

North Central's News

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



General Manager Doyle Hazen

Real or Virtually Real

Maybe you have seen first-hand or a video online

of someone trying a Virtual Reality (VR) headset for the first time. They are clawing and swiping at, unseen to the observer, virtual attackers in a virtual world as projected inside their VR headset. It is funny as an outside observer, but if the person experiencing the VR world is moving clumsily and blindly through our real world, that can be dangerous.

It seems that the current political winds have blown away many coal plants in favor of gas-powered generation, wind, solar or other perceived greener alternatives. The pie chart that Nebraska Public Power District has on its wholesale website depicting the day's current generation mix is as follows: 2.2% Oil/gas, 5.9% wind, 0.6% hydro, 0.9% solar, 32.7% nuclear, and 57.7% coal. There is no problem with eliminating carbon emitting generation. It can be replaced by other non or low carbon emitting generation. However, the alternative must be in place BEFORE you remove coal as base load generation.

Currently, nuclear generation is very viable, but not timely, as it takes 5-12 years to construct a new plant

from the first cement being poured to the plant generating energy onto the grid. The speed with which the licensing process takes makes a tortoise look supersonic. We continue to wear our VR goggles and pretend that the virtual world we have built our energy policies in is reality, but they are not. The reality is that we are pressured to take coal offline before any real alternatives are available.

We must live in the real world and not a virtual world when it comes to the management of base load generation. We can't march around as if we already have coverage to take the place of carbon-based generation, specifically coal. To ignore the impact of deleting coal strictly for the promotion of the reduction of carbon emissions is not acceptable. The impact will severely reduce reliability. Gas turbines can serve some of the load, but with the policies being enacted to reduce petroleum production, and in turn gas production, we will not have the volume or the pipeline capacity to take up the slack of deleting coal.

There must be actual dispatchable generation to sustain the current and future demand that continues to grow. There has been and continues to be a large build out of wind and solar generation. However, this type

of generation is only available when the wind blows and when the sun shines. The rest of the time you are relying on the dispatchable generation that is available when you need it.

If you were to let the engineers build what we need and give them the resources to do it, they would have solutions in place in short order. We continue to live in a virtual world defined by politics and narratives that promote policies that are not based in the physical world. You can write policy to defy the physics of our real world, but you cannot break the laws of physics. When we have finally shut down too much base load coverage, we will have damaged our ability to provide reliable power in the United States and we will all suffer the consequences.





Tucker Stagemeyer represented Nebraska at the NRECA Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN in March. He was one of over 50 youth that represented their states and the District of Columbia. His parents are Brent and Carla Stagemeyer from Page, NE.

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With changes to the way the Postal Service processes and delivers mail, and rising costs for shipping, paperless billing (E-Bill) is an easy and convenient option to ensure you receive your electric bill in a timely manner. By switching to paperless billing, you can ensure you receive your bill on time, have less clutter in your mailbox, and help North Central Public Power District (NCPPD) control and reduce costs. Each month, around the 29th of the month, you will be emailed a notification that your statement is available to view through your online account. Those that choose to sign up for paperless billing from June 1 thru July 31 will be entered in a drawing for a **\$50 bill credit**. Customers who already utilize paperless billing will automatically be entered into the drawing. You can sign up for paperless billing (E-Bill) through your online account or by calling the NCPPD office and having one of our friendly customer service representatives assist you.

MAKE TIME FOR SAFETY

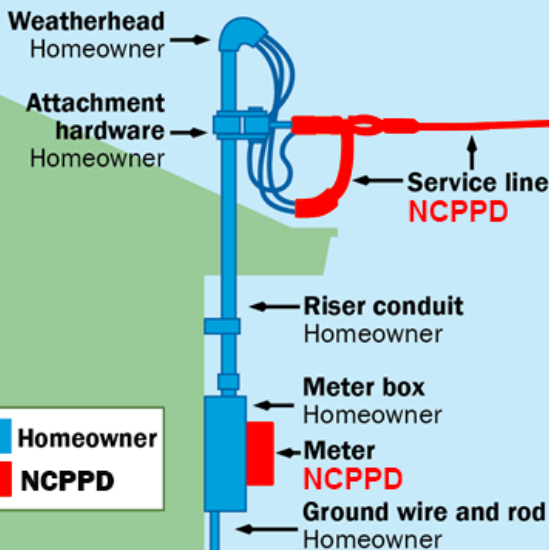
AVOID HAZARDS WITH OVERHEAD POWER LINES

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITY

in towns of
Bazile Mills, Brunswick, Center, Orchard, Royal, Page, Plainview, & Winnetoon

