



General Manager Doyle Hazen

75 Years has Brought Many Changes

Another year has passed and now we begin a new year and decade. The year 2020 is meaningful for North Central Public Power District (NCPD) as it is our 75th anniversary. On May 10, 1945, North Central Public Power District was organized by area farmers to bring the best electric service, at the lowest possible cost, to rural farmers.



Due to the scarcity of materials during WWII, the first customer was not energized until July 2, 1948. Over the years, NCPD has built hundreds of miles of lines and has acquired new services from other existing systems. In 1949, the District purchased the electrical systems in Niobrara and Santee from Northwestern Public Service Company in South Dakota for \$40,000. In 1954, the District purchased the electrical

system in Verdigris for \$62,000 from J. J. Chalupnik and John J. Hospodka. In 1967, the District purchased another operating electrical system from Eden Valley Light Company and the Plainview Hi-View Highline Company. In 2000, NCPD began serving seven Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) towns when it chose to spin them off. Those towns were Page, Orchard, Royal, Brunswick, Center, Bazile Mills and Winnetoon. Most recently, in December of 2018, an agreement was signed to serve the City of Plainview. With this agreement, NCPD now serves over 6650 meters.

The year 2019 was eventful for our area as the spring brought many wet days and flood damage for most of our communities and rural customers. With the damage experienced, we applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds. We have submitted \$210,000 in damages of which we expect to see 75%, or about \$157,500. We have also submitted claims for \$114,000 in mitigation. The mitigation funds will be used to improve portions of our system that will make it more robust

to help prevent future outages. As a side note, we just received FEMA funds for a small ice storm from two years ago in the amount of \$118,267.

As usual, at the beginning of the



year we are busy putting together the 2019 end of year numbers and approving and implementing budgets. One of

the things that we have worked at for several months is the Cost of Service study and new rate design. Beginning in February, dependent on Board approval in January, North Central PPD will be implementing new rates for our customers. We contract our Cost of Service study and rate design with Utility Financial Solutions. They are a contractor that specifically consults with utilities to analyze financials and help develop utility rates. Once they have established the Cost of Service study, they are able to help us develop our electric rates based on our costs.

This year we expect to see some reduction in rates for those customers that we serve with NPPD based power. On average, we have worked

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to reduce rates 2% and this year an additional Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit from NPPD will be passed through to our customers. This PCA amounts to \$(.003727)/kWh. The total projected PCA savings to our customers is \$461,650. The PCA will be effective February 1, 2020 through the end of January 31, 2021.

For our customers served with Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

Power (those in the City of Plainview), we expect an average increase of 4%. This increase may be smaller or larger depending on your given rate. Some of the rates that are needing increases are being adjusted slowly to arrive closer to the cost of service by the end of 2021. I encourage customers to please call our office if you are concerned about the coming changes.

I started with this company on its 50th anniversary in 1995. In the last

25 years, I have seen North Central PPD grow. This growth has been a result of our team working to provide the customers with system access, the best service experience and system reliability. We strive for transparency and integrity. Please communicate with our team and let us know what we can do better and what we are doing right. Keep safe.



New Year: A Great Time to Review Your Accounts

As the new year begins, we encourage our customers to review their electric accounts. If there have been any changes to the accounts such as new load added, phone number changes, etc., please notify the North Central PPD office.

We specifically want to draw your attention to accounts that are on a seasonal rate. Seasonal rates were specifically designed for services

that have minimal usage during seasonal time periods. If you have a service listed on your bill as a "class code 8" you may want to take a look at your past, and anticipated future, electrical usage. Depending on the amount of electric usage on these types of accounts, there may be significant savings available to you by switching to a commercial rate. If you have a seasonal account that may be using more electricity

than in the past or simply want to see if there is a potential for you to save money on your seasonal service, please contact the North Central PPD office so we can review the account's usage. We would be happy to assist you and potentially keep more of your hard earned money in your pocket.

AUTOPAY BLITZ PROMOTION

We are running a promotion from December 1st to March 1st to sign-up customers for autopay (ACH). Below is a form for you to fill out if you want us to automatically deduct the amount of your bill due each month from your bank account. We also request that you include a voided check with the form.

Please contact the office with any questions and get signed up during the months of **December, January, and February** to be eligible for a drawing of a one-time **\$100 credit** on your account. This is a perfect opportunity to take advantage of this time and money saver. Never forget to pay your electric bill again and save yourself the time and expense of checks and stamps.

North Central Public Power District – Automated Bank Authorization

Name of Financial Institution: _____ Date: _____

Bank Location (City & State): _____ ☐ Checking ☐ Savings

Bank Routing Number: _____ Bank Account Number: _____

*I hereby authorize North Central PPD to collect payment of my monthly billed electrical bill from the above account until such time that I cancel this agreement

Customer Signature: _____ Member Sep. No.: _____

Customer Service Address & City: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE A VOIDED CHECK WITH THIS FORM



Operations Department 2019 Year in Review

The 2019 line building season actually started in the fall of 2018. North Central Public Power Districts (NCPPD) linemen built ten plus miles of line in the fall of 2018 to feed out of the Boelter 85-16 substation. This new distribution substation north-west of Orchard was part of NCPPD's four-year work plan. The plan to install the substation took several years to come to fruition. NCPPD, along with RVW Engineering from Columbus, NE, recognized this area as an underserved area of the District. Retired General Manager Keith Harvey wanted to see all customers have a chance to upgrade their operations with three phase power. Adding this substation gave the area needed electrical capacity and localized three phase distribution lines.

