

# CURRENT FLASHES

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## From the Desk of the Manager

### Rates, App, & Planning All Positives Going Into 2021

Cedar-Knox Public Power District (CKPPD), like many of you, is looking forward to leaving 2020 behind and we have many positive things rolling into the New Year to be excited about. For the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, we are looking at no rate change and another year of Production Credit Adjustment (PCA) return of funds to the customers. We are also excited about the recent release of our new mobile app that will provide the consumer with more data and access to their account(s), all with just a few clicks on the screen. Lastly, we look forward to the new goals that have been set following our strategic planning session in conjunction with our Board of Directors. These items, along with many other topics give our staff and I excitement going into the new year.

Our wholesale power provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has once again announced the return of rate stabilization funds to their wholesale customers. In 2020, NPPD returned about \$46.1M to wholesale customers and look to return approximately \$73.2M in 2021. For CKPPD, this has equated to about \$1.1M in 2020 and is estimated to be \$1.8M in 2021. The Cedar-Knox Board of Directors have again agreed to return these funds to nearly all customers at the same rate NPPD uses of \$.006196 per Kilowatt hour of usage. This credit can be found monthly on the bottom part of your billing statement and will be increased to the new return rate for Feb. 1, 2021 through Jan. 31, 2022 usage. This is a great example of public power working for you - the customer. An investor-owned utility would likely

look at this as profit to their investors, not a credit to the consumer. While this surplus may not return every year, it is a great complement to our already low provided rates. CKPPD has some of the lowest rates in the state and this is something we are very proud of - working very hard every day to ensure to maintain this goal.

We are very enthusiastic about our new customer mobile app and that some customers have already started using its new features. While our staff has been hard at work developing this new service, it is our customers that will see the benefits. It presents many features such as the ability to make payments, along with being able to view current and previous statements, usage, and payment history. We are now able to set up notifications that can be received via the app, text, or email to let customers know when payments are posted, due soon, or due now; just to name a few. Customers can even sign up for notifications that their billing statement has been generated, allowing for paperless billing, if desired. These notifications can help customers avoid any additional fees with these little reminders. The new app and notification service will improve education and communication to our customers about their usage, billing, and other activity to their accounts. We hope our customers are as excited about the app and notification options as we are.

Lastly, we are excited about our strategic planning session we accomplished this last year and have already begun to plan and implement our objectives to achieve the goals that were set. Our new mission statement **“Dedicated to providing innovative, safe, reliable service to our customers”** has been agreed upon, and is being established in our company to instill those beliefs into the service we provide to our customers. Committees have been set up to

look into areas of safety, facilities, technology, communication & education, and operations & reliability. These committees will help provide a joint effort in identifying initiatives and projects to help establish goals set within each committee. We are optimistic about achieving positive results that will benefit both our customers and employees, and improve efficiencies to all of Cedar-Knox.

As 2020 comes to a close that we have all been looking forward to, I cannot help but also think of all the positives we have had through the adversity this past year. Most important we made it through another year safely with no major accidents, making sure our employees go home every day to their families. We accurately completed another successful work plan even while dealing with the effects of Covid-19. We had a strong successful irrigation season, in which we were able to keep control hours to a minimum and let our farmers raise the much-needed crops for their success. Our CKPPD employee family grew this year with the addition of hiring Chase Dettman, who has been a positive addition to our line crew. We were able to help a neighbor in need as Cuming County PPD out of West Point, NE had an ice storm in November that called for line crews to assist in restoration - that we were happy to provide. As a challenging 2020 comes to an end with its own high moments, we look eagerly toward the exciting future next year has, as there is much to be positive about in the future at Cedar-Knox.



