

## From the desk of the Manager

### No Rate Increase for 2019

While I struggle with where the 2018 year has gone, as I look back in review it no doubt came with its challenges. While many states struggled with natural disasters, we were fortunate with fairly mild weather overall. Our residential customers saw the New Year start off with colder temps and then had a blast of snow and ice in early February that thankfully only caused minor outages and damage in our district. Our neighboring systems did not fare so well and we were happy to provide some mutual aid to help them out. Then it seemed we went straight from cold to hot in the April to May time-frame, and the rest of the summer was all about mild temperatures with abnormally high amounts of rain received. This resulted in some of the lowest Kilo-watt hour sales to our irrigation customers in over 10 years. Due to the absence of irrigation system usage, along with the aid of our load control program, Cedar-Knox was able to avoid some of the billable demand peaks that we normally see which helped to control our wholesale power cost. The weather and our irrigation load control program play substantial roles in controlling power cost and are obviously a very large piece of our budget that directly affects our rates.

Speaking of rates, I'm happy to report that for the third year in a row we will take "no overall rate increase." Even with the abnormally low irrigation usage and average weather year, overall I feel confident that no rate increase is needed. Our wholesale power provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has also agreed to continue to furnish the same reliable and affordable power at the same low-cost price option with no increase to Cedar-Knox. As promised last year from our cost of service study and recommendation from our rate consultant, we will again have a revenue neutral change with only some minor shifts in cost from the energy side to the monthly facility charge. The facility charge increase will simply be offset with a lower Kilowatt-hour (Kwh) energy cost. We were able to hold an overall bandwidth of change to

Cedar-Knox PPD Overall Rate Change History	
Year	Rate Change
2019	No Change
2018	No Change
2017	No Change
2016	1.5% Increase
2015	No Change
2014	No Change

+/-1.5% per rate class with the exception of one that has less than a handful of accounts and that came in at 1.87%. As rates continue to evolve we will also continue to properly adjust cost to prevent cross subsidizing and keep our rates fair and equitable to all our customers.

In closing, I would just like to express my gratitude to all of our customers for their business and support. In return, we will strive to continue the great public power tradition of providing safe, affordable and reliable service that all of our customers have become so accustomed to. Please have a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019.



Mike Lammers

### Auto Pay Blitz Winner

We have a Winner! Ben Barelman from the Laurel area won our Automatic Bank Payment Sign-up Blitz. Ben received \$250 credit on his account. We had over 400 new enrollees during the promotion period from September 1 to December 1st. Thank you to all who signed up – it's a great way to save you time and hassle. Look for more promotions in the future. Congratulations Ben!



### Incentives for Energy Efficiency

These are the 2019 Energywise incentive programs CKPPD is offering. All projects must be installed and operational during this calendar year to be eligible for the corresponding incentives. **New or changed programs include...**

- High Efficiency Heat Pump**
  - 15 Seer, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF minimum..... \$300-\$900
- Water or Ground Source Heat Pump** ..... \$1800-\$2500
- Heat Pump Water Heater** ..... \$300-\$500
- Smart Thermostat Installation** ..... \$25 -\$100
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station** (residential) ..... \$25-\$100



*All projects must be installed and operational during this calendar year to be eligible.*

There are also incentives available again this year for HVAC tune up, Attic Insulation, Commercial Lighting, and Variable Frequency Drive motors. **For more information, contact Tim Loberg at 402-254-6291 or 800-891-5196.**



# Recipe Corner

## Slow Cooker Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwiches

Slow Cooker Chicken Bacon Ranch Sandwiches, also sometimes referred to as “crack chicken” are made with bacon, cream cheese, chicken, cheddar cheese and ranch seasonings and they’re a family favorite!

### Ingredients

- 3 chicken breasts (boneless, skinless)
- 16 ounces cream cheese (2 boxes)
- 1 packet ranch seasoning
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 8 slices bacon crumbled
- 8 slices cheddar cheese
- 8 hoagie rolls

### Instructions

1. Add the chicken, cream cheese, ranch seasoning, cheddar cheese and garlic powder to a slow cooker and cook on low for 7-8 hours or on high for 3-4 hours.
2. Toast the hoagie rolls, scoop on the chicken and top with cheddar slice and crumbled bacon.

**Servings:** 8 sandwiches

**Calories:** 508 calories

## Cedar-Knox PPD Memorial Scholarship

Cedar-Knox PPD Memorial Scholarship applications are due by March 1st 2019. If you are a resident within our service territory and have been accepted into the Northeast Community College Utility Lineman Program you are eligible. Applications are available on-line from the website [northeast.edu](http://northeast.edu) or from your guidance counselor at your high school. Qualifications will be outlined by NECC. If you have any questions, you can contact us at Cedar-Knox PPD.



## Generator Safety

- Portable generators come in handy during long-term power outages. However, if you do not know how to use them properly, they can be dangerous. Safe Electricity has the following tips to use generators safely. Contact a qualified vendor or electrician to help you determine what generator is best-suited to your needs.
- If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer

switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back into power lines where it could harm a lineman, a process known as “back-feed.” A qualified electrician should install your generator and transfer switch.

- If you have a portable generator, operate it outdoors in an area with plenty of ventilation. Never run a generator in a home or garage. Generators give off deadly carbon monoxide.
- Do not plug a generator into the wall.
- Be sure the generator is turned off and cool before fueling it.
- Turn off or disconnect all appliances and lights before you begin operating the portable generator. Once the generator is running, turn your appliances and lights on one at a time to avoid overloading the unit. Remember, generators are for temporary usage, prioritize your needs.

- Generators pose electrical risks especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.
- Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times. Many generator components are hot enough to burn you during operation.

Safe Electricity suggests that these safety guidelines and basic operating instructions be posted in the home and with the generator. Remember to read and follow manufacturer’s instructions with all your electronics.



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