

Cuming County Public Power District

June 2026



A Message from our General Manager *Chet McWhorter*

Peak Demand: Why “rush hour” matters on our electric system.

If you read April’s article, you might remember we talked about one of the biggest drivers behind the cost of delivering electricity: something called peak demand. Peak demand is simply a way utilities measure how much electricity everyone is using at the same time, so we can make sure there’s enough power available when it’s needed most.

You’ve also seen a few changes to your bill recently. Beginning April 1, there was a 5.9% overall rate increase, and accounts that haven’t traditionally been charged for demand (including residential services) began seeing a new \$0.50 per kW demand charge. Those changes were driven by higher wholesale power costs, increased material expenses, and overall system needs. The good news is there are practical ways to manage your bill—especially by avoiding running several high-demand appliances at the same time.

This month, I want to share a simple way to picture peak demand—an example I picked up from the electric cooperative where I grew up, Flathead Electric Co-op.

Think about a highway. During certain times of day, it’s wide open, and you can cruise along with hardly anyone else around. Other times—like “rush hour”—traffic is bumper-to-bumper, and nobody is really rushing anywhere.

Our electric system works a lot like that highway. When many of us are using big appliances at the same time—cooking supper, running the A/C, starting a load of laundry, and turning on the TV—there’s a lot of “traffic” on the electrical highway that connects all CCPPD customers. In the middle of the night, when most people are asleep, the system is much quieter.

At CCPPD, we typically see our system demand peak in the morning from about 7 to 9 a.m. and/or in

the evening from about 6 to 9 p.m. Those are our system “rush hours.” And just like a highway has to be built to handle the busiest traffic, the electric system has to be built to handle the highest demand—even if that top-end demand only shows up once a week (or less).

So why does peak demand matter? Because CCPPD has to build and maintain a system that can handle everyone’s highest-usage moments, not just the average day. That means having enough generation available, along with lines, substations, and other equipment, to meet the biggest spikes in demand. Those resources cost money whether they’re being used at full capacity or not, and those costs are reflected in the rates we all pay.

When we reduce peak demand, we make better use of the “highway” we already have, we can sometimes delay (or avoid) building new power plants and/or power lines. That helps to keep affordable rates for everyone.

Try to avoid running multiple high-demand appliances at the same time (for example: oven + dryer + A/C all at once).

If you can, shift laundry or dishwashing to later in the evening or other off-peak times.

On the hottest days, consider turning your thermostat up a couple degrees during the peak window.

Use smart thermostats or appliance delay-start features to help stagger when things turn on.

These small changes might not feel like much on their own, but when a lot of customers do them, they add up—and that can noticeably reduce the “traffic” we see during our electrical rush hours. If you have questions about using electricity efficiently or ways to save on your power bill, please give us a call. We’re happy to help.

Around the District

Talking Safety



St. Wenceslaus Catholic School Safety Demo



Willy & Eric talked to the kids about electrical safety. Thanks for the attention and great questions!

Thank you to Beth Wisnieski for the great pictures!

STEP POTENTIAL *know what to do*

If the car/vehicle you are in hits a utility pole, your vehicle and the surrounding area can become energized. Even if you do not touch lines or equipment, you can still be **KILLED** or **SERIOUSLY INJURED!**

- Stay in the car/vehicle and call 911.
- Fire is the only reason to leave the vehicle before the CCPPD lineman arrives.
- Open the vehicle door & jump clear of the vehicle with your feet together.
- **DO NOT** touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time.
- Continue to hop or shuffle away with your feet together as far as you can.

Call the CCPPD office for any outages 402-372-2463 or toll free at 877-572-2463.



Employee Spotlights

Each month we will spotlight two employees at Cuming County Public Power District. Please help us thank them for their dedication.

Kari Haase



Kari Haase serves as CCPPD's Assistant General Manager and Chief Financial Officer. She began her career at Cuming County Public Power District on March 10, 1998.

Kari started as an Accountant and, within a year, advanced into a Finance & Accounting supervisory role. She was named Manager of Finance and Administration in 2002, became CFO in 2014, and stepped into her current Assistant General Manager/CFO position in 2017.

Kari and her husband, Mike, live in West Point. They have two children: Ty (and his wife, McKenzie) who live in Omaha and are expecting their first child this August, and Brooke (married to Chase Streeter) who lives in West Point with their one-year-old son, Cody.

Outside of work, Kari stays closely involved in the community. She recently completed her third term on the West Point Community Foundation (including service as president) and continues to help track funds for the West Point Trails and Pathways Project.

Please join us in thanking Kari for her many years of dedicated service and leadership at CCPPD.

Monte Draper



Monte joined CCPPD in 2008 and currently serves as Chief Information Officer. As CIO, he oversees the District's technology infrastructure, cybersecurity posture, and long-term Information Technology strategy - ensuring CCPPD's

systems remain reliable, secure, and positioned to meet the evolving demands of modern utility operations. He also leads technology planning efforts for the District, including vendor oversight, policy development, and evaluating emerging technologies to improve operational efficiency.

Monte and his wife, Maggie, live in Dodge, Nebraska, where they are kept busy by their three children - Jenna, Josh, and Julia. Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his family as well as reading, photography, and watching movies.

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



Energy Saving Tips

Low-Cost Ways to Save

- 1** **HVAC Filters:** Change HVAC filters once a month to help save energy and improve indoor air quality. Dirty filters make your system work harder and use more energy.
- 2** **Power Strips:** Purchase a smart power strip to turn off electronic equipment when not in use.
- 3** **Lighting:** ENERGY STAR® qualified LEDs use at least 75% less energy and about 90% less heat than incandescent lights and last about 50 times longer, saving both money and energy.
- 4** **Weatherizing:** Caulk, seal, and weather-strip around windows and entry doors to prevent air leaks, you can save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling costs.
- 5** **Thermostat:** Install a programmable thermostat and adjust the settings to save energy when you are not at home. You can save on heating and cooling costs by turning your thermostat up in the spring and summer and down in the fall.
- 6** **ENERGY STAR® Appliances:** Purchase ENERGY STAR® appliances such as electronics, refrigerators, freezers, water heaters, and washing machines. They are more energy efficient than standard models.
- 7** **Insulation:** Add insulation in your attic to get an R-value of at least 30. Improving attic insulation can save 10% to 50% of your heating and cooling costs.
- 8** **Showers:** Install low-flow shower heads and take short showers instead of baths to reduce water heating costs.



CCPPD Rebates

CCPPD.ENERGYWISENEBRASKA.COM

2026 Incentives
CCPPD

LIGHTING
ATTIC INSULATION
HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP
HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER
COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP
LAWN & GARDEN
SMART THERMOSTAT
& MORE



CCPPD Board of Directors

CCPPD Board Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the CCPPD Office at 500 S Main Street West Point NE 68788



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