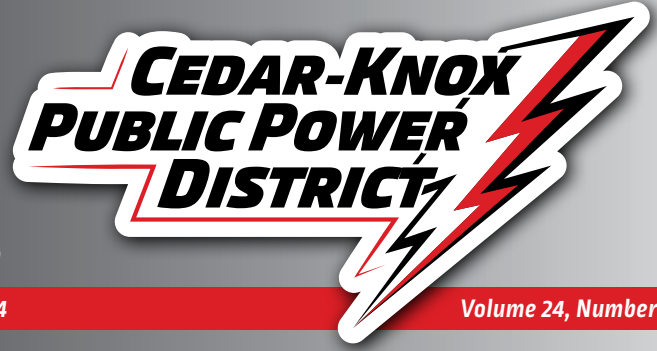


# CURRENT FLASHES



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[cedarknoxppd.com](http://cedarknoxppd.com)

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE MANAGER:

### GROWING CONCERNS OVER GRID RELIABILITY & GENERATION

Last July, I highlighted the rising concerns about grid reliability, and since then, these apprehensions have only intensified. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has flagged potential energy shortages in both summer and winter reliability assessments. Recently, an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ruling on power plants has further endangered our base load generation capabilities. Additionally, several customers have voiced concerns about a proposed large wind project in Knox County and its impact on Cedar-Knox Public Power District (CKPPD) and the grid.

NERC's latest 2024 reliability assessment warns of generation shortfalls affecting over half of the United States. These alerts underscore the grid's vulnerabilities, and should not be taken lightly as the demand for electricity continues to grow at a rapid pace. These shortfalls could lead to more frequent rolling blackouts similar to what took place during storm URI back in February 2021. Rolling blackouts are something I do not want to become a new standard for our customers.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has sued the EPA over its recent power plant ruling to limit carbon emissions by 90% by 2032 or be shut down prior to 2039, with CEO Jim Matheson calling the rule "unlawful, unachievable, and unrealistic." The NRECA argues that the rule disregards legal precedents, mandates unproven technology, imposes unrealistic timelines, and threatens both reliability and affordability. They have requested a court stay on the rule, which, if granted, would temporarily halt its implementation pending judicial review. This legal battle only deepens concerns about maintaining essential base load generation.

Likewise, I've had discussions with customers about the recently proposed wind project in eastern Knox County. While CKPPD does not purchase energy directly from generation facilities, the issue remains pertinent. I view the issue as a question of what does it do to our pillars of reliable and affordable for CKPPD. I believe that while a diverse mix of generation is crucial, the increasing reliance on intermittent renewable sources such as wind and solar power is undermining our base load generation.

We need consistent base load generation to meet demand when renewable sources fall short and current battery technology is not yet a viable or economical solution for our needs. The financial tax incentives for wind energy are creating financial advantages, making it difficult for base load generation to compete. To meet growing demand, we must sustain our current base load generation and balance our energy mix carefully in the future.

Ensuring reliable power is becoming increasingly challenging as new restrictions and federal rulings raise costs for existing generation facilities. This trend threatens both reliability and affordability. The insights from NERC and the new EPA restrictions suggest we are not on the right path to secure the dependable and cost-effective power we've historically enjoyed. While wind energy can support growth, it does not address future reliability issues. Policymakers must tread carefully to balance our generation needs, as a threat to reliable power is simply unacceptable for consumers.



Mike Lammers

### DAILY CONTROL INFORMATION: Irrigation Hotline 402-254-6322 or [www.cedarknoxppd.com](http://www.cedarknoxppd.com)



### IMPORTANT IRRIGATION REMINDERS:

- ◆ Be sure your end gun is not spraying directly on CKPPD lines and transformer banks.
- ◆ Check to ensure pivot stops are correctly in place to avoid your pivot walking into electrical poles and equipment.
- ◆ Do not run the motor panel on "hand" or the auto restart and shutdown sequence may not operate properly.
- ◆ It is recommended during season to leave all disconnects in the "on" position to ensure power to the load control radio unit.
- ◆ Visibility may be difficult during daylight hours to see what color light you have on your radio unit. We recommend you shield it with your hands in order to tell what color is lit.
- ◆ If your irrigation does not come back on after control hours, call 402-254-6291, option 3 for assistance after hours.

