

## A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter



Robert Frost said, “Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can’t, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.” I can certainly relate to this quote and have known folks on both sides of the spectrum. I have,

in fact, been on both sides of the spectrum. There is no worse feeling than having the answer to a tough question or an extremely valid point that no one seems to want to hear. A close second is the realization that following a conversation with someone and noticing that it was one way with only one person doing a lot of talking and not near enough listening. As I’ve stated before, I try to make sure that what I share in these pages is timely and valuable for you all that read, I don’t want to write for the sake or writing.

The Cuming County Public Power District was established by its customers to provide themselves with a vitally needed service, which would improve their economic and social standards with significant long-range benefits and contribute to the wellbeing of the community. We hold to a number of ideals that inform our decisions and keep our eyes on what is important and what behaviors and beliefs will drive us toward the completion of our mission. To that end, we believe: That it is the right of persons to provide for themselves a vitally needed service, and that CCPPD provides this service in a manner consistent with our mission statement as approved and provided by the Board of Directors. That CCPPD exists for the mutual benefit of its customers, directors, employees, and of the public and that free participation, understanding and support by each of these groups is necessary for a well-run utility. We further believe that the ability of CCPPD to continue providing this essential service depends upon attracting and retaining capable employees who must be competitively compensated and given every opportunity for personal development and for advancement within the limits of their demonstrated

capabilities. Also, CCPPD must exemplify leadership in the community by doing all things essential to good management, including proper organization, sound financing, leader development and adequate research.

We also believe that these opportunities carry with them both economic and social responsibilities. Our obligations and responsibilities as a local business are to the community, the public and our employees, as well as to our customers. These groups should also benefit from leadership in the economic and social development within and adjacent to the service area. Finally, we know that the attaining of this mission will require constant and untiring effort toward the achievement of our objectives.

If we live out the beliefs/statements listed, we are living up to our mission which states that: “The employees of CCPPD provide highly reliable, cost-based electricity in a safe, professional manner.” And our vision statement, “The customers of CCPPD view us as a leader in providing innovative, customer-oriented utility services who are accountable for our decisions and actions.” So, the question of the day is, how are we doing? Because, after all, like author Steve Maraboli stated, “Everything is easier said than done. Saying something is easy. The challenge and the reward are in the doing.” Have a great Spring!



# Operation Round-Up®

## Round Up Your Electric Bill

[ccppd.com/operation-round-up](http://ccppd.com/operation-round-up)

People helping people is a rural way of life. Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) has a unique way to help others in our area. It's called Operation Round-Up. The program lets CCPPD customers round up their electric bill to the next dollar amount, with the spare change going to a host of individuals and organizations that apply for funding.

It's a small price to pay. The most it can cost in a given month is 99 cents, though it could be as little as a penny. The average amount is 45 cents, and most customers will pay around \$6 a year.

These nickels and dimes make a huge difference. A five-member board volunteers their time and decides where the money is distributed. Our current Operation Round-Up board members are Amber Bridges (Bancroft); Brooke Fullner (Beemer), Brenda Duhsman (West Point), Kay Raabe (Wisner) & Danielle Ortmeier (Dodge).

Our ORU meeting was March 29, 2023. Look for updates from our meeting in the next newsletter.

Thank you to all of our customers that are part of this great program that helps so many in our area!

## Authorization Form



Choose one Option:

- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up® Program. I wish to contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to the Operation Round-Up® Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

CCPPD • PO Box 256 • West Point NE 68788

Please call with any questions: 402-372-2463/toll free 877-572-2463

## Youth Energy Leadership Camp

### July 9-13, 2023

Nebraska Rural Electric's Youth Energy Leadership Camp is July 9th through July 13th at Camp Comeca near Cozad, NE. Any high school student currently in 9th through 11th grade can attend. CCPPD covers your cost for camp and takes you to and from camp. You will learn about the electric industry and could make life-long friends. There's also camping, sports, a banquet and dance. A tour of Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity. Contact Nicki White at CCPPD for more information 402-372-2463 or turn in this application form by April 28, 2023.



