



Delivering a difference to parts of Knox, Antelope, Pierce, and Holt Counties Since 1945



General Manager Doyle Hazen

Public Power: Your Unique Advantage

Nebraska has the unique distinction of being a public power

state. Nebraska has had electricity in some towns and cities since the 1870s. By the mid-1930s, rural public power districts were developed to meet the needs of rural areas that were not initially offered access to affordable electricity. Although there are a few cooperatives in the mix, the majority of rural electric power providers in Nebraska are Public Power Districts.

Public Power is an advantage many other states do not have access to. Public Power is a rare advantage due to the rate payers receiving the direct benefit of lower rates. All excess margins are used to improve, grow and maintain the electrical system. No shareholders are involved so there is not a third party gaining advantage through your rates.

North Central Public Power District (NCPD) tries to utilize internal assets as much as possible. Although contractors are used to ensure the work of the district continues in a timely fashion, NCPD's employees are able to do new construction, generally, at about 60% of the cost of contractors. These efficiencies are part of the unique advantage Public Power rate payers enjoy. Your rates are invested in your

system to provide reliability, safety and resiliency.

The financial model that the Public Power Districts use provides for the flexibility to adjust rates. When the district can do this, it can react to economic changes. In NCPD's case, rates were reduced 2% in 2020 and 7% in 2022 and power cost adjustments were directly passed through to the rate payers. Every billing cycle that the rates are reduced results in dollars left in the hands of the rate payers.

NCPD is working to maintain these reductions as long as possible. The wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for next year will be reduced from .006196/kWh to .002761/kWh. This PCA has been passed through in the past and it is currently intended to continue. We are continuously monitoring the economy and its impact on future electric rates while looking for ways to keep rates low and maintain system reliability.

Another advantage Public Power provides is local control. Each director that serves a subdivision is elected by the people of the district. These directors set policy and monitor the execution of these policies. This gives you, the customer, local access to the decision makers of the District. This local control is not available in other electric utility business models.

The final advantage as a Public Power rate payer is the local support you have

from employees in the district. The employees have a stake, as you do, in the District's communities. You receive service by people who care and are vested in providing the best service possible at a great value. We want you to do well and prosper. By having NCPD provide your electric needs, you are getting a unique advantage in your electrical utility service. Keep safe and enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Irrigation Facility Charge to be billed in February

The 2023 Irrigation Facility Charge for irrigation services that are 15 horsepower or larger will be billed in February. If you have irrigation changes such as load control schedule (i.e. from 3 Day Control to 2 Day Control), or intend to transfer service into another name, please notify our office. New irrigation contracts will need to be completed and returned to the office before any changes on the billing system will be made. An irrigation letter will be mailed out in January indicating all irrigation accounts currently in the customer's name.

Tree Maintenance

Proactive measures benefit everyone

Over the next few months North Central Public Power District (NCPD) will focus on tree maintenance, which is one of the leading causes of power outages. Tree trimming and removal is a proactive approach to this ongoing problem. We understand the importance of trees and realize their value to our customers. Proper tree maintenance is a benefit to everyone.

Advantages of Utility Tree Maintenance

- Safety of Customers
- Minimize Line Blinks for All Customers
- Reduce Outages and Lengthy Repairs

For tree maintenance this year, NCPD's Operations Department will be contacting customers in Antelope, Knox and Pierce counties to receive tree trimming and removal permission. The 85-4 Brunswick rural, 85-6 Verdigre rural and 85-7 Plainview rural substations will be the focus of attention for tree maintenance.

Customers are reminded to report any potential issues concerning trees and power lines. We are continuously working to ensure our customers have safe and reliable electric service.



Supply Chain Issues Continue

North Central Public Power District's (NCPD) Operations Department would like to remind customers of the supply chain issues we continue to see. If you are considering a new service of any type, please call and let our Operations Department know of your intentions. Transformer lead times continue to be out over two years. NCPD has tried to mitigate these issues by buying transformers and all other materials years in advance. Customers need to be aware that projects may have delays due to supply chain issues.

