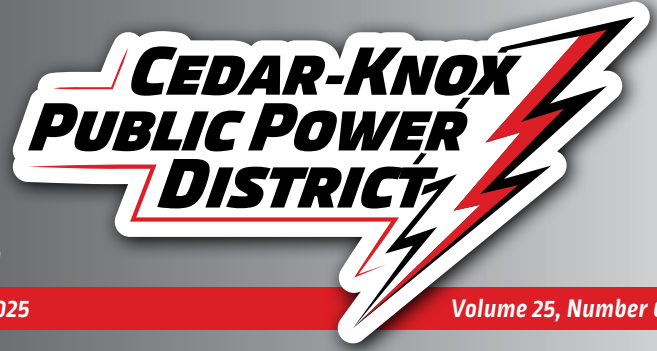


CURRENT FLASHES

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FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER: INFLATION CATCHES UP TO CKPPD

The Board of Directors for Cedar-Knox Public Power District (CKPPD) approved a 3.5% overall rate increase for 2025 during their December 2024 meeting. This decision follows an in-depth financial study conducted by our rate consultants, Utility Financial Solutions, in collaboration with our management team.

Through our partnership with Utility Financial Solutions, we carefully reviewed our projected capital projects and future expenditures in relation to expected revenues. **After nine years without an overall rate increase**, it became clear that inflationary pressures—such as rising costs in materials, equipment, labor, and supply chains—have caught up with us. CKPPD has worked hard to absorb these increasing costs in the past, but in recent years, we've also completed several large capital projects aimed at improving system reliability and expanding facilities to support future growth. Additionally, we anticipate future rate increases from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), which faces similar financial pressures.

NPPD's wholesale rates are among the lowest in the nation, ranking 6th lowest according to the U.S. Department of Energy. NPPD has held rates steady for seven consecutive years, but future needs—such as projected additional costs for future generation assets to cover expected load growth and rising operational costs—are likely to result in rate increases in the coming years. The Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit customers have been receiving in the past from NPPD has also been reduced in size and will also be retained in 2025 by the district to help offset these projected cost increases.

Rates at CKPPD remain some of the lowest in the state, and the 2025 rate increase will help ensure our mission to provide safe, reliable,

and affordable service to our customers, while supporting the long-term sustainability and growth of the district. CKPPD board members, management, and employees remain committed to delivering affordable, reliable power, with a continued focus on providing high-quality service to our customers.



Mike Lammers

PUBLIC POWER

KEEPS RATES LOW

2023* TOP TEN STATES
AVERAGE COST PER KILOWATT HOUR FOR HOMEOWNERS

RANKING	STATE	CENTS PER KWH
1	WASHINGTON	\$0.1098
2	NORTH DAKOTA	\$0.1100
3	IDAHO	\$0.1105
4	UTAH	\$0.1119
5	NEBRASKA	\$0.1124
6	WYOMING	\$0.1146
7	LOUISIANA	\$0.1154
8	OKLAHOMA	\$0.1207
9	TENNESSEE	\$0.1219
10	ARKANSAS	\$0.1225

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Information Administration; 2023 Average Retail Price of Electricity - DATA

**POWERING OUR STATE
EMPOWERING YOUR LIFE**

U.S. AVG. RESIDENTIAL RATE
\$0.1599

IN APPRECIATION

As Rich Erwin and Phil Nielsen retire from our Board of Directors, we want to extend our deepest gratitude for their exceptional service and dedication. Over the combined 66 years as our Directors, Rich and Phil have been providing invaluable guidance and support. Their strategic vision and unwavering commitment have helped us navigate numerous challenges and achieve significant milestones. While we will miss their presence on the board, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Thank you, Rich and Phil, for everything you have done for us.

Rich Erwin, contributed **48 years** of dedication and loyalty as our Director from 1977 to 2024, and 29 of those years as the Board President. Phil Nielsen, contributed **18 years** of dedication and loyalty as our Director from 2007 to 2024. We are forever grateful for their leadership, support, and positive impact towards the success of CKPPD.



Pictured Left to Right: Rich Erwin and Phil Nielsen

Cedar-Knox Public Power District will again be working in conjunction with NPPD with the incentive programs. There are a variety of programs that can be a real cost-savings for those that want to make a change to their current setup. Individuals and business alike can benefit from these plans by saving energy, money, and helping the environment as well.

The same major programs will be offered in 2025 with only minor changes to the stipulations. Some of the most popular incentives at CKPPD are:

- Cooling System Tune-Up
- High Efficiency Heat Pump
- Attic Insulation

We are glad to participate in supporting these rebates that save you money and make your systems more efficient. For more information regarding any of these rebates, please visit our website at: <https://cedarknoxppd.energywisenebraska.com/residential/>.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The Cedar-Knox Public Power District Memorial Scholarship will be offered again this year for students enrolled in the utility line program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. To apply, visit www.northeast.edu by March 1st. Stipulations of this scholarship require that the applicant's parents/guardians must live within our service area. For more questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Northeast directly, your high school guidance counselor, or CKPPD at (402) 254-6291.

2024 IRRIGATION SEASON

Cedar-Knox PPD served our customers throughout the season with continued system growth and high kilowatt usage. Below are some statistics from the year.

TOTAL NUMBER OF IRRIGATION SERVICES

1251

FIRST DAY OF CONTROL IN 2024

July 15th

NUMBER OF CONTROL DAYS BY RATE IN 2024

NO CONTROL = 0

EVERY OTHER

DAY = 4

(odd or even)

EVERY DAY = 7

NUMBER OF SERVICES ON EACH BILLING RATE

NO CONTROL = 142

EVERY OTHER DAY = 635

EVERY DAY = 474

AVERAGE RUN TIME HOURS PER SYSTEM

583 hrs

AVERAGE CONTROL HOURS BY RATE IN 2024

NO CONTROL = 0

EVERY OTHER

DAY = 17

(odd or even)

EVERY DAY = 36

SUBSTATION WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

BELDEN

AVERAGE HP OF SYSTEMS

81 HP

OPTIONS YOU CAN DO TO YOUR IRRIGATION ACCOUNTS:

- GET A TEXT ON CONTROL STATUS
- RECEIVE BILL VIA EMAIL
- ADD A FARM NAME
- GET A TEXT ON DUE DATE
- PAY YOUR BILL AUTOMATICALLY

FRESH APPLE CAKE

By GERALDA HEIKES



We recently asked for customers to submit recipes for future use in our newsletters and/or on Facebook. Employees voted on submissions and selected to share: Fresh Apple Cake sent in by Hartington area customer, GERALDA HEIKES.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
 - 3 eggs (well beaten)
 - 1 cup chopped nuts
 - 1½ cups Wesson oil
 - 3 cups fresh apples, chopped
 - 3 cups flour
 - 1 teaspoon soda
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 2 teaspoons vanilla
- Topping:**
- 1 stick oleo
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - ¼ cup evaporated milk
 - Additional 1 teaspoon vanilla
- Sift together flour, soda, salt, & vanilla. Then add that to the other ingredients.
 - Bake at 325° in 9x13" pan for 45 minutes.
 - For topping, heat until melted: oleo, brown sugar, evaporated milk. Let it come to a rolling boil.
 - Let topping cool then add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Spread on cooled cake.
 - If frosting seems too thin, you could add a little sifted powdered sugar.