

September 2009

Wind energy may be on its way to the Broken Bow in the near future.

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

In November 2008, NPPD issued a request for proposal (RFP) for projects up to 80 megawatts in size that could be built near Broken Bow and/or Petersburg. In April 2009, NPPD received 22 proposals from seven different developers for the construction and operation of wind energy facilities. After proposals were reviewed, a short list of responses was selected for further negotiations based on the lowest power and transmission costs, plus environmental considerations.

Friday, August 14, NPPD's Board of Directors authorized entering into power purchase agreement (PPA) negotiations with Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest. NPPD will seek an agreement for 80 megawatts of wind-powered generation from a site northeast of Broken Bow, but will only do so if they can sell half of the electric generated from that site and one that will be constructed near Petersburg to other utilities.

Both sites, if constructed, would be 80 megawatts in size. Once negotiations are completed, NPPD will release the landowner's from the land option agreement, and Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest would begin negotiating with the landowner's for contracts for constructing the wind farm on the landowner's property.

Selection of Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest was based upon achieving the lowest cost possible for the electricity purchased, including transmission costs, and minimizing any environmental concerns.



In February 2008, NPPD's Board of Directors established a goal of having 10 percent of its energy come from renewable resources by 2020, primarily from wind. That goal would amount to 533 megawatts of renewable energy in its portfolio of generation resources.

NPPD President and CEO Ron Asche said that seeking the power purchase agreements for additional wind-powered energy keeps the District on schedule to meet a strategic goal of adding more renewable energy to its portfolio. "By taking a systematic approach to wind development, we will be able to further diversify NPPD's generation portfolio and help the state broaden economic development opportunities related to deployment of wind energy in Nebraska," said Asche.

For NPPD, securing a PPA with a developer instead of constructing a facility is largely driven by the lack of federal production tax credits. These credits are not available to public power utilities, but available for private wind farm developers. Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest is planning to use the Community Based Energy Development (C-BED) model for both proposed projects. C-BED projects qualify for state sales tax exemptions on wind-generation facility equipment, lowering the costs of construction and continued operation and maintenance. By partnering with wind-farm developers, NPPD can acquire lower cost renewable energy for its customers.

A Wind Farm – by the numbers

There is much more to a wind farm besides the turbines that play across the skyline. Here's some unique numbers related to NPPD's Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility which consists of 36 turbines, each 1.65 megawatts in size, for a total of 60 megawatts:

- Approximately 19,000 average Nebraska homes could be served by Ainsworth if it would run at full capacity. Wind farms typically have a capacity factor of between 30 and 40 percent.
- The height of a turbine from ground level to the center of the hub is 230 feet and tip the scale at 23 tons each. Three megawatt turbines are larger at approximately 290 feet.
- One blade on a turbine is 131 feet in length and from the tip of one blade to another is 269 feet, again longer on larger turbines.
- The base of the tower is 40 feet in circumference and the tower itself weighs 42 tons.
- The nacelle, where the gear box and other mechanical equipment are located weighs a mere 51 tons.
- There are 71,000 feet of underground electrical wiring that moves the generated electricity to a collector site and then to a substation.
- The Ainsworth tower foundations are built into the sandhills with foundations that are 52 feet wide, seven and one-half feet deep. The 36 foundations include 57,000 pounds of rebar each for a total of 2.1 million pounds of steel.
- Each base is made up of concrete, each containing 300 cubic yards of material or 1,215,000 pounds of cement.
- It took six ships traveling from Denmark to Houston and 234 semi-trucks traveling from Houston to Ainsworth to bring in the 36 turbines.
- A total of 1,375 loads of concrete were delivered, a total slightly over 44.5 million pounds.



You Are Invited to Celebrate Public Power

Meet your area linemen, directors, and Manager Nelson. Trade in up to 10 old light bulbs for FREE CFL's! Learn more about your power district! Custer Public Power District Board of Directors invite you to join them for refreshments during Public Power Week at any of the following locations:

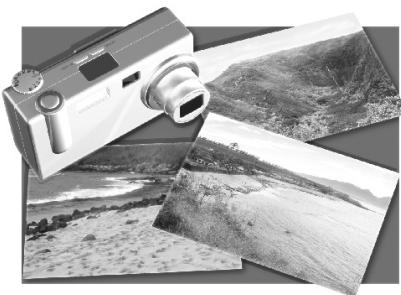
- Friday, October 2, 2009 10am-12pm
Town Library - Broken Bow, NE
- Monday, October 5, 2009 1pm-3pm
Town Library - Taylor, NE
- Tuesday, October 6, 2009 1pm-3pm
Town Library, Lincoln County Court House - Stapleton, NE
- Wednesday, October 7, 2009 10am-12pm
Town Library, Community Center - Oconto, NE
- Thursday, October 8, 2009 3pm-5pm
Town Library, Sandhills School - Dunning, NE
- Friday, October 9, 2009 9am-4pm
CPPD Office - Broken Bow, NE

Listen to Manager Nelson Live from the Broken Bow Public Library on October 2, 2009

Register for prizes at a library near you.



**Public Power Week
October 4-10, 2009**



Where Does The Time Go?

THE PHOTO SEARCH IS ON

It is time to plan the 2010 calendar. The calendar committee is looking for photographs of the people, places and events in the CPPD Service Area. Custer District serves all or parts of thirteen counties. We would like to feature a different county in CPPD's service area each month of 2009. Look for interesting scenes in Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, Logan, McPherson, Cherry, Brown, Garfield, Sherman, Dawson, and Lincoln counties.

Photographs can be submitted to Carol Fritzler, at Custer Public Power District, PO Box 10, Broken Bow, NE 68822, by September 30. Photographs must be horizontal. Electronic files must be 8x10 inches and at least 300 dpi for the calendar. It is preferred photos are sent on a cd, but we will still accept your prints.

Half-Time Italian Chili

What You Need

- 1 lb boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1/2" chunks
- 1/2 lb Italian sausage, casing removed
- 3 14 1/2-oz cans Italian salt free stewed tomatoes, undrained
- 2 15-oz cans cannellini beans, undrained
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp salt



Make It

In a soup pot, cook the chicken, sausage, and onion over high heat for 5 to 6 minutes, or until browned, stirring to break up sausage. Stir in the remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and cook for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Makes 8 Servings.

At the tailgate: Top each bowl with a sprig of fresh basil and a sprinkle of grated Parmesan cheese.

| Nutrition Information (per serving) | |
|--|--|
| 313 calories | |
| 8 g fat | |
| 2 g saturated fat | |
| 25 g protein | |
| 38 g carbs | |
| 9 g fiber | |
| 379 mg sodium | |



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.