Mike Lammers

Average Monthly PCA Credit returned to Customers (based on average rate class usage)	2020	2021
Farm (2350 kwh)	\$8.81 Cr	\$14.56 Cr
Residential (1300 kwh)	\$4.88 Cr	\$8.05 Cr



# Employee News

## Cedar-Knox PPD linemen assisted Cuming County PPD

On November 10-14, CKPPD helped to restore power to Cuming County PPD customers after a winter ice storm left devastating damage to their overhead infrastructure. As part of our state wide mutual aid, districts without damage offer a lending hand to other districts during their time of need. Working together to better serve all customers is Public Power in Nebraska. Please, remember to be prepared and have an emergency plan incase mother nature deals us with widespread and lengthy outages of our own this winter.



Pictured L-R:  
 Brian Kruse,  
 Nathan Rutar,  
 Jared Wiebelhaus,  
 Eric Becker,  
 Troy Joachimsen,  
 Jeff Feilmeier,  
 Tom Potts, and  
 Dustin Neuhalfen.  
 Not pictured John  
 Freeman.



**JACKIE KATHOL** celebrated her **15-year service anniversary** with Cedar-Knox PPD on December 1, 2020. Jackie started her career at CKPPD as the billing clerk, becoming the billing supervisor and is currently the accountant, a position she has held since 2015. Congratulations Jackie and thank you for all you do.

## New Year's Resolution to save time or be more organized? Consider these useful offerings:

- Paperless Billing
- Automated Payments
- Using the CKPPD App
- Set Up Notifications

We have many options to choose from, give us a call today and let us help you!

## SAFETY FIRST

If you have a generator, know how to  
**Use Generators Safely**



**Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions.**

- ✓ **Never** connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system.
- 1) For a stationary generator – Have a qualified electrician install

an isolation device. Unless our lines are positively isolated from your home, operating a generator connected into your home's wiring system could start a fire and/or electrocute a service crew member working to restore your power.

- 2) For a portable generator – Plug your appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- ✓ Set up and run your generator in a **well-ventilated area outside the home.**
- ✓ **Start the generator first**—BEFORE connecting appliances.
- ✓ **Use a heavy-duty extension cord** to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- ✓ Select a generator that can provide the **amount of power** you expect to need.
- ✓ **Test your generator** once a month to ensure it is running properly.
- ✓ **Have enough fuel** for at least 24 hours, in case of a power outage.

For more on safety, visit:  
[www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)



## Cedar Knox Public Power District Employees

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rich Erwin*..... **President**
- Terry Thunker*..... **Vice President**
- Randy Papenhausen*..... **Secretary**
- Randy Carlson*..... **Treasurer**
- Larry Domina*
- Ken Eickhoff*
- Karl Koch*
- Ed Lammers*
- Phil Nielsen*

### EMPLOYEES

- Mike Lammers*..... **General Manager**
- Mary Lammers*..... **Office Manager**
- Patrick Feilmeier*..... **Line Superintendent**
- Jackie Kathol*..... **Accountant**
- Pam Heikes*..... **Billing Specialist**
- Lynette Pinkelman*..... **Benefits Adm**
- Stacy Knutson*..... **Receptionist**
- Tim Loberg*..... **Operations Coordinator**
- Mark Kuehn*..... **IT and Security Director**
- Matt Sudbeck*..... **Purchasing/Safety Director**
- Reggie Hochstein*..... **Electrical Systems Director**
- Corey Fischer*..... **Line Engineer**
- Corey Stratman*..... **Line Engineer**
- Doug Miller*..... **Crew Foreman**
- Tom Potts*..... **Crew Foreman**
- Troy Joachimsen*..... **Crew Foreman**
- Brad Steffen*..... **Lead Line Technician**
- Eric Becker*..... **Lead Line Technician**
- John Freeman*..... **Meter Tech/Journeyman**
- Forrest Dendinger*... **Substation Tech/Journeyman**
- Nathan Rutar*..... **Journeyman Lineman**
- Dustin Neuhalfen*..... **Journeyman Lineman**
- Brian Kruse*..... **Journeyman Lineman**
- Jeff Feilmeier*..... **Journeyman Lineman**
- Jared Wiebelhaus*..... **Apprentice Lineman**
- Chase Dettman*..... **Apprentice Lineman**
- Ed Kalin*..... **Mechanic**