



Photo credits Linda Teahon

I'm pretty excited about the new year and new possibilities. There are big things happening in 2020 at Custer Public Power District and in our service territory.

The first is Custer Public Power District will not need to increase its total revenue in 2020. Therefore, your bills should stay the same, although there will be some small differences within each rate class. Those changes will help Custer Power stay financially sound and make sure we are able to meet future needs of the District. Overall, Custer Power will not need to increase revenue to cover the expenses we anticipate.

The second important thing is that there will be a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) reduction coming to Custer Public Power District from our wholesale power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District. It will be starting March 1, 2020 and ending February 30, 2021. It is a decrease

of \$0.003751 per kilowatt hour used.

With wise guidance from the Custer Public Power District Board, we will be passing that savings on to the Custer Power customer-owners. While on a per kilowatt hour basis it is a small number (3.7 one-thousands of a penny per kilowatt hour used) over the course of 12 months, it will benefit our customer-owners.

“Every customer-owner deserves to have reliable and affordable electricity no matter where they live in our service territory.”

How is this reduction possible? It's because NPPD has had a couple of good years of revenues. Those good years are due to several things, prominently cost control measures delivered by the leadership at NPPD and more specifically NPPD CEO Pat Pope. So, this is good news on the monthly bills for the year ahead.

Shifting gears completely, the other big thing in 2020 that I

want to call your attention to is the construction of the Sandhills 34.5 kV line. This original line has been operating and providing service for almost 70 years. This line has been well maintained through the years, but the span lengths between poles are long and the conductor is getting tired of being beat up by ice storms just about every year. The condition of this old line has become problematic for the villages of Mullen and Thedford and surrounding areas. It is responsible for outages that have hit this area during ice and snowstorms.

This is not the only reason we need to rebuild the Sandhills 34.5 kV line. There has been load growth in the north and northwest part of the Custer Public Power District. This added load has been continually causing Custer Power voltage quality and reliability problems. It has also gotten to the point where we will not be able to hold voltage at steady levels or serve additional load.

Make Energy Conservation a Family Affair



2020 Energy Efficiency Calendar

Energy Explorers

Start the new year off by being more energy efficient!

Each month, try changing your energy use habits by using the tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



JANUARY

Turn off lights when you leave a room.

FEBRUARY

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.

MARCH

Turn off water while brushing your teeth.

APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Clean or replace your air filter. You may need to ask an adult to help.

JUNE

Keep the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit during summer months.



JULY

Close curtains and blinds during the day to block the sun.

AUGUST

Keep all doors and windows closed while the AC is running.

SEPTEMBER

Dry clothes outdoors on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

OCTOBER

Only open the refrigerator door for short amounts of time when necessary.

NOVEMBER

Take short showers instead of a bath.

DECEMBER

Decorate your home for the holidays with energy-saving LED bulbs.



(continued) Load growth is a good thing. It means there is stability and growth in the overall local economy.

We are excited about this project because it follows Custer Power's philosophy that every consumer-owner deserves to have reliable, affordable electricity no matter where they live in our service territory. It brings us into conformity with the technical standards that we follow in order to serve you. At this point those standards are not being met for that area. This new line will fix that.

I'm just going to come right out and say one thing -- this project has nothing to do with wind or solar or any other renewable resource. It has nothing to do with the R project. It's about the growth and reliability issues needed to serve the customer-owners in those areas.

There are many other exciting things happening in 2020, but those are the main highlights. We continue to appreciate your patience and patronage. Custer Power is grateful for the outstanding performance of our employees. They are the secret to Custer Power's success. Just like our last 75 years, Custer Public Power District will continue to provide affordable and reliable power to those we serve.

*General Manager
Rick Nelson*

Attention!

High School Seniors or high school graduates living within the Custer Public Power District Area

Custer Public Power District is seeking
applicants for the full tuition
2020 Lineman Scholarship
to any Vocational or Community College
offering a Utility Line Program.

Scholarship guidelines and application are available on the Custer Public Power District website custerpower.com or can be picked up at the Broken Bow office.

For more information contact Tarin Burrows at 308.872.2451 or by email to tburrows@custerpower.com



**Deadline for submitting your
application is March 1, 2020.**

Four-Cheese Gnocchi Bake

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PARKER FEIERBACH

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tbsp. unsalted butter, plus more for baking dish
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 3/4 c. heavy cream
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella, divided
- 1/2 c. shredded Parmesan, divided
- 1/3 c. shredded Asiago (romano can be substituted)
- 1/3 c. shredded provolone
- 2 oz. (17.5-oz.) packages gnocchi
- 2 tbsp. freshly chopped basil



Image by Fabio Ninceri from Pixabay

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375° and grease a 9”-x-13” baking dish with butter. In a large pot over medium heat, melt butter. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute, then whisk in flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, stirring constantly, 1 minute. Whisk in broth and heavy cream and season with salt and pepper.

Bring mixture to a simmer, then reduce heat to low and quickly whisk in 1/3 cup each cheese until melty and smooth. Remove from heat.

Add gnocchi to prepared baking dish. (No pre-boiling is needed.) Pour in cheese sauce and stir until pasta is evenly coated. Top with remaining mozzarella and Parmesan and season with a few grinds of pepper.

Bake until cheese is bubbly and golden, 25 to 30 minutes. Garnish with basil before serving.

Recipe can be found at www.delish.com

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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Jerry Spanel.....Operations Manager
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Dustin Miller.....Purchasing Agent

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.

