

From the Desk of the Manager

CAPITOL VISIT TO DISCUSS RELIABILITY CONCERNS



In a recent article, you heard me discuss the importance of reliable and affordable power not only throughout Cedar-Knox PPD and Nebraska but across the country as well. Last month, I made a trip out to Washington D.C. to meet with our Nebraska legislative representatives to discuss this concern. Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) General Manager Rick Nelson and Director of Government Relations James Dukesherer, along with several other Public Power District general managers, were in attendance to express our concerns about reliability to our leaders.

Our day started with a meeting to hear from Nebraska's five legislative leaders about what they are currently working on and the priorities each one holds for Nebraska. Multiple other industries and companies attended this, along with people or groups that were simply visiting Washington D.C. for vacation, primarily Nebraskans. Many of the legislative aides and staffers (mostly from NE) also attended to listen and join in the meet and greet.

Following this short session together, our group continued throughout the day to meet with each representative or their aides to discuss our concerns for Public Power. We first sat down with Senator Pete Ricketts, and then met with a couple of Senator Deb Fischer's staffers, as she was already busy at the Capitol. Then we continued over to the House of Representatives where we met with Representatives Mike Flood, Adrian Smith, and Don Bacon's staffer as he was busy at the Capitol as well.

In our discussions with each representative, we expressed our concerns about the need for reliable and affordable power for Nebraskans. We began with our interest in EPA Regulation and Permitting Reform, specifically the Carbon Reduction and Clean Air Act, and our concern in making sure it cannot impede reliability. Although we understand their concerns about carbon, we do not believe the current pace of phasing out baseload generators (specifically coal) and the upcoming replacement technology options will provide our customers with the reliability and affordability they expect. It was great to hear that they are well aware of this concern and the importance of baseload generation in ensuring dependable power to the grid. We then discussed our concern about the Department of Energy's transformer efficiency proposal that is switching the material from grain-oriented steel to amorphous steel cores. This will only improve efficiency ratings by 1% and is not really

helping the shortage or lead time issues we are seeing. We touched on the Farm Bill that includes our Rural Economic Development Loan & Grants (REDLG) and Rural Utility Service (RUS) borrowing that some systems utilize if needed. Cedar-Knox currently offers the REDLG to start-up businesses and expansion projects that increase job growth and gives them a lower interest rate. Lastly, we stressed the importance of including Public Power in programs and grants, past and present. The recent \$9.7B ERA program did not include language to encompass rural Public Power, thus we are not eligible to apply for the funds that many electric systems across the country are able to take advantage of. The potential for a rollback for some of these funds may be a possibility, but we need to make sure rural public power electric customers are included.

I want to thank all of our Nebraska legislative representatives for their time and efforts to help Nebraska continue to strive and be the great state it is. It was very eye-opening to see how busy they are, each and every day while in Washington D.C. We all know there is plenty going on at the hill these days and the large tasks they are working on. It is nice to know even amongst all the big issues, they still took time to hear and listen to our concerns, which is not only appreciated but recognized. A special thanks to Rep. Mike Flood who gave myself and others a special group tour of the Capitol. Once a week, he tries to give fellow Nebraskans a tour and history lesson through the Capitol, after his well over 12-hour workday. It was a quick educational trip to Washington D.C., but well worth the time spent with our Nebraska leaders to communicate and inform one another of our concerns, and to cohesively strive to continue the same reliability we have always provided.



Mike Lammers



POWER OUTAGE REMINDERS

Should you have a power outage, please call us at (402) 254-6291 or (800) 891-5196. By reporting outages promptly, you contribute to the restoration process. It allows us to identify the affected areas, dispatch crews, and provide approximate updates. While we do have technology that can assist us in identifying outages, it is a process that is manually started after we have been informed of an outage. Your call is very important!

I think my neighbor called to report the outage.

In some cases, your service could be the only account without power so it is important to still call.

I'll wait a while and see if my power comes back on. If not, then I will call.

Your quick reporting can help to get our crews out and in the correct area to troubleshoot the problem.

I reported the outage the last time.

It is important you call to report your outage each and every time. This helps to increase our efficiency in the restoration effort to your service in a timely fashion.

It's the middle of the night and my power just went out. I'll wait to report until morning.

Although we appreciate your concern, our trouble crew is on-call to help whenever you need us.

I'm on Facebook, so I'll report the outage there.

We do not dispatch linemen based on information shared via emails or social media reports. Although we do love that you connect with us on Facebook and/or via email, those avenues are not monitored on a 24/7 basis at this time.

PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE—KEY TO RELIABILITY

As fall ends and winter is on the horizon, CKPPD line crews begin to transition from construction to maintenance. Winter months are utilized for preventative maintenance. Every mile of line is patrolled annually looking for problem areas that could potentially alter the reliability of service to our customers. Tree maintenance is always one of the top priorities when line patrolling. Trees burning in the lines cause blinking lights and outages, especially when weather conditions are unfavorable. As we try to maintain line clearance, we ask that our customers be willing to let us do required trimming and contact us in regards to future tree planting near power lines for best location to avoid trimming.

Other important issues we are looking for to name a few include:

- Low clearance of conductors due to broken guy wires or landscape changes such as newly installed driveways midspan.
- Loose or missing hardware
- Weak structures due to physical age or damage caused by lightning or machinery
- Chipped or broken insulators
- Broken strands in conductors (frays)

Reliability and Safety are two key aspects of our mission statement and correcting these patrolling issues help keep the lights on and the public safe! If you recognize hazards that you think need immediate attention, please contact us.



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

The office will be closed November 10th

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: Dept. of Energy



ELECTRONIC PAYMENT CHANGES

In an effort to continue to get the word out in a timely fashion, please take notice of the following:

Cedar-Knox Public Power District will begin charging for the use of debit/credit cards and electronic check payments **beginning January 1, 2024**. These fees will kick in when customers call in and pay over the phone, pay online at our website, or on the mobile app. The fees would also be applicable to those that continue with the recurring credit card payment option.

The fee beginning January 1st will be a 3.25% convenience fee for debit or credit cards and \$1.25 for an electronic check. For debit/credit transactions under \$100.00, an additional \$0.50 will apply. These fees are collected from our payment processor and we do not receive any portion of the charges.

The payment methods that have no costs associated with processing include: automatic bank withdrawal, cash or check by mail, dropping off in our office, or placing in the dropbox located by the flag pole. If you have questions or concerns, please call our office at (402) 254-6291.