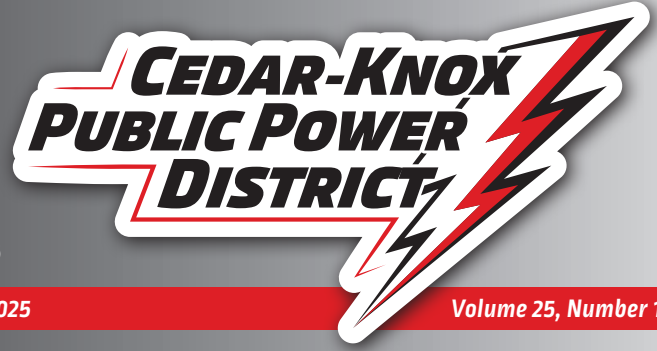


CURRENT FLASHES

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UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S BEHIND RISING ELECTRIC RATES

Electric bills have been on the rise across Nebraska and much of the United States—and it's not just inflation causing the uptick. A growing mix of factors—including rising demand, infrastructure upgrades, and stricter reliability standards—are reshaping how electricity is produced and delivered, driving up costs in the process.

Utilities throughout the region are making significant investments in new power generation, and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) is no exception. NPPD plans to add over 1,410 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity between 2029 and 2033. These projects include dual-fuel (natural gas/diesel) reciprocating internal combustion engines (RICE) and combustion turbines (CT). The estimated cost of these additions is approximately \$2.5 billion, financed over a 30-year period—costs that will ultimately be absorbed by the developers and ratepayers.

Much of the rising demand stems from rapid growth in innovative and energy-intensive sectors—like data centers, green hydrogen production, AI applications, along with organic growth of commercial and agricultural activity. Attracted by Nebraska's reliable and low-cost energy, industries are expanding—but that growth brings a need for increased capacity. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is also tightening reserve margin requirements, pushing utilities to plan for higher capacity to maintain reliability during peak periods and emergencies. Interruptible rate programs serve as a means to mitigate peak demand challenges by leveraging underutilized or newly available capacity, and allowing energy purchases during periods of availability to improve overall system efficiency.

While around 65–70% of your bill at Cedar-Knox Public Power District (CKPPD) typically comes from the cost of wholesale power through NPPD, the rest covers operations, maintenance, and system delivery. CKPPD has also seen rising costs in materials, equipment, and

labor. General growth, like the City of Laurel this past year helps us spread our fixed cost and increases energy sales thus helping keep rates stable. Inflation has increased the price of doing business—costs we've worked to absorb for years. However, we're now entering a period where additional rate adjustments will likely be necessary.

NPPD is forecasting a reduction in the Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) credit by 3.99%, along with zero net base rate adjustments that result in an increase of 0.88% to CKPPD. Together, that represents a 4.87% net increase in power cost before any local rate changes are considered by Cedar-Knox. In response, we've initiated a full cost-of-service study to help guide us toward fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory rate solutions for our customers.

Unfortunately, multiple years of incremental rate increases are likely projected for both NPPD and CKPPD. While we are committed to managing and minimizing the impact locally, utilities across the country are facing similar or much larger challenges. National estimates suggest electric rates could rise by 20% or more over the next five years, with some systems already implementing mid-year rate hikes. Even with rising costs, increased energy use in our area helps share expenses more broadly and supports improvements that make the power grid stronger and more efficient.

The reality is that a combination of new generation infrastructure, inflationary pressures, growth, and stricter reliability standards are driving rates higher. While these changes may feel burdensome now, they are necessary to provide growth for Nebraska while continuing to offer safe, reliable, and affordable electricity—both today and into the future. If you have any specific questions or concerns on your rates, please feel free to give us a call.



Mike Lammers

**Cedar-Knox Public Power District
Wishes You A Safe
and Happy Harvest!**



Public Power In *Nebraska*

October is Public Power Month! Public power means electricity is provided by not-for-profit, publicly owned utilities, rather than private, for-profit companies. These utilities are governed by locally elected or appointed boards and operate solely to serve the interests of customers. Decisions are made locally, and revenue is reinvested in the system and the community. Public power utilities have a strong focus on affordable rates, reliability and customer service.

Is Nebraska really the only all-public power state?

YES. Nebraska is the only U.S. state where every electric utility is publicly owned - either by municipalities, public power districts, or rural electric cooperatives. There are no investor-owned utilities in the state.

Why does public power matter?

Public power keeps decision-making local, rates competitive, and revenues reinvested in Nebraska communities. It ensures accountability to customers, not shareholders, and focuses on reliability, transparency, and long-term planning.

SPOOKY SAVINGS

Don't let high energy bills haunt your home this fall. Check out these tips to help save energy & money during this spooky season - and beyond.



Eliminate Energy Vampires

Unplug devices that consume electricity, even when they're not being used



Improve Attic Insulation

Adding insulation can save you 10% or more on annual energy bills



Fix Damp, Dark Basements

Seal air leaks & use exhaust fans to remove unwanted moisture

Need to Pay? CKPPD has you covered!

Paying your Cedar-Knox Public Power bill should be as easy as flipping your light switch. We are all looking for quick & convenient ways to get things done. That is why we offer a variety of payment options – choose the easiest one for you!



MAIL

This traditional option works great, but be sure to allow for proper mail times.

Send check or money order to:

CKPPD
PO Box 947
Hartington, NE 68739



PHONE

Pay over the phone by calling (402) 254-6291 or (800) 891-5196 during business hours.

Charges apply - \$1.25 for E-Check Transactions or 3.25% for Card Transactions:

- Have your account number
- Information can be saved for future use



IN-PERSON

Pay your bill by stopping by the office.

Visit our office at:
56272 Hwy 84, Hartington

- Regular Hours are
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



AUTO PAY

FREE SERVICE - No more spending time writing checks.

CKPPD automatically deducts your bill from your checking account on the 20th or 25th of the month. A one-time form is required to begin this service.



RECURRING CREDIT CARD

Enjoy knowing your payment is taken care of on-time, every time.

CKPPD automatically charges your card on the 25th or 30th of each month. A one-time form is required to begin this service and convenience charges will apply to each charge.



ONLINE

Visit www.cedarknoxppd.com and click PAY MY BILL

Pay your bill on your time with an electronic check or card. Convenience fees apply.



APP

Download our app and access your information from your phone.

Pay your bill anytime with 24/7 access from your phone. An electronic check or card payments available. Convenience fees apply.



DROP BOX

Place your payment in our drop box any time, day or night.

Our drop box is located in our office parking lot in Hartington. The drop box is by the flag pole.