



SEWARD COUNTY PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

We Brighten Your World!

Winter 2016

General Manager's Report

NEW POWER SUPPLY CONTRACT AND NO RATE CHANGE FOR 2016

Another holiday season has come and gone and we all collectively begin another new year. There is news to share and I will get right to it. If you are a regular reader of this newsletter, you will recall that our District for the last 2.5 years has been considering power supply options along with other similar distributors throughout NPPD's customer base. In November at the regular board meeting, Seward County PPD directors did vote to enter into a new 20-year wholesale power supply contract with NPPD. The contract review process has been lengthy, extensive, educational and ultimately useful. NPPD has recently announced its success in retaining over 90 percent of its traditional wholesale customers to date and has provided a 2016 rate discount to all of these customers that have moved to the new contract. As a result of our participation in the new contract, the NPPD action on rates will allow our District to keep retail rates in place with no increase for the third year in a row. I believe that constitutes good news.

OTHER NEWS AND NOTES

In December the District received the final reimbursement monies from FEMA that resulted from damages sustained in the Mother's Day 2014 Storm that damaged Beaver Crossing and the SW part of the service area. The wire was in the amount of \$447,011. We had received \$1.5 million earlier. The storm damage total was just under \$2.6 million.

The District management recently reviewed the new four-year construction work plan with the Board of Directors. The plan was developed by the District's engineering consultant RVW, Inc. of Columbus. Two of the more major investments will include preparing to serve Pleasant Dale from the rural substation west of town and making changes throughout the village to upgrade service to 12.47 KV in town which will match the same voltage throughout the rest of the county. The District will also retire the old village substation. A similar project will do the same thing for the Village of Staplehurst and thereafter the entire service area will be uniform at a common voltage and power can be moved into towns and back out to rural lines allowing for better reliability and servicing options.

This is the time of the year when the District office works on annual reports, safety reports and prepares for the annual audit. In going through some safety information I found it interesting that the District had 14 instances in 2015 where members of the public hit facilities belonging to the District. Normally these are related to cars, trucks, farm equipment and contractor equipment. It is fortunate that none of these incidents resulted in serious injuries. We remind you again to slow down and look up, around and behind when operating motorized vehicles and equipment.

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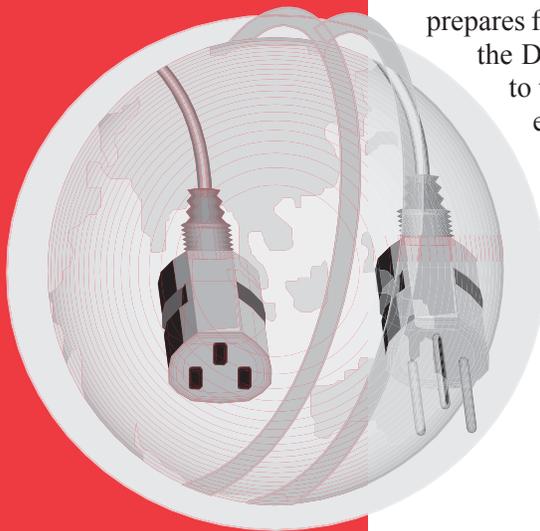
STAFF

Joel Navis
General Manager

Daryl Hansen
Operations Manager

Julie DeBoer
*Manager, Finance and
Administration*

Tim Pozehl
*Engineering and
Consumer Services
Manager*



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2016 HEAT REBATE AND INCENTIVE PROGRAM



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LED Bulb

60 watt equivalent or greater
Max 15 bulbs per account
\$3 Incentive per bulb

Heat Pump Water Heater

Air Source
EF 1.9 Rating or greater
\$200

Water or Ground Source
EF 2.8 rating or greater
\$500
(Desuperheaters do NOT qualify)

Heat Pump

8.5 HSPF & 12.5 EER

Incentive

Air Source Heat Pump **with**
AHRI Certificate
15 SEER = \$200.00
16-18 SEER = \$400.00
18+ SEER = \$600.00

Air Source Heat Pump **without**
AHRI Certificate = \$100.00

Ground Source/Geothermal
\$1,200.00 or \$1,700.00
(depending on options)

OR

2.5% Low Energy Loan
Installing Contractor Incentive
\$50.00
If unit performs within 10% of
manufacturer's specifications

Attic Insulation

Must have less than 6" insulation
Must have electric heat
Add 6" new insulation

Incentive

\$0.15 per square foot of attic
Maximum \$300.00

Cooling System Tune Up

Central Air Conditioner
Air Source Heat Pump
Geothermal Heat Pump

Incentive

\$30.00
Maximum 1 time every 3 years

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HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) - 2 Programs

System Optimization

Incentive

Paid dependent on energy savings achieved
No maximum

Replacement

Incentive

\$100.00—No Maximum
Paid on the efficiency of the unit

Lighting - 2 Programs

Fixture/Lamp Replacement

Dependent on what is replaced and LED used

Incentive

\$25.00 - \$75.00 per fixture
\$5.00 - \$28.00 per lamp

Custom

Used when other lighting programs are not applicable

Incentive

Variable—dependent on energy savings

Irrigation

Efficiency Test

Incentive

Pays for cost of the test up to \$350.00

Efficiency Upgrade

Incentive

Average Annual Energy Savings x \$0.20 kWh

VFD (Variable Frequency Drive)

Not to be used for replacement of VFD
Not used with Irrigation Efficiency Upgrade Program
1.0 - 200 Horsepower Motors

