

From the Desk of the Manager

Concerns on Reliability

Safe, Affordable, and Reliable are the 3 pillars of Public Power that you have heard me talk about many times before. Of these three, our reliability is one we do not discuss very often as it has historically been taken for granted that it will always be there. Cedar-Knox is a very reliable distribution system. However, we have reached a level of concern in the United States about the future of reliability on the transmission electrical grid due to the lack of reliable generation. CKPPD does not own any generation or transmission, as we are in an all-requirements contract for power with Nebraska G&T (NE G&T), whom purchases power under contract from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). I recently read an article from Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that addressed his same concern for this issue and is working with policymakers to try to prevent further risk moving forward.

This has been a hot topic across the industry for quite some time as baseload generators have been retiring. Matheson reported the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) recently published the 2023 Summer Reliability Assessment and stated “an especially dire warning that America’s ability to keep the lights on has been jeopardized”. NERC warns that “two-thirds of North America is at risk of energy shortfalls this summer during periods of extreme demand”. This is not solely due to the retirement of conventional generation like coal but also

includes factors like large increases in electricity demand, supply chain issues, widespread weather events, fuel delivery issues with natural gas and coal, and recent Environment Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules that may force generators to meet strict emission restrictions.

While there is no problem with reducing or eliminating carbon emitting generation, there must first be a reliable alternative in place before the coal and base load generation is removed. Wind and solar renewables can help serve the kilo-watt hour energy replacement but cannot replace the reliability of baseload generation being there when the wind doesn’t blow and the sun doesn’t shine. Matheson stated that “American families and businesses expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford, but that’s no longer a guarantee. Nine states saw rolling blackouts last December as the demand for electricity exceeded available supply and the new EPA’s power plant rule will greatly compound the problem.” CKPPD is no different in that we expect the lights to stay on, irrigations to run, commercial businesses to be productive, and heating and cooling to be there when needed. We are also not strangers to rolling blackouts from back in February 2021, when we had short duration blackouts across the district and state due to a very cold weather event that covered the vast majority of the U.S. This was not due to NPPD lack of generation, but power shortages within a much larger footprint called Southwest Power Pool which is the Regional

Transmission Authority from roughly North Dakota to the North edge of Texas.

It is good going into the future to hear that Matheson says “these reliability threats are unacceptable.” It is the policy makers and the EPA that must be very cautious as they proceed to ensure that all energy resources provide a diverse mix to ensure we remain reliable and affordable into the future. While nuclear power is a clean, dependable power that I personally prefer, the current 10 plus years I hear for licensing and construction processes need to both be vastly improved, all while remaining affordable. The policymakers need to allow time for technology to develop and new transmission lines to be built to aid in the improvements to the grid system. While I feel confident, we live in a good part of the country with NPPD as a reliable power provider, they are a participant of the much larger Southwest Power Pool (SPP) market and extreme events have already proven they can happen. The old saying of “if it will happen” seems to be headed towards the path of “when and where will it happen” if we do not change our course for the future. For the time being, we need to slow down and prevent closures of base load generation until we have the answers to ensure the lights come on when we need them, at a price we can all afford to pay.



Mike Lammers

Congratulations Eric!

Eric Becker was chosen to attend the first ever Quad State Instructors “Line Worker Safety, Training, and Leadership Conference” in Omaha during the week of April 24th. Eric was part of a select group of individuals that were nominated and chosen based on their leadership skills that actively influence the safety culture at their utility. The individuals chosen are those that stand out as someone that takes not only the time to show, but to explain and educate others how and why specific tasks are done a certain way. The goal of the conference was not only to educate, but to provide a place and means for people to collaborate, share, and engage with each other. The conference hosted around 65 attendees from 21 states. Congratulations Eric!



