

# Cuming County Public Power District

June 2021

## A Few Words From Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM



As many of you will recall, I wrote last month about reliability and resiliency. The most salient point from last month's article was that you should expect both reliability and resiliency from your public power district and that CCPPD will continue to do our level

best to provide both to you. Since last month, there have been a few more examples of a lack of reliability. Specifically, the failure of the Colonial Pipeline that serves the East Coast Metropolis from the Gulf Coast is a great example of what happens in industries that remove redundancy and reliability from the forefront of their thinking. Many have opined that the motive for not having a "plan B" for the pipeline is simple economics, but like all things, the actual reasons are more nuanced and plentiful than that which provides great headlines.

The primary issue that Colonial faced was a cyber attack currently being blamed on foreign actors (read Russia). It seems that almost every cyber hack or attack comes from Russia or North Korea. Maybe they are at war with the US and we haven't got the memo yet? In the electrical business, we face multiple attacks on our computer networks each day. Last winter, for example, someone "spoofed" my email address and sent out nearly 8000 emails over a two-day period to everyone in my address book. Very embarrassing and time consuming! Thankfully, no one was harmed, and our Information Technology department was able to recover my address. Still today, I don't know what I did or didn't do to allow my email to get hacked and I'm very grateful that I have very smart co-workers that were able to shut down the threat.

The good news for me, and CCPPD, is that we have multiple levels of redundancy to reduce the impact of the loss of one area of communications. My email being off line for a few days did not cause a major impact to our operations. It was more of a hassle for all of us than anything else. Colonial had no such redundancy in place. Also, there is not a redundant fuel delivery system in place for the East Coast Metroplex. They used to have refineries in the Northeast, but economics and environmental pressures shut them down. As you've noted with the Keystone XL situation, there is no love loss for pipelines so even though they've discussed a second, redundant pipeline to Colonial, there will not be a second pipeline anytime soon.

In the electrical industry, we need to build transmission lines and a lot of them to move around the distributed, renewable generation that is generally built in less populated areas. The reality is, however, that transmission lines aren't popular. No one really wants a large powerline running across their farmland or ranchland. I can't say I blame them. It will be necessary for the industry to move swiftly to build up the redundancy for reliability and by swiftly, I mean that we should've built these lines yesterday. Hopefully, we won't be too late!

Lastly, I'll add that many of these issues are far out of my sphere of influence or control. Given any opportunity, I advocate for reliable and cost-effective electricity for you all and I will continue to do so. If you have specific ideas or thoughts on these issues, please let me know. I'm always glad to visit. I hope you have a great summer and that we get timely rains to allow the crops to flourish. Thanks as always for taking the time to read!



## Around the District



The linemen took wires down in the old Bancroft Substation. It is now de-energized and everything is transferred to the new substation.



Willy Anderson & Tyson Steskal presented the safety demo for the 4-H kids that attended the Progressive Agricultural Safety Day at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Scribner.



These fishing lines were found on some CCPPD power lines. We want to remind everyone when fishing to please look up and be aware of power lines. We want to keep everyone as safe as possible while enjoying our beautiful Nebraska areas!



Willy Anderson & Tyson Steskal presented the safety demo for the Howells-Dodge 4th graders. Thanks for inviting us and having such great questions!

## Fire Extinguisher Safety

*Putting out small fires*



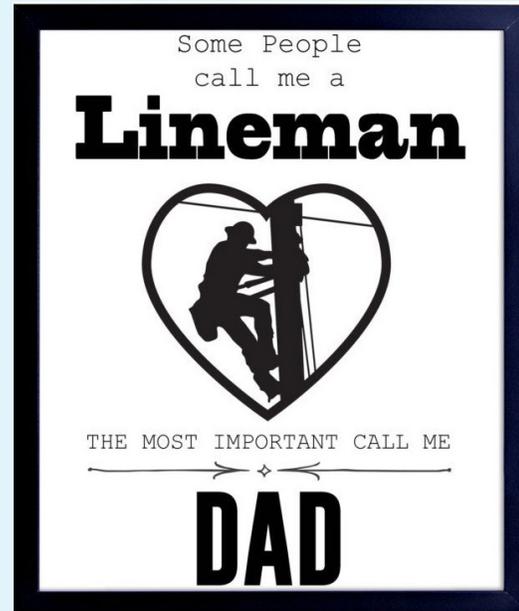
CCPPD employees spent time at the May monthly safety meeting practicing putting out small fires with fire extinguishers. Safety is number one!

