

POWERING NEBRASKA'S FUTURE: BALANCING GROWTH, RELIABILITY AND OPPORTUNITY

You may have heard the question “Is Nebraska running out of power”? The answer is a resounding “No.” Nebraska is experiencing significant interest in new load, alongside additional generating capacity requirements from Southwest Power Pool. Our wholesale provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), has had historical success in keeping rates affordable and ensuring reliability is amongst the best in the nation, helping make our state an even more attractive place to plant roots – not just for individuals, but for businesses too. Due to power cost accounting for nearly 70% of Cedar-Knox Public Power District's overall expenses, thoughtful cost allocation is essential to ensure growth remains sustainable and equitable for both new and existing customers.

Right now, many companies – particularly technology companies and those in the agricultural sector are interested in calling Nebraska home. This presents opportunities for rural communities to grow and prosper through enhanced job creation, capital investment, additional revenue, and the potential for property tax relief.

Because of this unprecedented load growth coming over the next five to ten years, NPPD is evaluating new generation capacity additions and the transmission investments necessary to deliver that power. Utilities across the nation are facing the potential for similar load growth influx right now. When analyzing historical data, large growth such as this tends to occur in waves.

Public power was created with an obligation to serve. This means that as long as there is the capacity to serve, we do so fairly, regardless of the type of business or load. NPPD has begun preparing to meet the future energy needs of existing and incoming customers by pursuing new cost-effective, responsive solutions that will add new generation capacity to their already diverse generation mix. They are carefully comparing cost, risk, environment attributes, operating flexibility, and more without sacrificing the reliability, resilience, affordability and sustainability the people in Nebraska expect.

The goal is to balance the desire for growth with the resources needed to continue serving existing customers. NPPD is continually evaluating the balance of additional new load to generation and capacity resources needed and required by the Southwest Power Pool. In a recent article Tom Kent, President and CEO has stated:

“We’ve created a new load process designed to be transparent, fair, and built to help both customers and our team prepare for what’s ahead. We’re aligning growth with generation, while keeping reliability and affordability front and center.”

Because large-load projects can require significant investments in generation and grid infrastructure, utilities must verify that projects are viable before committing resources. This new load process includes a number of milestones, such as load applications, land acquisition, transmission studies, zoning approvals, financial assurances, and rate agreements. Meeting these requirements helps reduce risk and provides the certainty needed to make responsible planning and investment decisions.

While the growing demand for electricity presents significant opportunities, meeting that demand is neither simple nor immediate. Developing new generation and grid infrastructure requires years of planning, engineering, permitting, procurement, and construction. As a result, some large-load customers may need to wait until sufficient resources are available. However, **existing customers and traditional new service requests, including residential, commercial, agricultural, and irrigation loads, will continue to be served through the timely connection processes that customers have come to expect.** Throughout this process, it is essential to maintain fair cost allocation by ensuring that new customers bear an appropriate share of the investments required to serve their needs.

As the energy landscape continues to evolve, Cedar-Knox remains committed to meeting new opportunities for growth while staying true to our core responsibility of serving our existing customers. By carefully planning for new large loads, maintaining fair cost allocation, and making prudent investments in infrastructure, we will continue to provide the affordable, reliable electric service our customers depend on every day. With a balanced approach to growth and infrastructure development, we can support new opportunities while preserving the reliable service and competitive rates our customers expect and deserve.



Mike Lammers

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IS YOUR HVAC SYSTEM READY FOR FALL?

As colder weather approaches, fall is a good time to ensure your heating and cooling system is ready for winter. A few simple maintenance steps can improve comfort, reduce energy use and help prevent a breakdown when you need heat the most.

Schedule a Professional Inspection

A professional can check for worn parts, airflow issues, safe operation and other problems that may not be obvious to a homeowner.

Change or Clean Air Filters

Air filters usually need to be changed every one to three months. A dirty filter can block airflow, make your system work harder and affect indoor air quality.

Check Airflow Throughout the Home

Ensure all registers and vents are clean and not blocked by furniture, rugs, curtains or other items.

Keep most of the registers open throughout your home. Closing vents in unused rooms can actually disrupt airflow and make your system work harder.

Reduce Heat Loss

Look for drafts around windows and doors, and seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk.

Check insulation as proper insulation can help keep warm air inside and reduce strain on your heating system.

Know When it May be Time For a Replacement

Heating systems more than 10 years old may operate less efficiently than newer models.

Watch for signs such as increasing energy bills, uneven heating, frequent repairs, unusual noises or a system that takes too long to heat your home.

Planning ahead can help you avoid an emergency replacement during extreme cold.



Harvest season is almost here! That means sharing the road with large farm equipment that sometimes is slow-moving. Please use extra caution on our local roads to keep everyone safe.

Slow down and stay alert. Be sure to share the road with care.



Be patient – passing may not be safe or legal in many situations.



Avoid distractions – put the phone down and keep your attention on the road.



INCENTIVE ALERT

If you have your HVAC System inspected as suggested, you will likely qualify for a **\$30** rebate. Visit our website for more details and the application form at <https://cedarknoxppd.energywisenebraska.com/residential/>



ENERGYWISE
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



Know What's Below. Call Before You Dig!

In conjunction with 8/11 Day, Tim Loberg, CKPPD Operations Coordinator and 811 Board Member visited a few excavator crews at their job sites to promote safe digging practices.

CKPPD would like to remind all excavators and homeowners to call **811** or visit **ne1call.com** **before digging – every time.** It's the law and free of charge. Locating underground utilities before digging helps prevent costly damage, personal injury, and potentially life-threatening circumstances. Thank you for digging responsibly and most importantly, **SAFELY!**