

A Message from the General Manager

My grandfather used to say a lot of really smart things that sounded funny to me at the time I heard them. As a youngster I loved to do whatever Grandpa and/or Dad were doing. Consequently, I worked on a lot of tractors and pickup trucks, fixed a lot of fence, rode a lot of horses, and got to go fishing and hunting. Believe it or not, I was a shy and quiet kid, so I also got to do a lot of listening. The things I heard frame my thinking to this day; whether that is a good thing or not is yet to be determined and very possibly in the eye of the beholder.

One of the things that Grandpa would tell me that didn't make any sense when I was little was "it is a scientific fact that you can't talk and listen at the same time." I was a literalist even as a young one, so I tried to talk and listen at the same time quite often and I decided science might be wrong! I would say to Grandpa that I could hear myself and him. He would always ask me to repeat what he had said at this point and I would always fail the test, which would bring another of his sayings "science might be wrong, but I ain't!" Sometimes this would be "your sister might be wrong....." or "you might be wrong...." Or my favorite "your cousin is usually wrong, but I ain't!"

What, you may ask, are you writing about now Chet? The answer, communications. You see, when I would test these great scientific hypotheses like talking while Gramps was talking, I was

proving the known point; half of communication is listening. If a listener already has their mind made up or is contemplating what they'll say back to the speaker, they are not going to be doing a great job of listening. Kind of like you reading this article and deciding at the beginning that I am off my nut again and missing any potential pearls in the middle or end of the article. Plus, we all know how defeating it is to have laid out a wonderful pearl of wisdom only to have the person we're talking to say, "what?"

So, the challenge is this; put as much effort into the listening aspect of your communication skills as you do into crafting clever come backs or compelling arguments or cogent sentences. If you listen hard, you'll learn different things. You'll also become a better friend, parent, partner, co-worker, boss, or sibling. Not a bad trade



Chet McWhorter
CCPPD GM

over all, in my opinion and, to get back to Grandpa, he and science are right! You can't talk and listen at the same time. Walking while chewing gum, rubbing your tummy and patting your head, listening to Mozart and reading Stephen King, watching Netflix and chilling, all can be done at the same time but talking and listening, not so much. Have a great summer and thank you for taking the time to read!

Customer Billing Minimum Attention Customers!

Cuming County Public Power District customers will no longer receive a copy of their electric bill until your bill is larger than \$5.00. Irrigation customers will have this happen periodically since their irrigation units sometimes use very little electricity. As a reminder, there is no penalty amount charged unless the current bill is larger than \$40. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Severe Storm Tips

Gather Your Information:

Have your account number ready when you call in. You will find your account number on your last electric bill.

Keep it Close:

Have your account number close when you report an outage. Save the CCPPD phone number in your cell phone and add your account number in the notes section.

Remember:

The CCPPD number to report an outage is 402-372-2463 or toll free 877-572-2463.

- Stay away from all downed lines or sparking equipment and keep children and pets away from fallen lines and anything the lines may touch.
- Never remove debris within 10 feet of a power line.
- Have emergency supplies on hand such as fresh batteries, flash lights and a battery-powered radio available.
- Have a wind-up or battery-powered clock.
- Have non-perishable food and water stocked up.
- Have cash on hand, ATM's may not function.
- Have a cell phone with an external battery pack charged or a hardwire, single-line telephone to make necessary phone calls. (cordless phones will not work during a power outage)
- Ensure that you know how to manually open and close any electric security gates or garage doors.
- Ensure that you protect your computers, along with any other electronic equipment present, with a UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) unit.
- Ensure that you are aware of the operating requirements for your gas equipment so that you will know what will or will not work in the event of a power outage.
- Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for a few hours. A freezer that is half full will prevent spoilage for up to 24 hours, and a full freezer for 36-48 hours. Extend food storage by packing refrigerated milk, dairy products, meats, fish, poultry, eggs, and other foods in a cooler surrounded by ice.
- Leave a light turned on so you know when power is restored.
- Refuel heaters, lamps, and generators outside, and stay away from flames or sparks. Wipe up fuel spills immediately.
- Let us know if you are using a generator - this protects you and our linemen as we work to restore power.
- Never operate lanterns, heaters, or a fuel-fired stove without proper ventilation.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. It releases poisonous carbon monoxide.