vs.

NCPPD RESPONSIBILITY



School Electrical Safety Program



Linda Sokol,
Energy Advisor

Every year, North Central Public Power District (NCPD) provides an Electrical Safety Program for the 4th & 5th graders at the local schools. This year Assistant Operations Manager/Safety Director Tim Hoffman and Energy Advisor Linda Sokol went to St. Ludger's, Creighton Elementary, Verdigre Elementary, Summerland Elementary and Niobrara Elementary. *The Shocking Truth* video was shown followed by a discussion on the dangers of electricity. Students were shown the equipment that the linemen use for safety and even got the chance to see and feel sand that was turned into glass by a live wire. NCPD uses an energized farm display

to show what could happen if contact is made with an energized power line while flying a kite, climbing a tree, or working with large farm equipment. With the energized farm set, a simulation with a hotdog shows what could happen if someone or something came in contact with an energized power line. It is a real eye opener for the kids when an electrical arc is created using the hotdog as part of the electrical circuit. Hopefully, what the kids learn in this safety program stays with them so if they are ever in a situation where electrical wires are present, they will remember what to or not to do. The students are then given the opportunity to enter a poster into an electrical safety poster contest. Posters will be judged and the winners will receive a \$25 check and be invited to a NCPD Board of Directors meeting.



Creighton Kindergarten Class Visit



From our homes to yours . . .

Garlic Cheddar Chicken Bake

Ingredients

2 Tbsp butter, melted
½ cup plain panko bread crumbs
1 pkg chicken tenders (not breaded), cut into bite-size pieces
1 cup uncooked regular long-grain white rice
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp pepper
¼ tsp garlic powder
2 ½ cups chicken broth
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
Chopped fresh Italian (flat-leaf) parsley, if desired

Directions

Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 8-inch square (2-quart) baking dish with cooking spray. In small bowl, mix melted butter and bread crumbs until well mixed. Set aside. In baking dish, mix chicken, rice, salt, pepper, garlic powder, chicken broth and 1 ½ cups of the cheese until well mixed. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until rice is tender and most of the liquid is absorbed. Sprinkle remaining ½ cup cheese and the bread crumb mixture evenly over rice mixture. Bake about 5 minutes or until crumbs are light golden brown. Sprinkle with chopped parsley.





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WANTED: In search of old cattle yards that need grazed off by sheep this spring and summer. Would like to stay around the Creighton area, if possible. 402-358-1028

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.

Upcoming Events

Klown Days Festival -Plainview	June 2-4
Kolach Days -Verdigre	June 9-11
BerryPepper Days -Creighton	June 16-18
Appreciation Dayz -Bloomfield	June 16-18
Cedar County Fair -Hartington	July 19-23
Niobrara Bridge Days -Niobrara	July 15-16
Orchard Free Days -Orchard	July 22-23
Pierce County Fair -Pierce	July 26-30

Summer Rates Start June 1st

The summer electric rate schedule for North Central Public Power District (NCPD) will go into effect on June 1, 2023. These rates are effective for the four summer demand months: June, July, August and September. The wholesale, as well as retail, electric rates are higher because Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) charges NCPD higher wholesale rates due to its higher costs during this time. It is NCPD's goal to keep the summer electric peak demand down to prevent or lessen rate increases in the future.

NCPD encourages customers to reduce their electric usage during these months between the hours of 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. If everyone does their part to reduce usage, hopefully electric rates can continue at an affordable level.