Daily Control Information:

Irrigation Hotline 402-254-6322
or www.cedarknoxppd.com



Irrigation Control Hours are 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.
Mon-Sat (Not to exceed 12 control hours in a single day)
Sun (Not to exceed 6 control hours in a single day)

Budget Program

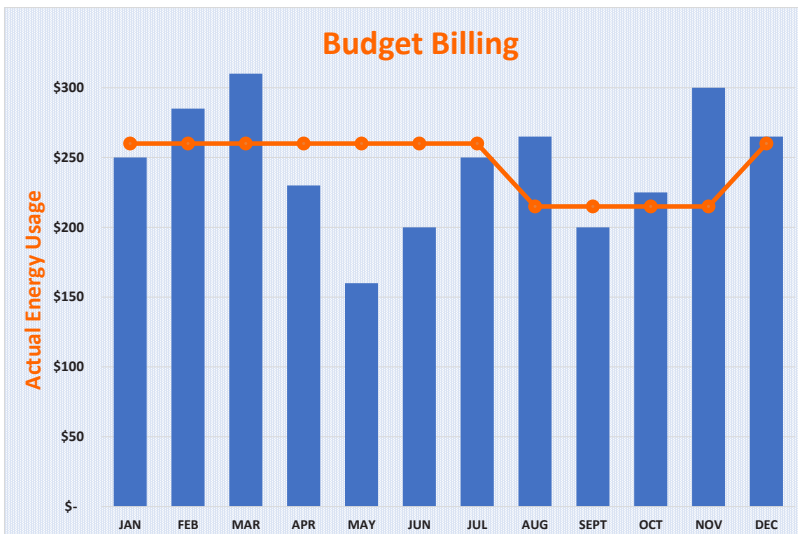
Are you interested in our budget program? This is where the customer pays a consistent amount each month. This can be convenient for those that experience high bills during certain times of the year. Perhaps those that are on a fixed income could also benefit from knowing how much to plan for each month.

To qualify for budget billing, you must:

- Have occupied the service address for over 12 months
- Sign up during the months of July or August
- The account must be current

Check out the example (below). The customer's energy usage is depicted in the blue bar graph each month. For many customers this amount changes every bill, and in some cases the amount can be drastically different in the winter and/or the summer. The orange line graph indicates how the program works. CKPPD would begin to charge a set budget amount, and then may adjust the amount after a few months based on your usage pattern. Once a year, we will "settle up" your account to a zero balance.

If you have interest, please call our office at (402) 254-6291. We will discuss the details with you including the estimate of your monthly charge, what to review each month on your statement, and the settle-up process of the budget year.



Safety Hazards

The picture below poses several safety hazards due to the placement of the bales. CKPPD asks that all customers be sure to not place any object under our lines to avoid accidental contact with the high voltage conductors, which could lead to equipment damage, personal injury, or even death.

Allowing proper clearance of at least 15 feet to the side and nothing directly under the line, could help to prevent personal property damage due to conductors that may come unattached or that create sparks from weather related events. CKPPD needs access to our equipment to maintain and repair services. When things are in the way, this affects our response time and can impede troubleshooting.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Cedar-Knox PPD is on Facebook. We use Facebook to communicate to you, our customers. This is especially beneficial to get information out to you quickly. Consider taking the time to like us on Facebook to be sure you are informed of important news.

ACH Blitz Still Going On!!

Reminder: We are still running our ACH Blitz until August 31st. Sign up to have your payment taken out of your checking or savings account and get \$5 credit per account and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit. By picking ACH as a payment option, you will have no late fees, no stamps to use, no mail time, no more time wasted writing checks – no more worry. Sign up today!!

CEDAR KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT BANK COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION

Date _____

Name of Financial Institution _____

Bank Location (City & State) _____

Bank Routing Number: _____ Bank Account Number: _____

Type of Account:

(circle one)

Checking Savings

**I hereby authorize Cedar Knox PPD to collect payment of my monthly billed electrical bill from the above account until such time that I cancel this agreement.*

Customer Signature: _____ CKPPD Account Number: _____

Customer Service Address & City: _____

Change To Electronic Only Statements: **YES / NO** Customer Email Address: _____

Choose your billing date: Option #1 – bill date 5th of the month with payment date 20th

Option #2 – bill date 10th of the month and payment date 25th

