

## *When did the lights come on?*

I had the pleasure of talking to an individual who grew up in the Buckeye area. He called me asking questions about electricity and when did it get to rural Brewster. When I got the message, I immediately went to our engineering department and started asking questions. When I called him back he asked me the question again. My answer was that poles in the Brewster area date back to 1953, so the area would have had electricity back in 1953.

What he really wanted to know was if his grandmother, who lived just north of Brewster had electricity in her lifetime? The answer was no. She passed away in 1950. So, we sat for a little bit in phone-silence; and, I for one started to ponder that notion, she didn't have electricity at her house in her lifetime. The next question was, did he have electricity his entire life. The answer was kind of. He was born in 1951 just south and west of Broken Bow. While he certainly remembers electricity, he probably didn't have it the first year of his life.

This conversation started me thinking about public power. What that looks like in Nebraska, and more specifically about the history of Custer Public Power. In the early days of electricity in the state of Nebraska, there were private electric companies that served mainly towns and urban areas. The Nebraska legislature and more specifically George Norris realized that the

By Rick Nelson

private companies were not going to service rural customers because they could not make a profit. Representatives then developed, through the state statutes, the ability for individuals to form public power districts and rural electric cooperatives to serve the rural customers. They also gave public power the right of eminent domain to ensure that Nebraska would be a total public power state without private electric companies making a profit out of Nebraskans. Therefore, Nebraska became and still is the only state of the union that has only public power electric suppliers.

Over the years that public power has served Nebraskans. Nebraska Public Power District was formed through mergers of several different companies to become a wholesale 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 that we buy, and then we distribute it to you.

Custer Public Power District was formed back in 1944 to serve the rural customers in Central Nebraska which later includes all or part of 13 counties. Custer PPD was formed by the very individuals that they serve. We are very fortunate to have this local connection with 7 directors who are elected locally and receive their power from Custer PPD. These 7 directors are

the directors you elected to provide the direction for the district that you own.

Having local control and ownership of your power district is one of the reasons public power was formed. That is what sets Nebraska apart from all other states. Nebraska does not have private industry whose interest is to make a profit for their share holders. Again, this is one of the major reasons why Nebraska is ranked the 5th lowest for residential electricity rates (How-Much.net, 2018). States that are lower than Nebraska enjoy a very low-cost generation resource called hydro-electric power.

As we look at the different public power entities across Nebraska, we begin to understand why we have some of the lowest rates across the nation. We take pride in that local ownership to better serve our customers/member owners. We also take pride in answering the question about "***when the lights came on.***"



# NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH 2018

## Disasters Happen

**PREPARE NOW** | **LEARN HOW**



<https://www.ready.gov/september>

## ***How prepared are you and your family for disasters or emergencies?***

The Federal Emergency Management Agency(FEMA) designates National Preparedness Month at the time to assess and prepare for a number of possible situations: floods, wildfires, severe storms like tornados and hurricanes, and prolonged power outages from natural disasters.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), less than half – only about 46% of people – think a natural disaster is likely to happen within their community. The reality is that most people will experience the impacts of some natural event year to year.

“Understand the most likely natural disasters for your area, and take steps in advance to weather them safely,” says Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council. “Prepare by assembling an emergency kit with essentials. Monitor news and weather for impending events. Be prepared to take cover or evacuate when appropriate. Stay engaged online with related websites and social media pages during a disaster.”

Be prepared for prolonged loss of power. If you have a portable generator, make sure you know

how to use it safely. Place it safely away from the home. Never run a generator inside or near windows.

Floods and power outages can affect local water supplies, to keep at least three days of drinking water in your emergency kit. Your supplies should also include non-perishable food and any needed openers, a radio or weather radio, and flashlight with extra batteries. Don’t forget first aid and other medical essentials, and depending on season, extra blankets and seasonal items.

Once your kit has been assembled, it’s time to create or review your family’s emergency communication plan. Know how each of you will stay safe and get in touch if you’re not together when disaster strikes. Establish a meeting place if separated during a disaster. Include measures for pets in your emergency plans.

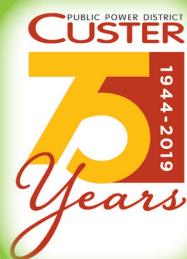
Keep up-to-date with current public health and safety emergency plans in your community. Keep a list of emergency services phone numbers. Consider getting involved with community programs that help others prepare to stay safe.

“Since natural disasters can quickly and seriously impact quality of life and health, proper planning and preparation is key to staying safe,” Hall concludes. Impacts on drinking water and air quality, environmental contamination, are all considerations when it comes to being ready before disaster strikes.”



For more information, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

September 30, 2018 is the deadline for the 2019 Custer Public Power District Calendar. Entry Forms can be found on the Custerpower.com website under the Custer Currents link or at the Broken Bow office.



# Tips for a Safe Harvest



Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



**Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.**



**Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.**



**Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.**



**Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.**



**If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.**

*Source: SafeElectricity.org*



## **It's that time of year for tailgating food!**



### **Bacon Double Cheese Burger Dip**

A hot cheesy baked dip with all of the flavours of a bacon double cheese burger that makes for some great game day snacking!



#### **Ingredients**

- 1/2 pound ground beef
- 6 strips bacon, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 4 ounces cream cheese, room temperature
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup mozzarella, shredded
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 tablespoon worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoon ketchup

#### **Directions**

1. Cook the ground beef in a pan over medium heat, set it aside and drain the grease from the pan.
2. Cook the bacon in the pan until crispy, about 6-10 minutes, set aside and drain all but a tablespoon of the grease.
3. Add the onion and saute until tender, about 5-7 minutes.
4. Add the garlic and saute until fragrant, about a minute.
5. Mix the ground beef, bacon, onions and garlic, cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, mozzarella, cheddar, worcestershire sauce and ketchup and pour it into a baking dish.
6. Bake in a preheated 350F/180C oven until the top starts turning a light golden brown and then sides are bubbling, about 20-30 minutes.

***Slow Cooker: Implement steps 1 & 2, optionally implement steps 3 & 4, mix everything, place it in the slow cooker and cook until the cheese is nice and melted about 1-2 hours on high or 2-4 hours on low.***

Recipe can be found at [www.closetcooking.com](http://www.closetcooking.com)

## **CUSTER CURRENTS**

**Newsletter of the  
CUSTER PUBLIC POWER  
DISTRICT**

**Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451  
[www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)**

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

#### **Officers & Directors**

Brad Bartak, Merna.....	President
John Blakeman, Merna.....	Vice President
Greg Smith, Milburn.....	Secretary
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....	Treasurer
Tom Roberts, Loup City.....	Asst. Treasurer
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....	Director
Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....	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.

