

CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

Currents



Thank You From the General Manager

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photo credits Mike Connely
Custer County

Newsletter of the

Custer Public Power District

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

Custer Public Power District Newsletter is published bimonthly by:

Custer Public Power District
P.O. Box 10
625 E South E Street
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Phone: (308)872-2451
1-888-749-2453

Website: www.custerpower.com

Staff

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rick Nelson
<i>General Manager</i> | April Gross
<i>Customer Service Manager</i> |
| Jamie Hurlburt
<i>Operations Manager</i> | Dustin Miller
<i>Purchasing Manager</i> |
| Alex Coleman
<i>Accounting Manager</i> | Jason Chaplin
<i>Engineering Manager</i> |

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Custer Public Power District
P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Comments or Questions:
Tarin Burrows
Executive Assistant

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From the **GENERAL MANAGER'S** desk

Custer Public Power District did it! The Dunning to Seneca transmission line conversion from 34.5kV to 69 kV is complete.

For those of you in the Sandhills, you will know what I am talking about. I first want to say "Thank You" for everyone's patience during this long process. Second of all, Custer Power is now operating at 69 kV into the Sandhills of Nebraska.

What does this mean? It means, Custer Power can handle the load growth that has been happening in the Sandhills area. You must be thinking, "What load growth?". Well, load/electricity demand has been growing steadily for many years. With the long distances of line in the Sandhills area, the little bit of added load growth starts to affect voltage on the lines and our ability to handle additional load demand.

Custer Power has the line segments completed, except for some cleanup of the old lines and equipment. All of the sub-



First pole set - December 2, 2020, by Great Plains Power, Inc.

stations have been converted. NPPD is in the process of completing the new step down substation at Theadford that serves Custer Power's customers along Highway 2 from Brewster to Mullen, and beyond.

The Dunning to Seneca transmission line conversion from 34.5kV to 69 kV was a huge project and our team has been working hard to get this completed. This project involved

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.(CST) in the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E 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 Theadford, Nebraska.

about everybody at Custer Power, and everyone deserves a pat on the back for a job well done.



Hanging bird diverters - Primoris Services Corporations.

Now, it is time to focus on other areas. Custer Power has been working this fall to get the staking done for the copper replacement in the Haumont area. This work will continue into 2022 with our crews doing all the work.

In September, the Five-Year Plan was passed by the Board of Directors. Custer Power will be continuing the rebuild of the circuit going east out of the Dunning substation. As General Manager, I promise, we will keep outages to a minimum. I know everyone has had their share of blinks and outages up in that area.

Along with that line section east of Dunning, we will start working on the next project area - the Calamus Lake area.

As Custer Power puts together a five-year plan, the plan considers the planned projects, along with any increases that are needed in revenue. For the third year in a row, Custer Power is keeping rates stable and will be passing the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) back to the customer. In 2021 alone, this represented well over a million dollars. Custer Power doesn't know yet what the PCA will be for 2022, but there will be one.

I think this is a tremendous accomplishment in another year of economic uncertainty. Kudos to all the staff inside the office, in our shop, and to our outside crews for helping Custer Public Power District meet the challenge.

Wholesale power costs are not expected to increase soon. Since wholesale power is 60% of our total bill, by holding the line on our local distribution expenses and not seeing increases in wholesale power costs, we're finding revenues and ways to work with inflation. Custer Public Power District **continued on page 4**



Calamus Reservoir State Recreation Area photo credits Cameron Chilewski-2017



On the go and in control!



Smart PAYMENTS



Smart COMMUNICATION

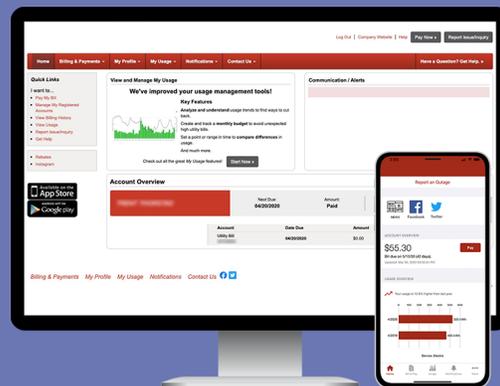


Smart ENVIRONMENT



Smart USAGE

Now you can manage your Custer Public Power account like never before! The online and mobile app, SmartHub has launched with our new business software. Get ready for Smart Communications for secure mobile and online payment options, asking questions on your accounts, and tracking your power usage. Everything in the palm of your hand and on the web.



For more information go to our website at custerpower.com or call 888-749-2453 to visit with our customer service representatives.

BE SAFE DURING THE **HO·HO·HOLIDAYS**

10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

- 1 Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.
- 10 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.

 LEARN MORE AT:
Safe Electricity.org



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will have a budget for 2022 that represents everything that we want to get accomplished this next year.

Custer Public Power District has been as conservative as possible, but I must remind everyone that we have 4,577 miles of line that cover 8,000 square miles in the wind, rain, and snow, as well as the physical plant and equipment that is worth \$100 million. At some point penny-pinching becomes pound foolish if we can't make the investments necessary to maintain and upgrade the system to keep it running safely and reliably. There will be some big projects in 2022 that will serve our growing load/ electrical demand and provide reliable power to everybody who needs it.