NCPD's Operations Department plans to make all outage and maintenance items a priority. Please stay safe and patient in these changing times.



When it comes to severe weather...

hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

Severe weather can cause power outages.
Stay safe until we can restore power to you.



What to do before using a PORTABLE GENERATOR



Prepare

Install battery operated carbon monoxide (CO) alarms throughout your home; ensure they are working properly.



Read

Carefully review and follow all manufacturer's instructions.



Refuel Safely

Turn off your portable generator and let it cool down before refueling.

Position

Place a portable generator outside at least 20 feet from windows and doors; do not use one in a garage or carports.



Protect

If it is wet outside, keep it dry by placing it on a tarp. Position it under a portable canopy (not a carport).



Inspect and Maintain

Inspect a portable generator before each use and make sure it is properly maintained.



Using a portable generator can be useful during an outage; however, use one correctly to prevent CO poisoning and to stay safe.

Safety Tips for the Holiday Season



Linda Sokol,
Energy Advisor

Keep safety in mind when decorating the home. Ensure that your tree is placed at least three feet away from heat sources, such as fireplaces or radiators, and on a stable platform. Before hanging holiday lights, check for worn spots, fraying, and excessive kinking. Damaged strands of lights should not be used. Consider investing in LED light strands. Although they are more expensive than traditional incandescent bulbs, LED lights last much longer and are also more efficient and durable.

Don't get burned in the kitchen. Clean your stove top and oven often, especially before the large amount of baking and cooking that takes place for family gatherings. Doing so will help prevent fires in the kitchen should a malfunction or accident take place. Do not leave combustible items, such as towels or pot holders, near the stove top. Keep all appliance cords away from heat. Never use appliances near the kitchen sink. Plug appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets. Unplug your appliances when they are not in use.

Whether you are leaving the home for a few hours or for a few weeks, turn off all lights when they are not in use. Your neighbors can still enjoy your exterior Christmas lights while you are away if you put them on an automatic timer. This will remove the extra worry of an electrical accident while also reducing energy costs. If you will be gone for an extended holiday trip, you can reduce the risk of a power surge damaging equipment by unplugging unneeded electrical devices before leaving.

For more home electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Winter Car Kit Checklist

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> windshield scraper | <input type="checkbox"/> sand or shingles (for tire traction) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> small broom | <input type="checkbox"/> hats, socks and mittens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> first aid kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blanket | <input type="checkbox"/> fluorescent distress flag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> spare radio with batteries | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> snacks or energy type food | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> jumper cables | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flares and matches | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shovel | |



From our homes to yours . . .

Tex-Mex Lasagna

Ingredients

- 1 ½ lb ground beef round
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 1 can black beans, drained, rinsed
- 2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 jar (16 oz) chunky salsa
- 1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes with green chiles, drained
- 1 container (8 oz) sour cream
- 6 flour tortillas (10 inch)

Directions

Heat oven to 425°F. Spray 3-quart casserole with cooking spray. In 12-inch nonstick skillet, cook beef and garlic over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until beef is thoroughly cooked; drain. In large bowl, stir together beef, beans, 1 cup of the cheese, the chili powder, cumin, salsa, tomatoes and sour cream. In casserole, place 2 tortillas. Spoon one-third of beef mixture over tortillas. Repeat layers twice. Sprinkle with remaining 1 cup cheese. Bake uncovered 15 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted. Garnish with fresh cilantro leaves, if desired.





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Reporting Power Outage: 888-358-5112



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Thanksgiving

Nov. 24-25, 2022

Christmas

December 23 & 26, 2022

New Year's Day

January 2, 2023



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.



NCPD hosts Santa's Workshop

Dec. 21, 2022

6pm - 9pm



SantaLand Light Display in Creighton

Nov 24- Dec 31, 2022 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Santa's Workshop and Mrs. Claus' Gingerbread House

Dec 1- Dec 23, 2022 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.



Check Facebook for closures due to weather.