Cuming County
Public Power
District

Field Data Project Continues

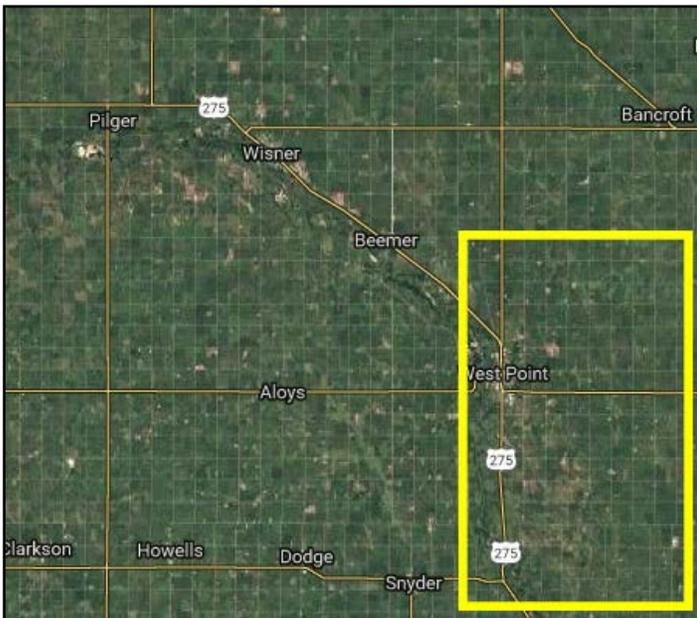
GMS (Global Mapping Solutions) is still contracted by CCPPD to capture GPS (Global Positioning System) information for all CCPPD electrical structures including poles, meters and transformers. They will be working in the southeastern area of the CCPPD service territory. This includes parts or complete townships of St. Charles North & South, Sherman North & South, Cuming, Garfield, Logan, Neligh in Cuming County, Pebble & Cuming in Dodge County and Everett, Oakland, and Pershing in Burt County.

Cuming County Public Power District is gathering all of this information for our GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping system. This will allow us to use any electronic device to view all of the equipment and locations of the equipment in our entire system.

This GIS system is tied into all CCPPD customer data, billing and accounting software. This will allow the linemen to pinpoint the problem before going out to repair an issue as well as helping them know exactly what material is needed. For outages, it helps with planning for system improvements and shows what customers are affected. For staking and planning, it allows for correct quantities to be ordered and material needed prior to construction.

GMS will be in the CCPPD service territory for several months completing their work. They will have signs on their vehicles stating they are contracted by CCPPD. We will notify customers by social media, the CCPPD website, press releases, public postings, newspapers and radio on what sections they will work on next. See the map below to view where they are currently working. Please tune in to one of these platforms to stay informed.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 402-372-2463 or 877-572-2463.



Call 811 to locate “utility” lines.

Call your electrician to locate “private” lines.

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



Featured CCPD Employee

Chet McWhorter



Chet McWhorter is the Cuming County Public Power District General Manager. He began his career at CCPD in September of 2014. He has over 20 years of experience in the electrical industry. Previously, he was the Line Superintendent and Safety

Director at Ravalli Electric Cooperative in Corvallis, Montana.

Chet is involved with many different organizations in the community. He is on the St. Francis Hospital Board, is a member of the Cuming County Choraliers, is involved with the West Point Chamber by being the past president and is a board member for the Cuming County Economic Development.

When not working, he enjoys being outside, watching sporting events, working on his home, and most of all spending time with family. He and his wife, Sheila, live in West Point and have three kids: D'Aari-



on, Bailey and Cassidy. D'Aarion and Bailey both still reside in Montana as they were starting college when they moved to Nebraska. Cassidy is going to college in Omaha.

Please help us thank Chet for his dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

Important Certification Earned

Monte Draper, Cuming County Public Power District's Technology Supervisor, has earned the GIAC



Information Security Essentials (GSEC) Certification. This certification is earned after completing 46 hours



of coursework through the SANS Institute and after taking and passing a 5 hour exam. This course was offered through NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) program.

The RC3 program is designed to support cooperatives as they work to improve cyber and physical security to their organizations. These class vouchers were awarded to cooperatives all over the United States using grant money from the Department of Energy. GIAC (Global Information Assurance Certification) offers over 30 cyber security certifications in security administration, management, legal, audit, forensics and software security. GIAC Certifications provide the highest and most rigorous assurance of cyber security knowledge and skill available to industry, government and military. Each GIAC certification represents a certified individual's mastery of a particular set of knowledge and skills.

We would like to congratulate Monte on earning this important certification!