Incentive

\$30.00 per Horsepower

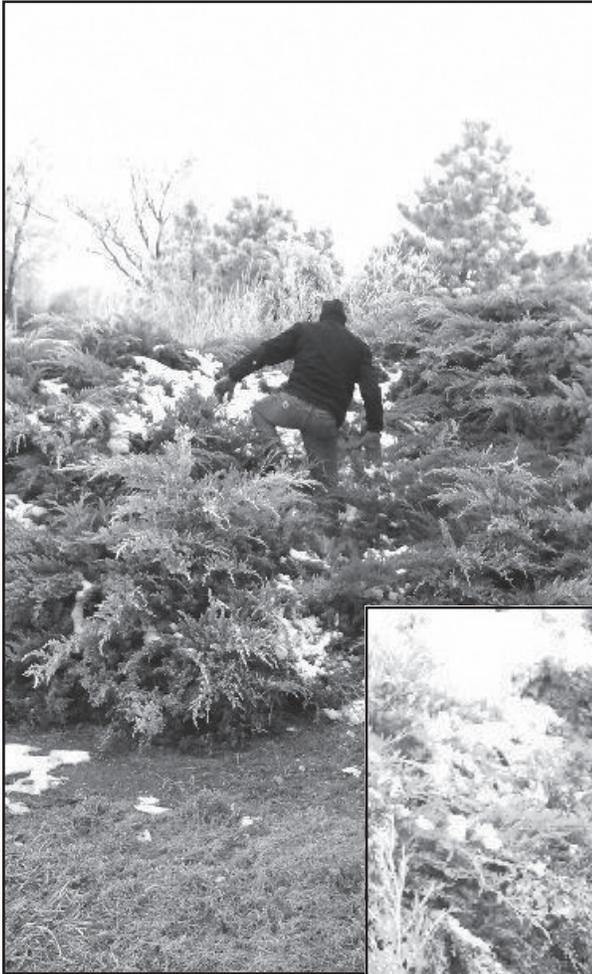
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PLANTINGS ADJACENT TO DISTRICT FACILITIES

Below you will see the challenge District employees face when consumers elect to plant bushes or other vegetation near pedestals and transformers. From time to time it's necessary to access the facilities and it becomes a challenge to determine how to do this without damaging the garden or bush involved. The better outcome is to simply remember to allow plenty of room for our people to access the equipment.

Thank you for keeping this in mind.



Photos by Paul

GRASSROOTS REPORT

By the time you read this, the short session of the Nebraska Legislature will be well underway. The new session presents a long list of issues for senators to consider with limited time and resources to do so.

Key issues will likely be related to taxes, education funding, Medicaid expansion, bridge and road funding, prison reform and various social issues. The projected revenue shortfall and how best to address it could also impact the amount of time that Senators have to spend on proposed legislation.

Legislation that could impact the electric industry in our state will be closely monitored to be sure that the interests of the people of Nebraska are protected. The public power model has served the citizens of our state very well, keeping rates affordable while maintaining reliability, resulting in retail rates that are currently ranked 14th in the nation. That is a ranking we are well-positioned to improve upon in the future.

Top Five Energy Users in Your Home

A STARTING POINT FOR SAVINGS

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save money, often it feels overwhelming because many people don't know where to start. How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs? To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

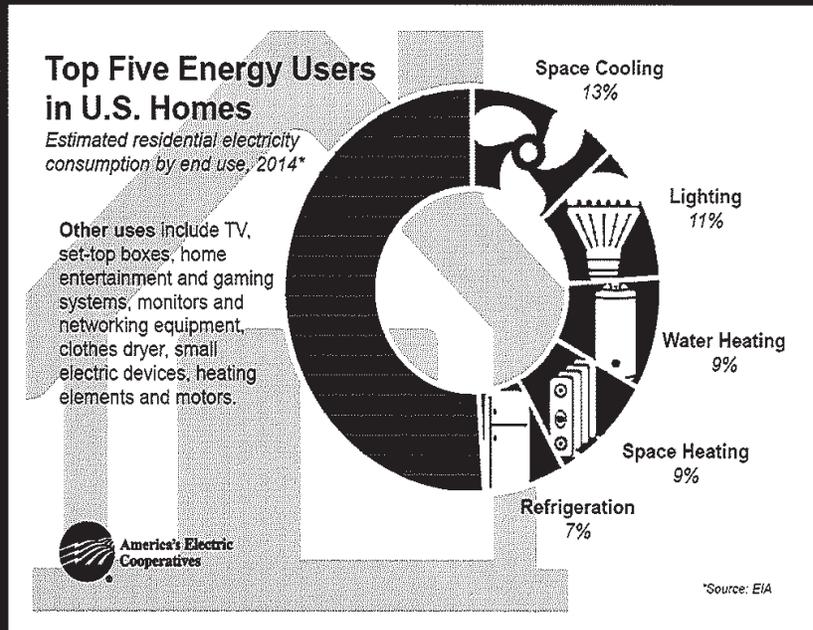
1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

- During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from five to 15 percent.
- Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
- Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.



SHINE THE LIGHT ON SAVINGS

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you still use incandescent lighting, your light bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

WATER HEATING EFFICIENCY

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions. For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

PUT COLD HARD CASH BACK IN YOUR WALLET

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35-38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

For additional ways to save, contact Seward County PPD's energy experts at (402) 643-2951.