

October 1, 2013
Contact: Duane Lammers, Manager of Operations
Phone: 402-372-2463
For Immediate Release

Pole Testing at CCPPD

Osrose Utilities Services will be testing and treating Cuming County Public Power District power poles in the St. Charles South & Sherman South township in Cuming County and Pebble, northern Cuming, & northern Ridgeley township in Dodge County in early October.

Crews will start testing poles in early October and will continue for several weeks.

Poles are tested for deterioration and stability. If a pole does not pass inspection it will be changed out with a new pole soon after the results are brought to the office.

Regular maintenance of CCPPD service territory is vital to promote reliability. Pole testing is just one part of this maintenance. In 2012, approximately 2,500 poles were tested.

“In 2012 we had a 1.2 percent failure rate overall, which is great,” Duane Lammers, CCPPD operations manager stated.

CCPPD’s goal is to test every pole in the system in a ten-year time frame. This means two to three townships need to be tested each year.

Osrose Utilities Services will be seen throughout the testing areas driving four wheelers as well as marked and unmarked pickups. There will be approximately four to six pole testers. All pole testers will have logos on their clothing.

There are a number of steps in pole testing. First the poles are inspected visually, then the dirt around them is excavated to a depth of 18 inches and the pole is cleaned to prepare the pole for treatment and to look for decay.

Next the poles are sounded with a hammer to check for decay above ground, and the poles are bored into to check for internal decay. External decay is chipped or shaved away and the pole is treated with a wood preservative. The hole around the pole is backfilled and the pole is tagged with the year of the test.

Osrose also repairs broken ground wires, drives and tests ground rods and installs guy guards as needed. Information on every pole is recorded and presented to the District at the end of the testing.

CCPPD provides non-profit retail electrical energy to rural residents in and around Cuming County including the Villages of Bancroft, Beemer and Dodge. The District’s lines also power up the towns of West Point, Wisner, and Pender through wheeling agreements. Eighteen full time employees maintain the slightly more than 3,500 meters and 1,253 miles of line. The first lines were energized in 1938.