

From the Desk of the Manager

Wind Zoning in Cedar County Sparks Questions

While attending two recent meetings held by the Cedar County Zoning Board regarding setbacks and the public comment of pros and cons of wind towers, I had a few questions come up that I would like to clarify to our customers:



Mike Lammers

Q Does Cedar-Knox PPD buy power directly from any wind providers?

A CKPPD is in a long-term wholesale contract through 2035 with Nebraska Electric Generation & Transmission (NE G&T) that has a purchase agreement with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). This requires we buy all wholesale power from them with the allowance of up to 10% to purchase from a Qualifying Local Generation (QLG) such as a wind or solar for offset purposes. CKPPD does not currently own or directly purchase any QLG but has been researching to see if it can provide benefits to our customers.

Q Is Cedar-Knox for or against wind towers?

A While CKPPD is not against any renewable source, for us it must make financial sense and remain SAFE, AFFORDABLE, & RELIABLE. Safety is always first and we need to ensure any generation or electrical power equipment is safe to the people around it. Next is affordable and reliable, and they go hand in hand in this case. To remain reliable comes at a cost that directly affects affordability. While CKPPD does not own generation, I do believe diversity is almost always a good thing. However, in my opinion we are reaching a point with intermittent renewables such as wind and solar that are giving me concern about the reliability of the grid. This is a large topic lately as more base load generators (coal/nuclear) go offline across the United States causing many areas to heavily rely on wind and solar generation. In a market that does not pay for reliability, many of the existing base load units are simply getting priced out. The Federal Government is also tightening regulations, which increases cost and making it harder for them to remain competitive.

Q Does Cedar-Knox shut off irrigation for lack of power?

A Cedar-Knox and our provider NPPD both currently have adequate distribution and generation; therefore, we do not shut off for lack of power. Rather we control irrigation by shifting load usage to keep the rates to our irrigators lower and affordable. We avoid paying high market costs during peak periods when the grid is demanding large amounts of power due to increase of load (usually heat/irrigation) in the summer.

Q Is Nebraska anticipating Black outs this summer?

A NPPD is a member of Southwest Power Pool (SPP) as a Regional Transmission Operator (RTO). The SPP territory is roughly from North Dakota to the northern edge of Texas, but touches 14 states within their balancing authority over all. Southwest Power Pool (SPP) does not anticipate any black outs and expects to have enough generating capacity to meet the regional demand for electricity through the 2022 summer season, which includes the majority of Nebraska and all of CKPPD.

The power grid is a very complex machine. New technologies in the future may be a solution such as large-scale batteries, but the technology isn't there today on a large or cost prohibited scale. Until then, the current diversified generation sources of nuclear, coal, natural gas, hydro, solar, and wind are required to continue to keep our grid resilient and dependable so we can continue to keep our pillars of safe, reliable, and affordable standing strong for our customers.



Sign up for our new App thru the QR code!

CKPPD mobile application is available and now even easier to sign up through this QR code. Simply open the camera function on your smart phone or tablet and hover over the QR code. This will bring up the link needed. Have your account number ready and click "Register New User". Additional information needed to finish the registration is the primary phone number on your account.

Once signed up, the app is fully functional and easy to use. Features include option to pay your bill, ability to view monthly statements, check on service usage, notification sign up for due date reminders, when your payment posts, and more!

Please feel free to call into the office at **(402) 254-6291** for more information. We can give you more information on services that may help you save time and money!



From Apprentice to Journeyman

Cedar-Knox PPD line workers obtain journeyman status through a formal training program.

Once a student graduates with a degree in Utility Line, they are considered an Apprentice Lineman. If they are hired at Cedar-Knox PPD, they then have to go thru another four years of on-the-job training, study for and successfully pass over 40 written quizzes and exams, and reach yearly performance benchmarks before they can claim Journeyman Lineman status. The purpose of the program is to ensure that the line workers perform their duties in the safest manner possible throughout their careers.

CKPPD utilizes the Lineworker Certification Program through Northwest Lineman College. It is a distance-learning, self-paced curriculum designed specifically for entry-level electric utility personnel. The program consists of four books, each with 10 sections and a final exam at the end. As the line worker completes each

section of the book, a quiz is provided that they must successfully pass before moving on and eventually taking the final exam. The student typically completes one book per year.

Journeyman Linemen are also required to pass an evaluation of field skills. In each of their 4 years as an apprentice, linemen are required to perform approximately ten hands on or equipment related tasks that meet supervisors' expectations in efficiency, knowledge, and most importantly safety. Each year the complexity of required tasks increases in difficulty to prepare the Apprentice Lineman for Journeyman status. As a Journeyman Lineman, individuals are deemed competent of performing any and all tasks needed for new installations, maintenance of existing overhead and underground facilities, and operation of technical equipment.



Jared Wiebelhaus achieved Journeyman Lineman designation on June 1, 2022 after completing the four-year requirements of the Lineworker Certification Program and reaching the performance benchmarks required by CKPPD. Congratulations Jared!



Congratulations

Tim Loberg, Operations Coordinator at CKPPD has been selected to serve on the 811 Board. Tim is one of four representatives for public power on the 811 Board which is comprised of different types of utilities and contractors as well. The Board is responsible for regulatory laws, public awareness, and digging safety within the state for underground locates.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

CKPPD wants to remind you that state law requires you to always call 811 before any digging is done to ensure underground utilities are not damaged. All utility companies have 3 days to complete the locate from when it is received. However, when we receive a locate order from 811, we are **only required to locate our wires**, which generally include from the transformer to the meter. Any wires after the meter are customer owned and are the responsibility of the customer.

MAY DAY DRILL

Cedar-Knox PPD held a practice May Day drill during our June safety meeting. We simulated an employee having an electrical contact and needing emergency services.

In attendance were: Cedar-Knox PPD, Cedar County Sheriff's Office, Cedar County Emergency Management, Hartington EMS, Hartington Fire Department, Fordyce Fire Department, Nebraska State Patrol, Wayne County Emergency Management, Knox County Emergency Management, and Wing Air Rescue. It was a very valuable hands-on learning opportunity for all and we appreciated everyone's participation.

