

CURRENT FLASHES

Cedar-Knox Public Power District • P.O. Box 947 • Hartington, NE 68739

Phone: 402-254-6291 or 800-891-5196

cedarknoxppd.com

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From the Desk of the Manager

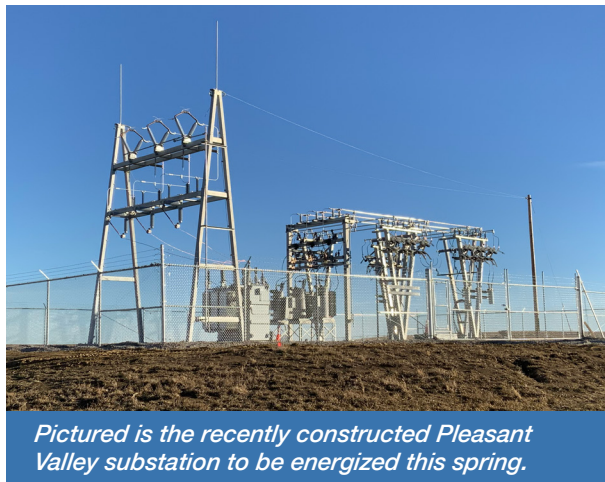
SUCCESS IN 2023

As this new year begins, we look back at the prior year and reflect on the goals we have achieved and challenges we have overcome. In our industry, safety is our #1 priority, and our staff continued to demonstrate this throughout a successful 2023. While safety is a priority, we also strive to provide low rates and high reliability on our distribution system. In a year with record-breaking load peaks due to summer heat and high irrigation load, we were able to deliver quality power to all of our customers. The past year was also a busy one for the construction and operations department, completing several major projects that help prepare us for future development.

Our safety program continues to expand within our company and throughout the communities we serve. Our employees have once again received the statewide Nebraska Rural Electric Association "No Lost Time" accident award for 2022 and will again for 2023. Our highest priority every year is to guarantee the safety of our linemen and staff and to ensure they return home to their families. I commend them for their outstanding safe work. We also continued to become more involved in our community schools and fire departments. The employees are proud to share our knowledge and expertise with the 5th and 9th grade students in our communities. Whether at our facility or in their classrooms, we have delivered engaging and informative presentations on safety with electricity. The employees also stress the importance of not texting and driving with the high schoolers, as well as shared possible job career options within our industry. Additionally, we have worked closely with our local Fire Departments

and Emergency Management First Responders to assist them in electrical safety and discussions on live lines, electric vehicles, and service disconnects to mention a few.

As detailed in last month's newsletter, we are pleased to say we are holding rates steady once again for the 8th year in a row with no overall rate increase and the continuation of a credit to our customers through a production credit adjustment (PCA). It is estimated that Cedar-Knox will return a PCA of \$552K for



2024; totaling over \$4.3M to our customers from 2019 through 2024. We are proud to pass on these savings from our wholesale provider NPPD and strive to continue to keep rates low and stable.

In a year that saw record-breaking peak loads during the irrigation season, with an average run time of nearly 700 hours per system, dependability is always a concern to maintain. We achieved remarkable results, not only preserving our reliability, but also improving

it with over 13 miles of new 3-phase lines throughout the District and the initial construction to add our 19th substation located in the Pleasant Valley area. This new substation in the future will relieve loading and provide additional capacity for other substations within the area. Additionally, CKPPD is about halfway through the facility addition/remodel project which is estimated to be completed in mid-2024. This strategic plan driven need will provide storage and growth both immediately and into the future, and we look forward to the completion of this project.

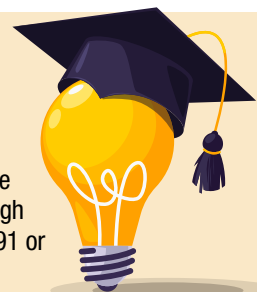
As I look into the future of 2024 and beyond, there are a multitude of topics within our industry that will need attention such as: material cost and lead times, distributed generation, electric vehicles, transformer shortages, and load growth just to name a few. While these are big topics, the largest one of concern to me is the future reliability of the grid. As policy and regulations continue to force base load generation facilities to close, we need to find dependable and affordable energy options before we reduce these assets. I have advocated with legislative representatives in Lincoln and Washington D.C. and will continue to pursue this concern with our leaders. Locally, our staff members will continue the great customer service we have always provided and be that same Safe, Affordable, Reliable power system you can rely on. I want to wish each of you a Happy New Year, one that brings you good health and success throughout all of 2024!



Scholarship Opportunity

Cedar-Knox PPD is proud to sponsor the Cedar-Knox Public Power District Memorial Scholarship at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, Nebraska. The \$2,000 scholarship is awarded to a deserving student residing in the District's service area boundaries who is enrolled in the utility line program. The scholarship is divided equally between the two years of the program. Selection of the recipient is made by the Cedar-Knox PPD Board of Directors.

The deadline to apply for the scholarship is March 1st. Applications can be filled out online at www.northeast.edu. If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Northeast directly, your high school guidance counselor, or CKPPD at 402-254-6291 or 800-891-5196.



ENERGYWISESM 2024 INCENTIVES

By providing incentives, we hope to encourage the installation of efficient equipment. These programs provide you opportunities to save energy, money, and help the environment. The incentives offered are listed below with any changes for the 2024 year noted. If you have any questions regarding any of these programs, please contact Matt Sudbeck at (402) 254-6291.

Incentives for your Home



- Attic Insulation
- Cooling System Tune-Up
- High Efficiency Heat Pump
 - ◆ 15 SEER incentive is no longer available
- Heat Pump Water Heater
- Induction Cooking
- Smart Thermostat
- Lawn & Garden Equipment
 - ◆ Incentive to be limited to \$1,500 per incentive
 - ◆ 20% incentive on any electric chain saws, tillers, snow blowers, or lawn mowers

Incentives for your Business



- Prescriptive Lighting
 - ◆ Including HVAC System Optimization
- Commercial HVAC
- Heat Pump Water Heater
- Industrial Process Improvements

Incentives for your Ag Operation



- Prescriptive Irrigation
- Corner Pivot VFD
- Customer Ag Improvements

Incentives for your Electric Vehicles



- Charging Stations
- Pre-Wiring
- Commercial Conduit

Payment Options

US Mail

Cedar-Knox PPD, P.O. Box 947,
Hartington, NE 68739

Office

In person or in the drop box in
Hartington. Office hours are Monday
– Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Automatic Withdrawal from Checking or Savings Account

Simply request a form and submit it
to our office.

Online

Log-on at www.cedarknoxppd.com

App

Download App from your App Store.
Create a Log-in. Pay, view data, and
more.

Pay-by-Phone

Call (402) 254-6291. Customer
Service Personnel can take card or
e-check over the phone.

Recurring Credit Card

Request a form – we accept Visa,
MasterCard, and Discover

Effective January 1, 2024: There is a 3.25% convenience fee for the use of a card. If under \$100, an additional \$0.50 will apply. There is \$1.25 convenience charge for the use of an electronic check. These fees will go directly to our payment processor and we do not receive any portion.

ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE

Please stop in and get your
2024 calendar while supplies last.

