

From the desk of the Manager

A Last Taste of Winter

Most of the winter season was pretty tolerable but as spring arrived, the usual “April showers” became “April snowstorms”. Our crews battled against heavy ice build-up on lines and trees during the second week in April causing outages across a large part of the district. It seems that Mother Nature decided to dish out one last sucker-punch before yielding to some warm spring sunshine.

On the morning of Tuesday April 9th, heavy ice began accumulating on trees and power lines - up to 3” thick in some places. The extra weight of the ice caused lines and tree branches to sag, break and



Ice build-up ice up to 3 inches on CKPPD lines.

interact with each other - tripping circuits and lighting up the district’s phone lines. On Tuesday alone, 730 outages were recorded, but by 7:00 PM power was restored to all Cedar-Knox consumers for the day.

Wednesday brought problems of a different kind. In the early afternoon as temperatures slowly inched up towards the freezing mark in Cedar County, the heavy ice began falling from the lines and trees. As the ice clears from the lines and branches, they rebound abruptly and circuits become shorted and damaged again. Crews worked into the evening once more until all outages were restored, but they went home knowing that most of the ice was still hanging on lines in the western part of the district. A repeat performance was in store for the following day in Knox County.

After another day of battling more outages on Thursday the 11th, the ice finally all cleared and the final power outages were restored. Crews spent the following week making permanent line repairs and changing out some broken poles and structures. The Automated Metering Infrastructure system which is nearly completed was a

great help in the storm. In addition to routinely reading your meter for billing purposes, the system also allows us to “ping” or check meters on circuits to help quantify outages and verify power restoration.

Collectively, the district recorded more than 2200 outages during the 3-day event. We appreciate your patience throughout these storms and I thank the employees for their hard work and long hours to get power restored as quickly and safely as possible. Our consumers mostly see our crews out working the lines and poles but it takes a special coordinated effort by both inside and outside workers to tackle these storms. As crews are diligently working to repair lines; there are many workers back at the headquarters taking calls, investigating reports, gathering data for dispatchers, conferring and working with NPPD transmission dispatchers and coordinating the entire restoration process as safely and efficiently as possible. These storm events expose the value of experience, training and competence in a utility and Cedar-Knox employees really are second to none.



Dan Leise

Welcome...

New employee Pam Heikes started working for CKPPD on March 25, 2013 as our new Billing Clerk/ Receptionist. Pam and her husband Jason have two children Dylan 2 ½ and Lilly 1 year old. We welcome Pam to the CKPPD family.

Position changes will be Jackie Kathol, Billing Supervisor and Mary Lammers Benefits Administrator beginning June 1st.



NOTICE - Summer Hours

Summer hours start Tuesday May 28, 2013

Crew hours 7:00 am to 3:30pm and
Office hours 7:30 to 4:30pm

Wishing you a safe and happy
Memorial Day weekend!

Office will be closed May 27
in honor of Memorial Day.



Nissen Winery

Nissen Wines is not new to our area, but the very impressive winery that sets high on the hill overlooking the vineyard is. The location of this building is ½ mile south of the 12 & 57 junction or approximately 8 miles north of Hartington on Highway 57. Progress is moving along and the anticipated opening is 4th of July weekend. The Nissen brothers Tim and

Nissen Winery sets high on a hill overlooking the vineyard.



Dave have been working on this endeavor since 2003 when they planted the first grapes and late 2006 is when they vinted the first wine.

The three story, 32 x 54 structure, includes a wine processing/barrel room in the basement. The main floor will have a tasting room/gift shop and an event center that will accommodate 70-80 people for functions such as meetings, family gatherings and private parties. A 20 x 40 tent will also be available for outside events. The third floor will be used for further growth and expansions in the future. Nissens will offer services such as tours, gift baskets, custom personalized labels, and a small selection of hors d'oeuvres for your functions. Initially, the days they will be open to the public are Friday, Saturday and Sundays. The staff will be part-time employees and the Nissens.

The wines that they offer are the Outlaw series of four wines and the Nissen Series, which there are seven wines. The Nissens are passionate about what they do and want to promote Cedar County as a place where people can enjoy some amenities

that larger cities offer. So in the near future, plan a trip to Nissen Winery for a scenic and fruitful visit. Also check out their website nissenwines.com and their face book page for further details about their product and updates.

Janet Albers Celebrates 25 years with CKPPD

Janet Albers came to work for Cedar-Knox PPD April 20th, 1988 as our accountant and has maintained that position for 25 years. Janet is a dedicated employee and we want to thank her for her years of service.



Irrigation Meeting



Cedar-Knox PPD held a very informative Irrigation meeting March 5th, 2013. It was well attended with approximately 160 participants. Speakers that day were Bill Kranz, University of Lincoln, Annette Sudbeck, Lewis and Clark NRD, Curt Becker of Lower Elkhorn, Mike Lammers from CKPPD and General Manger, Dan Leise rounded out the group. Topics covered were watering and nozzle efficiency's, current statuses

of NRD territories, and CKPPD Load Control Program both past and present issues and the general future outlook. General reminder please inspect all panels this spring for any operation issues and keep in mind if replacing or moving a pivot with a radio controller to notify CKPPD to remove and/or reinstall this as customers may be liable to track equipment down or pay for missing controller equipment.

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