

Guest Editorial *By Troy Bredenkamp, Nebraska Rural Electric Association General Manager*

Current Issues, Future Challenges Facing Public Power

I hope this message finds you all well and staying warm during the cold winter season that is shaping up here in Nebraska. My name is Troy Bredenkamp and I am the General Manager of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. Our 34 rural public power districts and electric cooperatives members collectively distribute electricity to over 230,000 meters over 87,000 miles of line. That is an average of just 2.6 meters per mile and speaks to how valuable and beneficial public power has been and will continue to be for rural Nebraska.

As the state-wide trade organization for Cedar-Knox PPD and their fellow rural electric systems, NREA's primary purpose is to assist our members in their mission providing affordable and reliable electricity to you. Several current issues could impact both affordability and reliability and we are working with our members to keep

that from happening. One such issue is the US EPA's proposed regulatory changes for new and existing electricity generation sources. Currently, generation from coal-based sources accounts for over 50% of the electricity that we use here in Nebraska on an annual basis. We anticipate that new, onerous regulations by the EPA on coal-based generation will drive up the price and lower the reliability of electricity for Nebraska consumers. If you share our concern over this particular issue and would like to help, I would encourage you to go to www.tellepa.com and let the EPA know that you oppose over-regulation and support a common sense, all-the-above approach to our electricity generation needs.

As the Nebraska Unicameral kicks off the 2014 legislative session, the NREA will be keeping our ear to the ground regarding issues that may negatively impact electrical

rates and reliability. Some legislative proposals may include mandating a certain portion of electricity to come from renewable sources while others may attempt to address net metering laws. It is far too early in the session to know what may or may not impact electricity generation and distribution, but rest assured that NREA will be watching out for your best interests.

Looking into the future, one of the issues that is most critical for public power to address is the challenge of incorporating electricity from distributed generation into the overall electricity supply, and to do so in such a way that does not significantly increase rates and/or lower reliability. Examples of distributed generation include

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Generator Safety

- Portable generators come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Safe Electricity has the following tips to use generators safely. Contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best-suited to your needs.
- If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back into power lines where it could harm a lineman, a process known as "back-feed." A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.
- If you have a portable generator, operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.
- Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.



Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator. Remember to read and follow manufacturer's instructions with all your electronics.

Randy Carlson Recognized

Randy has been a director of the Cedar-Knox PPD for 15 years, and he currently is the Board Treasurer. He recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director/Board Leadership certificate for successfully completing the program.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:



- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Roles and Relationships
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

The NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer owned electric cooperatives which provides services to 42 million people in 47 states.

Congratulations to Randy on this outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations!

Forty years of service to CKPPD

Rod Goeden celebrated 40 years of employment with CKPPD on Jan 14th 2014. Other than two years in the military Rod has made the utility industry his career. He has worked his way through the ranks and is currently our Operations Engineer. Rod is responsible for overseeing the operations of the substations, monitor growth and recommend upgrades to maintain an efficient and dependable system. Thanks Rod for your dedication.



Manager Dan Leise presented Rod with his 40 year certificate.

Make the Switch to LED Lamps

In recent years, LED's (light emitting diodes) have taken the lighting industry by storm. Simply put, an LED is a chip of semi-conduction material that releases energy in the form of light. However, not all LED products are created equal; they may vary in quality, energy use and life span, so be sure to look for the ENERGYSTAR label.

Benefit of LED:

- They last up to 35 times longer than incandescent light and often four or more times as long as fluorescent.
- They produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs.
- They light up instantly unlike the CFL bulb, and many are dimmable.

- They do not contain mercury, therefore not the health concern.
- They generate almost no heat, which can help in reducing air conditioning costs.

To make it easier and more cost effective to switch to LED bulbs, we are offering an incentive program to minimize the cost of purchasing LED bulbs. The guidelines are as follows:

- Lamps must be purchased on or after January 1st 2014.
- Lamps must be ENERGYSTAR recognized LED lamps equivalent to 60, 75, or 100 watt incandescent.
- Limit ten (10) \$5 each incentives per residential or commercial account annually.

- Customers must apply for an incentive within 90 days of the purchase date shown on the sales receipt.
- Copy of sales receipt must accompany application.
- Incented bulbs may not be used for resale.
- Incentive is provided in the form of an account credit.

For more information and applications for the account credit on the purchase of qualifying LED bulbs stop by our office.



Current Issues, Future Challenges... *(Continued from front)*

electricity generation from sources such as wind turbines, photovoltaic solar panels or even generation from methane digestion. These types of renewable opportunities have some promise to meet a portion of our generation needs but must be incorporated in such a way that allows our public power system to maintain the low electric rates and high reliability that we have become accustomed to here in Nebraska.

As you can see, several current and future issues have the potential to impact your current public power generated and distributed electricity supply. Please know that Cedar-Knox PPD and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association is working hard to do all that we can to assure an affordable and reliable electricity supply for rural Nebraska – now and into the future.

ATTENTION BUDGET CUSTOMERS:

Be sure to look at your actual account balance on your statement. If you are concerned and feel the monthly budget amount needs to be increased, please give us a call. Budget settle-up will take place with your June statement. Thank you.