

September 2011

Public Power - A Nebraska Tradition

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

I would like to thank the customers who recently participated in our telephone survey. We use this tool to gauge how well we are doing. Your responses help us identify where to focus our efforts. We learned several things that we are going to talk about in this column and in the months ahead.

The first item we need to talk about is the history of Public Power, and more specifically Custer Public Power. The poll told us that there are some folks who don't know the story.

In the early days of electricity in Nebraska, private electric companies served mainly towns and urban areas. The Nebraska legislature -- and more specifically George Norris ---- realized that the private companies were not going to service rural customers because they could not make a profit.

Norris developed state laws that gave people the ability to form public power districts and rural electric cooperatives. They also gave public power the right of eminent domain to ensure that Nebraska would be a completely public power state without private electric companies making a profit on electricity, which is a necessity for modern life.

Nebraska became and still is the only state in which 100% of the customers are served by electric utilities that they own. Not one penny of dividends is tacked onto electric bills and sent to out of state or foreign investors.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) was formed



Senator George Norris founding father of Public Power

through mergers of several different companies to become a wholesale electric power supplier to 35 rural public power districts and cooperatives. NPPD is the wholesale supplier to Custer Public Power, although we are two separate entities. NPPD supplies power to Custer. We buy it and then distribute it to you.

This gives consumers enormous advantages of scale and technical sophistication. It also gives us a certain measure of our own "energy independence." We are not at the mercy of out of state utility holding companies whose focus is maximizing profits for the next quarterly report.

Custer PPD was formed in 1943 to serve the rural customers in central Nebraska which later included all or part of 13 counties. Custer was formed by the customers that we serve. We are governed by seven local directors who are elected locally and receive their power from Custer PPD. They are customers who represent their fellow customers.

This unique distinction of being the only state in the union which is 100% public power is one of the major reasons why Nebraska is ranked 7th in the nation for having the lowest electric rates. For the most part states whose rates are lower are the lucky few whose geographic good fortune put them near huge hydroelectric resources, such as the Columbia River in America's northwest.

The other thing I like about all of this is that it proves once again that here in rural Nebraska, we know how to take care of ourselves and take care of business.



This year marks an important milestone for public power – we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Public Power Week, a week in which public power utilities across the nation reach out to citizens in their communities to celebrate the benefits and unique value of public power.

Watch your local newspaper for more information.

Project Brings Weather Alerts to Sandhills Community

Brian Hirsch, Meteorologist in Charge, from the National Weather Service in North Platte, Nebraska, presented Custer District with the Mark Trail Award for their work in obtaining funding for a weather alert radio receiver in Mullen, Nebraska and surrounding areas. The project was completed and went “live” in January 2008 with a warm welcome from the community at a dedication program held in the gym.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) annually recognizes individuals and organizations for their support of NOAA Weather Radio and their leadership in the use of NOAA Weather Radio receivers. The awards are named after the cartoon Mark Trail, who serves as the official “spokesperson” for NOAA Weather Radio.

Brian told the audience, “This award is long overdue. It is an example of persistence ‘paying off’. The original paperwork for funding of the project started with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) way back in 2002. The project was put on hold for four years due to lack of funds. In 2006, funding became available and the project moved forward. Then another delay in getting the award, during which time Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., U. S. Navy (Ret.), NOAA Administrator from December 2001 to October 31, 2008, retired. He came out of retirement just long enough to sign the award presented to Custer Public Power.”



Manager Rick Nelson (left) accepts Mark Trail Award presented by Meteorologist Brian Hirsch, National Weather Service in North Platte

Guests Twyla Phillips and Deane Meeks, both from the area, stated they rely on the weather information much of the time and it was a very welcome addition to their community.

Calling all Snow Birds!

Before you fly away for the winter, please contact the office and let us know approximately how long you plan to be gone. Just in case something happens that we think you might want to know about, you might want to leave a phone number where you can be reached. Stop by, email or phone, we are here to help.



NEW PHOTO CALENDAR IN THE WORKS

Thanks to our customers for their wonderful photographs, our 2011 calendar was very popular. So, for the tenth year, we would like you to submit your stunning photos taken within Custer PPD's territory. Photos may reflect the seasons, events, animals, pets, livestock, or landscape of the area. Since we are the electric company, it is all-right to have electric lines and poles in the landscape. Selected photos will be included in the 2012 calendar. Start sorting through your photos now and begin submitting. The deadline is September 30, 2011. If you have questions, call Carol Fritzler at 308-872-2451.

Please read the following guidelines carefully.

- Each photo must have an information form completed. Duplicate the form below, if needed.
- Do not write your name or other information on the photograph.
- Prints, CD's, or DVD's will be accepted. It is not necessary to send enlargements. We would prefer the CD or DVD over prints from your home printer. Ideally, for best quality reproduction, use the highest resolution setting on your camera. Save digital files in original format to high resolution jpeg or tiff format only.
- Keep the original photo. Photos become the property of Custer Public Power District and may be used on CPPD's website or in other printed publications or brochures.

2012 CPPD PHOTO CALENDAR ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Briefly describe your entry and location: _____

I grant my permission for Custer Public Power District to use this photo in the Custer PPD photo calendar, the Custer PPD website and in other printed publications or brochures developed by Custer PPD.

I am the owner of the photograph and it is an original production.

Signature

Date



Apple Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

Prep/Total Time: 25 min.
Makes: 16 Servings

Ingredients

SALSA:

- 2 medium tart apples, chopped
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 2 medium kiwifruit, peeled and chopped
- 1 small orange
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons apple jelly, melted

CHIPS:

- 8 flour tortillas (7 or 8 inches)
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon



Directions

- In a bowl, combine apples, strawberries and kiwi. Grate orange peel to measure 1-1/2 teaspoons; squeeze juice from orange. Add peel and juice to apple mixture. Stir in brown sugar and jelly.
- For chips, brush tortillas lightly with water. Combine sugar and cinnamon; sprinkle over tortillas. Cut each tortilla into 8 wedges. Place in a single layer on ungreased baking sheets.
- Bake at 400° for 6-8 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool. Serve with salsa. Yield: 4 cups salsa.

1 serving	121 calories	2 g fat
0 cholesterol	126 mg sodium	25 g carbohydrate
1 g fiber	2g protein	



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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Greg Smith, Milburn.....Director

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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.