

From the desk of the Manager

EPA Finalizes “Clean Power Plan” Rule

On August 3rd, 2015 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final version of the “Clean Power Plan”. The plan seeks to reduce the amount of carbon emissions from existing power plants – mainly coal-fired generating plants. States and Utilities are still evaluating the 1500-plus page rule to try to get a grasp on the specifics but generally the final rule calls for a 32% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions nationally, from 2005 levels, by 2030. Each state has different reduction requirements with the Midwestern states being among the most drastic. Nebraska’s reduction requirement is 40% and neighboring states such as Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming and South Dakota all must reduce even beyond that, up to nearly 50%. States must submit a compliance plan to the EPA by September 6, 2016, with possible extensions available to September 6, 2018. If states fail to submit a plan ahead of the deadline, they’ll likely be subject to a federal

plan. The rule sets out to restructure the electric industry as many states, including Nebraska, get most of their electricity from coal generation.

Compliance

Initial compliance is scheduled to begin in 2022 with a “glide-path” to full compliance by 2030. Besides providing energy efficiency incentives to consumers, some of the options available to utilities to reduce emissions are to increase heat rates at existing power plants and to further utilize other forms of generation including nuclear, natural gas and renewable energy such as wind and solar. Carbon output from natural gas generation is considerably less than what comes from coal, while energy from nuclear, wind and solar do not emit any carbon dioxide. On the surface, it sounds fairly simple to just switch to other resources, but many utilities have made major investments in long-range eco-

nomical coal plants with debt and on-going fixed costs that will remain even if plants are forced to be less-utilized. A number of years ago, utilities were pushed towards coal generation due to fears of an energy crisis and the fact that our nation’s abundant coal supply is expected to last for many future generations.

Coal and other fossil fuel plants will continue to be a large part of the nation’s energy supply for many years, but as they face higher regulatory barriers, wind energy will likely become increasingly utilized. Nebraska has not been as aggressive as some neighboring states with wind development, but the state’s public non-profit utilities do not experience the same tax benefits and incentives that private, for-profit utilities in other states obtain from its development. Besides the benefit of no carbon emissions, wind energy has some great attributes including added local tax revenue and landowner lease payments. But from an operational standpoint, wind does not have equal value to a utility’s electricity supply (as other conventional sources) since it obviously is only available when the wind is blowing. As more wind energy is added to a utility’s generation portfolio, other power plants become less-utilized but must be kept available.

Environmentally, Nebraska actually already has one of the most carbon-free generation mixes in the entire region thanks in part to its two major nuclear plants. These plants are

designed to operate at full output, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week and

(continued...)



Dan Leise

NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Over the past 34 years, nearly 2700 young men and women have attended the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp in Halsey National Forest near Halsey, NE.

Unfortunately this year the Cedar-Knox sponsored camper was unable to attend. However, two local students, Sydney Lammers, daughter of Mary and Kelly Lammers and Tessa Knutson, daughter of Stacy and Todd Knutson all of Hartington were able to attend sponsored by the WIRE (Women in Rural Electrification) group.

Each year at the camp NREA hosts a competition for the campers to earn the honor of attending the NREA Youth Tour in Washington DC which is scheduled for June the next year. Travel expenses are covered for this week long trip of fun and great experiences in our Nations’ Capitol. We hope you will consider attending the Halsey Camp next year and have an experience you will long remember and a chance to go to Washington DC.

Information if available anytime and we will run an article in the newsletter next spring, so check it out.

Sydney Lammers and Tessa Knutson at Gerald Gentleman Power Plant in Sutherland, NE.



**OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON SEPT. 7TH
IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.**

As of Sept. 8th hours will again be
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
for the crew and the CKPPD office.

Harvest Safety

Cedar-Knox PPD urges farmers to take the proper precautions when working around power lines.

The rush to harvest can lead to farmers working long days with little sleep. It is important to take time for safety. Before starting work, make sure to note the location of overhead power lines.

To stay safe around overhead power lines, we urge farm operators and workers to:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call Cedar-Knox PPD.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away, and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The **only** reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Source: safeelectricity.org



Social media is driving our communication to be more up-to-date. We currently have our newsletter, which you are now reading, and our website, cedarknoxppd.com, which we launched in 2001. These have been the means to keep you informed along with an occasional newspaper article or radio spot.

We now have launched our Facebook page

as of June 25, 2015. We hope you visit our page which can be done by following the link on our website. We are trying to update our page weekly and hope that it will be another communication tool where we can interact with you, our customers and friends. We welcome your comments and hope that you “like” and “share” our posts as well. Look for information about planned outage and major storm outages as they occur, along with updates on what is happening at Cedar-Knox PPD.

From the desk of the Manager

EPA... (Continued from front)

are free of any emissions. Nuclear would seem to be a great answer to a world that desires carbon-free energy but it too has its drawbacks. Besides the obvious issues of dealing with radioactive waste, nuclear plants are very expensive to build and the permitting process is very extensive – especially since the recent nuclear disaster in Japan.

What Next?

If the rule goes unchecked it will be costly to ratepayers. Some feel that the Clean Power Plan is on shaky legal ground and could yet be overturned in the courts as challenges are expected to mount. Hopefully any implementation of the rule can be held off until final court decisions can be made, so that utilities do not have to make expensive decisions based on a rule that may not ultimately come to complete fruition. The fact is, it's going to take a few years for this to play out and the final effect will depend greatly on how states react, how the courts uphold the rule and how future administrations implement it.

Congratulations to you both...

Gary Wiese 15 Year Anniversary

Gary Wiese celebrated 15 years of employment with Cedar-Knox PPD. Gary was formerly an NPPD employee before he came to CKPPD to be our Purchasing Agent and Safety Director. Congratulations Gary.



Announcement

Cedar-Knox PPD Board Director, Randy Papenhausen, who currently serves as NREA Nebraska Rural Electric Association Board President was elected at the quarterly statewide meeting to serve on the NRECA National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board for a two year term starting February 2016. Congratulations Randy.