Many thanks for your continued support and understanding.

*Wishing you a joyous
Holiday Season and a
happy and peaceful
New Year.*

*Rick Nelson
General Manager*



Stay Safe as You Go Over the River & Through the Woods This Holiday Season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year for many of us. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual: shopping for presents, traveling to family gatherings or attending holiday events. However, all that time in the car can also mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, winter weather conditions such as snow, sleet and slush cause more than 550,000 traffic accidents each year, leading to approximately 138,000 injuries and 1,700 fatalities.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Unfortunately, when this happens, it adds another very significant danger to the mix that can cause severe shock, burns or electrocution. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved in a collision. Power company personnel will be dispatched to the scene to de-energize the power.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene. They could be shocked or electrocuted if they walk or run over the energized area or touch anything that is energized.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow or other debris that could be hiding one. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized, even if it is not sparking or buzzing.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke. The vehicle acts as an insulator that keeps you safe from stray electricity.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire. DO NOT attempt to use other objects to move it.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season! For more information about safety around electricity, go to ***SafeElectricity.org***.



RECIPES

Hazen's Pasta Helper

Courtesy of Hazen Taylor, daughter of Andy & Sadye Taylor - Broken Bow, NE



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 Tbsp minced onion
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 tsp pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp paprika
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 12 oz dry pasta
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- 1 pint drained tomatoes, run through the blender to take out the chunks



Brown the ground beef and onions in 2 Tbsp olive oil. Add the salt, pepper, garlic powder, and paprika. Add the tomato paste then stir in the pasta, beef broth, and milk.

Bring to a low simmer; cover, reduce the heat to low, and cook until the pasta is tender. Remove from the heat and stir in the cheese until it is melted.

Taco Pie

Courtesy of Mesa Taylor, daughter of Andy & Sadye Taylor - Broken Bow, NE

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lb ground beef
- 1 pkg taco seasoning
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 can crescent rolls
- 2 cups taco chips
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese



Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray a 8 x 8 pan with non-stick cooking spray.

In a skillet brown the ground beef. Drain off the grease then add in the taco seasoning and water. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Unroll the crescent rolls. Place half of crescent rolls in the bottom of the pan and form a crust.

Sprinkle 1/2 of the taco chips over the crescent rolls. Cover with the ground beef and taco seasoning then spread the sour cream over the meat. Next, sprinkle on the cheese and the remaining chips. Then cover with the remaining crescent rolls.

Bake until golden brown, about 20 to 25 minutes.

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

Mail to:
Custer Public Power District
Att. Tarin Burrows
P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE
68822



Zucchini Bread with Pineapple & Cranberries

Courtesy of Deanna Brummet of Stapleton, NE

INGREDIENTS:

3 eggs
2 cups grated zucchini
1 cup oil
1 8 oz can of crushed pineapple, drained
(3 heaping serving spoons full)
2 tsp vanilla
1 3/4 cups sugar
3 cups flour
2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp salt
1/2 cup dried cranberries



In a large bowl, mix eggs and oil with sugar, then add zucchini and pineapple. Mix well. Add the dry ingredients, scraping the sides of the bowl as necessary. Beat just until the flour is combined. Add the cranberries and mix.

Pour into 2 greased loaf pans or loaf pans lined with parchment paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 to 55 minutes.

This works well with using gluten free 1-on-1 flour mix, such as Bob's Red Mill, and alternative egg substitutes such as ground flax see, chia seeds, or Ener-G eggs.

Pumpkin Muffins

Courtesy of prettysimplesweet.com/pumpkin-muffins

INGREDIENTS:

1 and 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking soda
1 and 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp ground nutmeg or freshly grated nutmeg
1/2 tsp salt
2 large eggs
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup light or dark brown sugar
1/2 cup vegetable or canola oil
1 and 1/4 cups pumpkin puree (canned or fresh)
1/4 cup milk



Preheat oven to 375°F/190°C. Grease a muffin pan or line with muffin liners.

In a large bowl whisk together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, granulated sugar and brown sugar until combined. Add the oil and whisk until combined. Add the pumpkin and milk and whisk until combined. Pour the pumpkin mixture into the flour mixture and mix gently just until combined.

Divide the batter among muffin cups. Bake for 16-22 minutes until a toothpick inserted into the center of the muffin comes out clean. Allow to cool for 5 minutes in the pan, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. These muffins stay moist for up to 5 days. Keep them in the fridge in an airtight container. Bring them to room temperature before serving. The muffins can also be frozen for up to 2 months.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

The office will be closed:

November 11 for Veterans Day
November 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving
December 24 for Christmas

For after hour emergencies,
call 1-888-749-2453.



P.O. Box 10
Broken Bow, NE 68822

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CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT WOULD
LIKE TO WISH OUR CUSTOMERS,
A BOUNTIFUL THANKSGIVING,
A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON,
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



3 Easy Ways to Save Energy This Fall



Set your thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler to give your heating system a break.



Replace your HVAC filter regularly. Check it monthly to make sure it's not too dirty.



Open blinds and other window coverings to let natural light in to warm your home.