Scott Haber



Kinzey Doggett

# Happy Father's Day! Enjoy Your Day!



## Oversized Loads

*Contact CCPPD*

Any time you are moving an oversized load through the Cuming County Public Power District territory, please contact us at 402-372-2463 or toll free 1-877-572-2463. You are required to fill out a proof of notification before the move. Find the form online here: <https://ccppd.com/wp-content/uploads/Oversized-Load-Proof-of-Notification.pdf>. We will then work out the best route and figure out if any lines need to be dropped.



Look Up & Look Out



Cuming County  
Public Power  
District

**OVERSIZE  
LOAD AHEAD**

**CONTACT  
CCPPD**

402-372-2463

Please look up and look out for overhead power lines and watch for power poles. We have had several incidents this spring. We want everyone to stay safe so please keep power lines on your mind. We can't stress that enough. And if a power line comes down onto your vehicle, the best thing is to stay inside the vehicle and call 911. The only time to exit the vehicle is if it's on fire. Jump with feet together without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Jump as far away as you can with feet together (bunny hop). This safety message brought to you from CCPPD. Safety is our number one priority and we want everyone to stay safe around electricity!

## Power Poles

### *Maintaining and Replacing*

Distribution poles can be found all along our country roads and neighborhoods, bringing power into homes and businesses. To keep the system working properly Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) regularly inspects the equipment and occasionally finds a few poles that need to be replaced. If a pole needs to be replaced, CCPPD does its best to keep customers with power while the linemen get the job done.

Poles need periodic replacement. Weather disasters like lightning, storms, and tornados can cause major and immediate damage. Car crashes, equipment changes, and highway relocation are also reasons why a pole may need to be replaced.

“I would say on average we replace about 10 poles a year because of car crashes or farm equipment damage,” Operations Manager Scott Haber said. “Last year total we set 250 or more poles.”

When a pole is hit by a car or farm equipment, it can cause an electric outage. According to Haber, the outage time depends on how long it takes to get a

crew to the site, how much is connected to the pole, and the conditions the line crew is working in.

“It usually takes about two hours on average,” Haber said. “But, it can take as long as four hours if there is a lot of equipment connected to it. If it is just one line, we can change a pole out in an hour.”

Even poles that don’t suffer major damage will lose some of their strength after being subjected to the elements over the years.

CCPPD will replace 50-60 old poles a year. A total of 1500-2000 poles are inspected on average per year.

“As far as a crew goes, one guy will run the digger truck, while the rest of the crew works on framing and setting the pole,” Haber said. “Once the pole is set, depending on what all is on the pole, one to two guys will go up and do the overhead work on the pole while the others keep an eye on them for safety reasons. At least one guy on the ground is required to keep an eye on the guys in the air.”

Please contact us at 402-372-2463 or toll free 877-572-2463 if you see something that we need to inspect.



## 2021 Rebates

[ccppd.energywisenebraska.com](http://ccppd.energywisenebraska.com)

or call for more info

402-372-2463



Website: [www.ccppd.com](http://www.ccppd.com)

Twitter: @CumingCountyPPD

Facebook: [facebook.com/CCPPD](https://facebook.com/CCPPD)

Blog: [ccppd.blogspot.com](http://ccppd.blogspot.com)

*Cuming County Public Power District ~ 500 S Main St ~ West Point NE 68788*

A grid of six headshots of the board members, arranged in two rows of three. They are all men in business attire.

**CUMING COUNTY PPD**  
500 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
WEST POINT NE 68788  
402-372-2463  
TOLL FREE 877-572-2463

**CCPPD BOARD**  
*Regular meetings of the CCPPD Board of Directors are normally held on the second Wednesday of each month at the CCPPD office*

**GREG STREHLE, PRESIDENT**  
402-380-3659  
**LEROY MOSTEK, VICE PRESIDENT**  
402-528-3872  
**BRAD PETERSEN, SECRETARY**  
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**ED KAUP, TREASURER**  
402-372-2966  
**DANNY KLUTHE**  
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