 12 to 18 months I may ask you to make your wishes on this subject known to your congressman, state senator or to your locally elected public power directors. We are here to represent you the customer. If you are concerned about the effects of climate change legislation and how effective it might be or what the price tag is, then let us know what you think.

We believe our mission is 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

The Directors elected officers for a term of two years.

- President Wayne Licking
- Vice President Brad Bartak
- Treasurer Brad Howard
- Asst. Treasurer Margaret Bradley
- Secretary Linda Abel



Front Row: John Blakeman, Margaret Bradley, Wayne Licking
Lloyd Ramsey, Brad Bartak, Rick Nelson, Linda Abel, Brad Howard

Director of Operations/Loss Control Tom Knott reported 2008 was the year for Custer PPD's national safety accreditation renewal. Director Brad Howard gave a "hats off" to Tom for the District's safety program and to all of the employees for their commitment and hard work necessary to keep a safe work environment. He thinks the District has a great safety program. The Directors passed a resolution supporting the safety program.

April Gross gave an update of the District's Wellness Program. Director Abel said she was very pleased with the District's Wellness Program and would like to see the number of employees who participate and successfully complete their goals increase in 2008.

The Directors reviewed the Board's Political Action Plan for 2008. The purpose of the Political Action Plan is to identify opportunities and formulate a plan to impact legislation of public power in a positive way. The Directors adopted the Plan, with revisions that included support of the NREA Grassroots Initiative.

A resolution was passed setting the March Board Meeting date on Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

Opportunity to Voice Your Opinion!



In a few weeks a number of you will be receiving a brief phone call from a public opinion survey firm that we have hired to give us a more thorough, scientific view of member attitudes and opinions about Custer PPD. If you receive one of those calls, we would appreciate your candid response. It will help us plan our system better, and it will help us improve our service in ways that you deem most important. This is a standard technique used throughout the electric utility industry to assure that opinions are gathered that represent a true cross-section of the customers. All data collected is held strictly confidential, and no names or other identifying information is relayed to Custer PPD.



Irrigator's Meeting

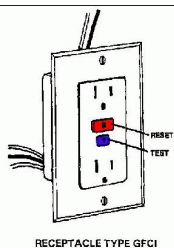
**Wednesday,
March 12, 2008**

1:30 p.m.

*Tumbleweed Meeting Room
Hwy 2 - Broken Bow (west door)*

Topics:

- Rates
- Control days
- Control hours
- Construction lists
- Straight talk about the future



Safety Tip!

Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) prevent accidental electric shock and electrocution by shutting off a circuit when a "leak" of electric current is detected off the circuit. Required in homes since the early 1970s, homeowners should consider GFCIs on all general-purpose circuits. GFCIs should be tested monthly and after every major electrical storm.

Come join the excitement at the Youth Energy Camp

If you are currently a sophomore or junior in high school and want something fun and interesting to do this summer, why not give some thought to attending Energy Camp. The camp is held in the beautiful Nebraska National Forest, near Halsey. The date of the camp this year is July 14-18. Custer Public Power District will sponsor high school-aged men and women whose rural home get their electricity from CPPD. In addition to making new friends and seeing new sites, you might be one of three campers to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. To find out more about this opportunity just complete this form and mail to: Carol Fritzler, Custer Public Power District, P.O. Box 10, Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822.



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

Rainbow Fruit Salad

FOR FRUIT SALAD

- 1 large mango, peeled, diced
- 2 C fresh blueberries
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 2 C fresh strawberries, halved
- 2 C seedless grapes
- 2 nectarines, unpeeled, sliced
- 1 kiwi fruit, peeled, sliced

FOR HONEY-ORANGE SAUCE

- 1/3 C unsweetened orange juice
- 2 T lemon juice
- 1 1/2 T honey
- 1/4 tsp ground ginger
- dash nutmeg

1. Prepare the fruit.
2. Combine all ingredients for sauce and mix.
3. Just before serving, pour honey-orange sauce over fruit.

Nutrition Information (Per Serving)	Total fat: 1 g
Yield: 12 servings	Saturated fat: less than 1 g
Serving size: 4-oz cup	Cholesterol: 0 mg
Each serving provides:	Sodium: 4 mg
Calories: 96	Total fiber: 3 g
	Protein: 1 g

Source: National Institutes of Health

Taste tested by directors and employees at Custer PPD. Enjoy this recipe as a salad or a dessert.



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

Officers & Directors

- Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....President
- Brad Bartak, Merna.....Vice President
- Linda Abel, North Platte.....Secretary
- Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer
- Margaret Bradley, Brewster.....Asst. Treasurer
- John Blakeman, Merna.....Director
- Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director

Staff

- Rick Nelson.....General Manager
- Tom Knott.....Director of Operations
and Loss Control
- Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and
Administration

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.