Mr. Harvey was also a staunch proponent of NCPPD's next large project: seven miles of 69kV transmission line south of Creighton along highway 13. Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), with the help of NCPPD, put a sub transmission line plan together. This line showed a need to be replaced for voltage support and reliability. With the replacement, NCPPD's rate payers will see a cost savings through line loss reduction and sub transmission line wheeling costs. Along with this project, Nebraska Public Power's Board just approved the purchase of the 115kV substation transformer at the Creighton substation. This upgrade will save NCPPD's rate payers money along with an added bonus of reliability.

The spring of 2019 brought many challenges. NCPPD installed 75 new irrigation wells, 50 of which were installed on the new 85-16 substation. The operations department built an additional 13 miles of line for new services district wide. Along with all this building, the Flood of 2019 happened, causing major damages to NCPPD facilities. As most of our

customers know, the flood caused major damages to roads, making the job to restore power even more difficult. NCPPD Operations Department worked many hours to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. NCPPD, along with NPPD, even went as far as to bring portable generation in from York, NE. This generation was installed to serve the northeast part of the district along with the Village of Santee. Over a 44 hour period, 2,995 gallons of diesel fuel were used to produce power for that area. NCPPD's crews worked many hours in rough working conditions to repair the distribution lines feeding this area of the district. NCPPD's crews worked all summer repairing lines damaged by the flood and still continue to make repairs.

The Board of Directors, along with the North Central PPD's Management team, would like to recognize our employees for the hard work and outstanding commitment to safety they provided in 2019.

The Operations Department looks forward to serving you in the upcoming year.

Todd Zimmerer
Operations Manager



EnergyWiseSM Programs Available



Linda Sokol,
Energy Advisor

EnergyWiseSM programs offer incentives to homeowners, businesses, and agriculture to help cover the cost of a variety of energy-efficient upgrades. A new Prescriptive Irrigation Program will be offered beginning January 1, 2020 - plus incentive amounts for Cooling System Tune-Up, High-Efficiency Heat Pumps, Commercial HVAC and Prescriptive Lighting programs have been updated. These programs have new brochures and applications available.

****All projects must be installed and operational during the calendar year to be eligible for the corresponding EnergyWiseSM program year incentives. The following programs are**

available to customers of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and participating wholesale electric utilities of NPPD. Customers should contact their local utility for brochures, applications and guidelines for more information about these incentives.

NEW PROGRAM – Prescriptive Irrigation

- Pivots four (4) spans and longer qualify
- Minimum five (5) years since new or last refurbished
- \$500 for refurbishing all primary outlets on system
- Replacement of regulators required (if installed)
- Irrigator provides old and new sprinkler charts for verification

Cooling System Tune-Up

- New application and brochure
- New incentive amount is \$30
- Now eligible for tune-up each year

Prescriptive Lighting

- New brochure and application
- New incentive amounts - Call Linda Sokol at 402-358-5112
- All new fixtures, retrofit lamps, tubes and kits must be standard or premium-listed by Design Lights Consortium (DLC) to ensure quality standards

High Efficiency Heat Pump

- New brochure and application (included)
- New incentive amounts as shown
- Changes in dealer incentive application requirements

TYPE OF HEAT PUMP	INCENTIVE CRITERIA	INCENTIVE AMOUNT
Ductless Mini-Split	15+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
Ductless Mini-Split	Variable Capacity (inverter driven) *	\$600

**Provide documentation that shows manufacturer, model number and that states the equipment is "inverter driven"*

From our homes to yours . . .

Slow-Cooker Chicken Enchilada Soup

Ingredients

- 2 cups chicken broth (from 32-oz carton)
- 1 can (19 oz) mild or hot enchilada sauce
- 1 can (4.5 oz) chopped mild green chiles
- 1 package (20 oz) bone-in chicken breasts, skin removed
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained, rinsed
- 1 bag (12 oz) frozen corn, thawed, drained

Directions

Spray 4- to 5-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. In cooker, mix broth, enchilada sauce and chiles. Place chicken into enchilada sauce mixture; spoon sauce over chicken. Cover; cook on Low heat setting 7 to 8 hours. Remove chicken from cooker with slotted spoon. Stir beans and corn into mixture in cooker. Increase heat setting to High. Cover; cook 5 to 10 minutes longer. Meanwhile, shred chicken by pulling apart with 2 forks; return to cooker. Cook until thoroughly heated. If desired, top each serving with shredded Mexican cheese blend, chopped fresh cilantro and crushed tortilla chips.





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FOR SALE: 6 ft 3 point King Cutter blade. Excellent condition. Used very little. \$500. Call 402-841-2242.

FOR SALE: 1984 Chevy 4x4 pickup. All new frame up, 375 hp crate engine. New heavy duty transmission, new gear driven transfer case. All Edelbrock parts on motor. Runs excellent. Only 10,000 miles on frame up new. Everything was replaced. \$12,000 invested. First \$5500 cash steals it. Call 402-841-2242.

FOR SALE: Antique Mercedes diesel 240D car. Excellent for restoration. No rust, very solid. Very rare. \$1000. Call 402-841-2242.

WANTED: Want to buy 4x4 4-wheeler that needs TLC. Call after 5pm 402-841-8915.

FREE: 150K BTU furnace. 14" wide 3' long 3' wide. 15 years old. Worked when removed 10 years ago. Call

402-582-3557

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for something in particular? You may call, send or email (bargain.barn@ncppd.net) your description of what's for sale or what you are looking for to

our office. The ad will run in the Bargain Barn section free for one month. Please include name and telephone number. No commercial ads will be accepted, personal items only.



Paperless Billing- Allows you to receive email notifications about your bill and your account without receiving a paper bill in the mail.

Sign up for paperless billing by logging into your online account and clicking on e-bill under the my account tab or by contacting the North Central PPD office at 402-358-5112.