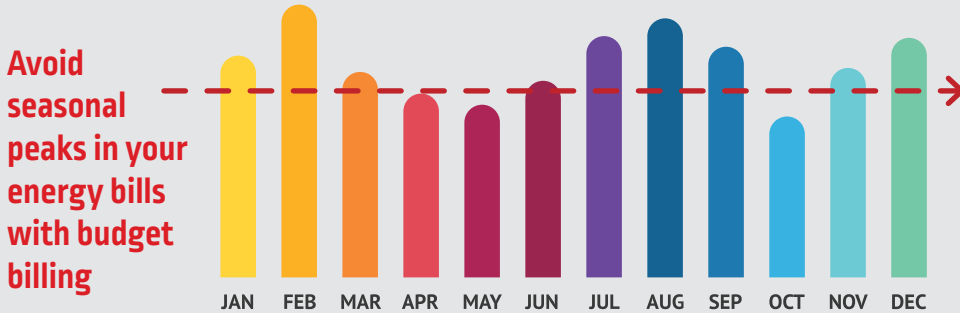
**Text Messaging** is available for \$20 per phone number. This enables you to receive texts on either potential control times for the day or the actual time your system shuts off and turns back on. Contact our office to sign up for this service.

# BUDGET BILLING



Now is the time to sign up for our budget billing program. With budget billing, the customer pays a set amount each month. This set payment amount helps the customer to plan despite seasonal weather that affects many people's energy usage.

If your account is current and you have lived at the property for at least 12 months, you qualify to sign up for this program. Sign up can be done during the months of July or August. If you would like specific information regarding your account or to sign up for this service, give us a call. **Additional information can also be found on our website at: <https://cedarknoxppd.com/billing/budget-billing/>.**



# SUMMERTIME INCENTIVES

There are a few different EnergyWise incentive programs that are great to utilize this time of year. EnergyWise is a program that allows customers to apply for rebates to help offset the cost of equipment or service and save energy in the long run. Take a look - these vary from within your home, your lawn and garden, or even your fields.

## Cooling System Tune Up

A \$30 EnergyWise incentive is available to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned up by a HVAC contractor, regardless of what type or age of cooling system it is (air conditioner, air or water source heat pump).



## Electric lawn and garden tools

Customers can receive a 20% incentive on any new electric chainsaw, tiller, or lawn mower, not to exceed \$1,500 per incentive. The incentive amount is based on the purchase price only (installation, taxes, delivery/shipping and setup costs are NOT eligible). Chargers and additional battery purchases are also available for the incentive at the time of the initial mower purchase.



## Prescriptive Irrigation

A \$500 incentive is available when producers replace all of an irrigation system's existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads,

# CKPPD SCHOLARSHIP

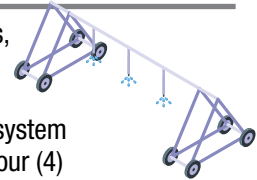
**Kale Korth** is the recipient of the Cedar-Knox PPD Memorial Scholarship for the utility line program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE. This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded for each year of the program. Kale graduated from Hartington-Newcastle Public School and is the son of Terry and Lisa Korth.



Kale has been involved in football, wrestling, track, student council, national honor society, FFA and more during his years in high school. He has also been a member of the Cedar-County 4-H Shooting Sports.

Kale enjoys spending time outdoors. He enjoys working on projects and figuring out the technology and engineering behind things, discovering how they work. Spending time with his family and friends is also top of his list of things to do. Congratulations Kale and good luck in your future.

sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles, and regulators on qualified systems. To qualify, the system must be a minimum of four (4) sections in length with water supplied by an all-electric pumping system. The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must also be at least five (5) years old.



These listed above are just a few of the options we offer. Guidelines for these programs and others can be found on our website at [www.cedarknoxppd.com](http://www.cedarknoxppd.com) under the Energy Efficiency tab. You can also call Matt at 402-254-6291 for more information.

# EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

**Corey Stratman** has been a dedicated employee of Cedar-Knox PPD for 35 years. He began as an Apprentice Lineman, became a Journeyman Lineman, and is currently a Line Engineer. Corey and his wife, Melissa, have one daughter, Camie, son-in-law Tanner and two grandsons: Oli and Kaz. We appreciate Corey's commitment and contributions to CKPPD!



35 Years

# MECHANIC DAY

On June 12th, we celebrate Mechanic Day. At Cedar-Knox Public Power, our Fleet Mechanic is Joe Folkers. This day we take the time to express how thankful we are for him keeping our fleet up and going 24/7.

Joe is responsible for maintenance and inspections on our entire fleet of trucks and equipment. He can accurately diagnose and repair potential issues ahead of time, helping to keep our equipment ready when the crew needs it. Thank you, Joe!

