

April 2009

This is Manager Nelson and I'm Listening

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

During our weekly show on KBBN/KCNI, a customer called to ask how much of his bill goes to trucks, employees and the office and how much is for power cost. I thought this was a very good question. From a recent survey, we found that about 8% of the people know how much of their bill goes to buying the power.



Manager Nelson and Bob Bowles of KCNI/KBBN

Transmission lines around Nebraska were built to serve the load in Nebraska and to transport the current generation mix. This is true whether they were built by Nebraska Public Power, Omaha Public Power, Lincoln Electric System or any other supplying entity.

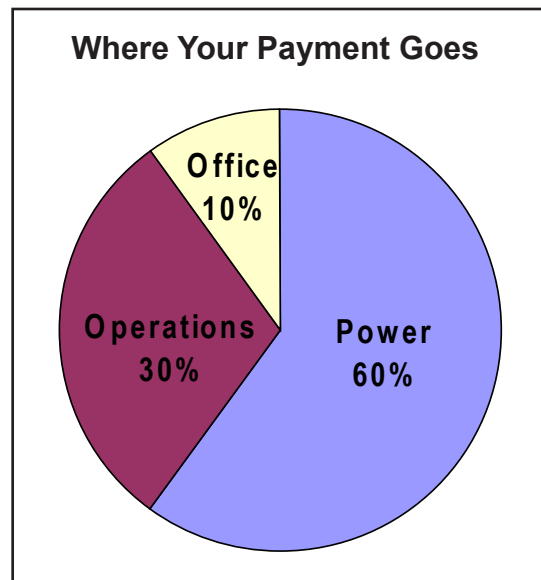
In this years budget roughly 60% was our cost to purchase power at wholesale. That's why increases in wholesale power have a dramatic impact on our rates.

The other 40% covers everything else: billing, trucks, fuel, material, the office, engineering, customer service and the list goes on and on.

This is important to remember. Proposed federal legislation will have a dramatic impact on the costs of generating your power.

Transmission lines are hard assets that require a lot of money and time to construct. These lines are constructed with as much foresight as possible. This requires planning studies that look out at least 15 to 20 years. Public Power Districts have always been conservative in nature. We are a firm believer that the dollars we spend are your dollars.

Our current statewide transmission system (The Grid) has been built for our current and future load requirements and not for generation to be transported out of state. Planning and decisions were made to provide for and protect the customers of our public power system.



What is “The Grid”????

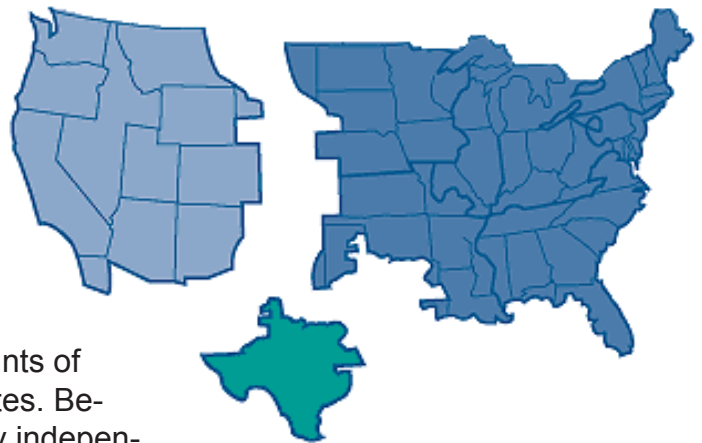
Everybody talks about the “The Grid”. There either isn’t enough of it or it is aging and needs to be replaced. We need to connect wind energy to the “The Grid”, but there isn’t enough room. Well, what is “The Grid”?

The Grid starts at the generation facility and extends out in every direction where power is needed. Electricity enters the transmission system and is carried at high voltages on big structures and heavy wire long distances to local systems. These local systems reduce the voltage and deliver the electricity to your home.

3 MAJOR GRIDS CONNECT MOST UTILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

- The Eastern grid links the East Coast and Plains states.
- The Western grid connects the Pacific Coast and Mountain states.
- The Texas grid services Texas.

These three areas do have interconnections, but not many. The majority of the power generated within a grid area stays in that area. The interconnecting points are very expensive to build and maintain. Utilities just can’t push electricity into a different area without these interconnecting points.



Nebraska is part of the eastern interconnection.

There is a misconception that if we build large amounts of wind, we can sell it to Colorado and the western states. Because the Eastern and Western grids are completely independent of one another and are only linked electrically through 7 interconnection points, it’s rarely possible to deliver excess electricity that direction. In the eastern grid, all of the lines are interconnected all of the time, except for maintenance or other reason. This means disturbances in Minnesota are seen throughout the grid and affect us here in Nebraska.

Every operator of the transmission and generation system watches for overloaded line, line tripping during storms, frequency, voltage, and a host of other electrical functions in order to keep the power flowing to the end use customer, you. Every utility must meet guidelines set by the governing body in order to keep the grid intact.

Hopefully when you hear people talk about the “The Grid” this gives you an idea what they are talking about. When you hear talk of connecting large amounts of wind generation, this would be into “The Grid” and not into our local facilities.

Custer does much of the same thing from a local level. We check load, voltage, line tripping during storms and so on. As I mentioned at the beginning, “The Grid” ends at your home.

Right Tree Right Place

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general, conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch also can cause fires. But a greater concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact of electric wires with a tree limb or playing and trimming around the tree can be fatal.



If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact Custer Power. Never try to prune them yourself. Custer has or can recommend skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

To avoid future electrical hazards, safe planting tips to remember include:

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree that could grow to 25 feet or more near a power line. Tall growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.
- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.



Please send me 2009 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

Blueberry Brunch Casserole

- 6 egg whites
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups 2% reduced-fat milk
- 2 (6-oz) containers nonfat lemon yogurt
- ¼ cup sugar
- 8 ounces day-old French bread,
Cut into ½-inch cubes
- 1 (8-oz) package fat-free cream cheese, cut into 1/2 -inch cubes
- 2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 (8-oz) container frozen fat-free whipped topping, thawed

1. Whisk egg whites and eggs in a large bowl until well beaten. Add milk, yogurt and sugar; mix well. Add bread cubes and toss to coat completely. Add cream cheese and 1 cup blueberries and toss to blend.
2. Coat a 13 x 9-inch glass baking pan with cooking spray. Pour egg mixture into pan. Cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate at least 1 hour or overnight.
3. Preheat oven to 350F.
4. Remove plastic wrap and bake 50 to 55 minutes, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and let stand 15 minutes. Garnish with remaining blueberries and whipped topping. Serves 8.

Nutritional facts per serving: 280 calories, 3.5g fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 15g protein, 45g carbohydrates, 2g fiber, 470mg sodium.

Special thanks go to Kaylene Pracht, who prepared this recipe for the office staff. After taste testing, we decided it was something our readers might enjoy for Easter Brunch. The original recipe came from americanprofile.com. Kaylene gave it her own touch by adding 1 teaspoon vanilla, using soft cream cheese, 4 whole eggs, and 4 egg whites. The sugar was replaced with 6 packets of truvia. (For more nutritional information and a conversion chart, see truvia.com.)

CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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

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Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

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and Loss Control
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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.