Deadline: April 28, 2023

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Parents: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of Your Sponsoring Rural Electric System: \_\_\_\_\_

## NREA Youth Energy Leadership Camp

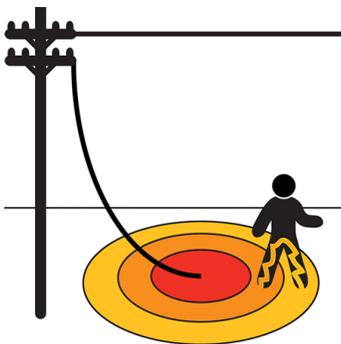
Camp Comeca near Cozad, Nebraska

# Understanding Step Potential & Touch Potential

Summer storm season is coming and with summer storms come downed wires, broken poles, and trees and branches that sometimes make contact with energized overhead conductors. This article covers some of the fundamental hazards of downed energized power lines, and the unseen hazard of step and touch potential.

## What is Step and Touch Potential?

To understand step and touch potential, we first need to understand how energy dissipates across conductive objects. During broken pole or downed wire conditions, some really good conductors exist that provide a path to ground including metal fences, wet soil and puddles. Other conductors exist that may not be so good, yet still allow current to travel to ground, such as trees, wood fences and utility poles. Wood is typically thought of as an insulator, but wet wood will conduct electric current.



The dissipation of voltage from a grounded power line - or from the grounded end of an energized grounded object - is called the ground potential gradient. Voltage drops associated with this dissipation of voltage are called ground potentials. The voltage decreases rapidly with increasing distance from the grounded end of the downed power line.

Another way of describing this is the example of a stone dropped

in a pond. The stone creates ripples that eventually fade as they move from the center. Voltage is highest at the source and fades as the energy moves across the ground.

## Step Potential

When current is flowing from an overhead power line through a chain-link fence to the earth, a high-voltage condition is created and a voltage gradient will occur based on the resistivity of the soil, resulting in a voltage difference - also known as a potential difference - between two points on the ground. This is called a step potential as it can cause voltage difference between a person's feet.

## Touch Potential

Touch potential is the voltage between any two points on a person's body - hand to hand, shoulder to back, elbow to hip, hand to foot and so on. For example, if an overhead power line falls on a car, and person touches that car, current could pass from the energized car through the person to the ground.

## How to Protect Yourself

During storm conditions, the first thing to remember is that power lines may not be where they should be. Keep in mind these basic storm safety rules found in the OSHA Fact Sheet "Working Safely Around Downed Electric Wires"

- Do not assume that a downed power line is safe simply because it is on the ground or it is not sparking.
- Do not assume that all coated, weatherproof or insulated wire is just telephone, television or fiber-optic cable.
- Low-hanging wires still



have voltage potential even if they are not touching the ground, so don't touch them. Assume everything is energized until the linemen can de-energize the line.

- Never go near a downed or fallen electric power line. Always assume that it is energized. Touching it could be fatal.

- Electricity can spread outward through the ground in a circular shape from the point of contact. As you move away from the center, large differences in voltages can be created.

- Never drive over downed power lines. Assume that they are energized. And, even if they are not, downed lines can become entangled in your equipment or vehicle.

- If contact is made with an energized power line while you are in a vehicle, remain calm and do not get out unless the vehicle is on fire. If possible, call for help.

- If you must exit any equipment because of fire or other safety reasons, try to jump completely clear, making sure that you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Land with both feet together and shuffle away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electrical shock. Be careful to maintain your balance.

Any questions or concerns, please call Cuming County Public Power District at 402-372-2463.

# All in a Days Work

*Changing out a pole in Beemer*



# Know What's Below

*Call 811 before you dig*

## Know What's Below

Starting a job - big or small - without first getting utilities marked could result in serious injury, service disruptions for you and your neighbors, and a hefty fine.

**CALL 811  
BEFORE  
YOU DIG**



netcall.com

**Nebraska 811**  
Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

## Cuming County Public Power District

500 South Main Street ♦ West Point NE 68788

402-372-2463 or 877-572-2463

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Find online billpay, tips to save on your electric bill, newsletters, & so much more on our website: [www.ccppd.com](http://www.ccppd.com)

Regular meetings of the CCppD Board are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCppD office



Greg Strehle, President  
402-380-3659



Leroy Mostek, Vice President  
402-380-8803



Brad Petersen, Secretary  
402-404-0588



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