

From the desk of the Manager

2016 in Review

I was hoping for a nice, quiet ending to 2016, but Mother Nature decided to keep the holidays interesting as lightning, heavy rains and 70 mph wind gusts kept Cedar-Knox linemen and office staff busy during the Christmas weekend. Crews worked through the holiday to restore power as overhead lines were damaged by wind, falling trees, flying debris and lightning. I can't remember Christmas weather quite like that, but fortunately our employees are always prepared for the worst.

In 2016, crews continued with a busy construction schedule that has produced three new substations and added or replaced roughly 25 miles of 69 kV transmission lines over the past four years to address

loading and future growth issues in our system. Thirty miles of new 12.5 kV distribution lines were added or replaced just this year and though irrigation usage was nowhere near 2012 levels, this season was the highest since then.

2016 also brought an unfortunate end to a six-year run without any lost-time accidents by our line workers. As I explained in an earlier article, we had some very anxious moments when Cedar-Knox Lineman Matt Sudbeck was treated and taken to the emergency room by the Coleridge rescue squad after a scary accident involving a shock and fall from a structure. I'm happy to report that Matt is fine and back to work.

Onward to 2017

As reported in the previous newsletter, there will be no rate increase in 2017, helping keep Cedar-Knox rates among the lowest nation-wide. We will embark on another busy work plan in 2017 including construction of a 6.5 mile 69 kV transmission tie-line and also continuation of the implementation of our new GIS mapping system that will enhance efficiency, reliability and safety to the district's operations. We expect this to further streamline our operations, building on the automated metering system that was put in place over the last several years. All employees continue to do an outstanding job



Dan Leise

(continued...)

Weathering a Winter Storm

When ice and heavy snow bring down limbs and power lines, safety is a consideration indoors and out. Make sure you know how to weather the storm.

When outside, stay away from downed power lines:

- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized. Equipment near power lines can also be energized and dangerous.
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power, or sometimes from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact your utility.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line as snagging a line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.

- Be careful approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.
- If you plan to use a generator, know how to operate it safely

Before a winter storm, you should have supplies on hand, and know how to stay warm:

- Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, and a supply of fresh batteries. You should also have water, blankets and non-perishable food.
- When power goes out, it often comes back in spikes. This can damage electronics. Keep your electronics safe by unplugging them when the power goes out. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap. Know how to



shut off water valves case a pipe bursts.

- Never use a charcoal grill to cook or heat with inside the home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- If you live with a child or elderly person, you may need to take them somewhere with power so they can stay warm. If you are healthy enough to stay home safely, there are ways to stay warm: stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate.

Reference: [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

15th Anniversary

Tom Potts is a Lead Journeyman Lineman for Cedar-Knox PPD and celebrated 15 years as a CKPPD employee on December 1, 2016.



Tom operates one of our larger boom trucks. Congratulations to Tom on this anniversary.

Tom and his wife Robin have three children, Nathan, Collin and Lauren.

Congratulations Tom!

Deadline for Memorial Scholarship



The deadline for the Harold Martindale Memorial Scholarship is Feb 1st, 2017. So if you are planning to attend and accepted into the two year Utility Lineman Program and Northeast Community College in Norfolk, don't delay. Applications may be obtained from the website northeast.edu or from the guidance counselor at your high school. For more information get in touch with as soon as possible if you have any questions. Stop in or call 402-254-6291 or 800-891-5196.

Calendars still available-

We created a calendar featuring local pictures, some from local photographers that submitted pictures. This year special thanks go to Kevin Millikan, Scott Kinkaid and Mark and Patty Wiedenfeld for sending us some great shots that we used in the calendar.

Calendars are still available and we have distributed some in your local towns as well.

Hope that your 2017 is everything you are hoping for.



New Year's Resolutions

Less

Talking
Television
Planning
Soda
"Being Connected"
Junk Food
Complaining
Excuses
Worrying
Doubting
Procrastinating
Frowning
Selfishness
Weakness
Ignorance
Ungratefulness
Of the World

More

Listening
Reading
Doing
Water
Putting the Phone Down
Fruits and Vegetables
Encouraging
Responsibility
Hoping
Believing
Achieving
Smiling
Giving
Confidence
Understanding
Thankfulness
of God

Director Training

Pictured here are Terry Thunker, Randy Papenhausen, Phil Nielsen and Ken Eickhoff.



Terry, Phil and Ken received a certificate for the Cooperative Credentialed Director Training which requires five classes to be completed which are offered through National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Terry and Randy completed classes that

resulted in 10 credits of electives. This earned them the Board Leadership Certification.

All these accomplishments result in the betterment of our Cedar-Knox Board of Directors, and represent their commitment to their positions on the Board. Congratulations to them all.

From the desk of the Manager

(Continued from front)

of serving our customer's needs.

And, in case you haven't heard, there was an election recently and Donald J. Trump was elected as our nation's 45th president. Time will tell, but this will undoubtedly take the country's energy policy in a new direction as President Trump has indicated that there'll be a throttling-back on regulations for certain generation sources. Trump has advocated for nuclear energy and the expectation is that the carbon-free energy focus could shift from wind and solar, to nuclear.

Public Power to Take Stage?

At the state level, 17 new senators will be heading to Lincoln this year to put their brand on the state legislature. There has been recent talk of a push by some private energy market companies for the state to allow electric retail choice for Nebraska's

electricity consumers, essentially ending the state's all-public power status. Private companies likely are looking to take advantage of the current low energy markets that are flushed with subsidized wind energy and (currently) inexpensive natural gas to sway customers. Our public power wholesale electricity supplier (NPPD) has built a diverse, environmentally-friendly energy mix of scrubbed coal, nuclear, wind, hydro and gas, coupled with a world-class irrigation load control program to provide reliable service and more stable, long-range low prices for its Nebraska customer base. On the surface, opening the door to competition sounds like a good idea for consumers, but if that door is opened, and the generating portfolio built specifically for Nebraskans becomes diluted or is dissolved, it could lead to unstable prices that are tied

to a fluctuating energy market. Some utility experts warn that reliability issues and cost volatility could lie ahead as "dispatchable", base-load plants such as coal and nuclear are continually closed down after being priced out of (likely temporary) low energy markets. My guess is that our state's agricultural society prefers local ownership of a stable, reliable and consistently low-cost electricity mix that Nebraskans now enjoy, over adding more market instability to their lives!

As has always been the case, Cedar-Knox is proud to be your trusted energy provider and we will continue to do our best to serve our consumers with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and we wish all the best to our customers in 2017.