

Manager's Report

By Chet McWhorter, CCPPD GM



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As of the writing of this article, we are sitting on the precipice of fall. The Huskers have begun the Scott Frost era, 0 and 2 but begun they have. The days are still quite warm, but it is at least cooling down at night, and I see activity in the fields as the fruits of the farmer's labors are nearing ready for harvest. Could there be a better time of the year to bring up budgeting and rates? Probably, but this is when I'll breech.

If you read my articles, you know that I feel that rates are the worst thing to talk about in the electrical business. Rate is a four-letter word after all! In CCPPD's world, our power bill is made up primarily of demand and energy charges. There is also a small percentage of the total bill that is for transmission and ancillary services. The transmission aspect of our bill has seen the most continual upward pressure over the past several years, and unfortunately, we don't anticipate this to

slow. However, with demand (the instantaneous measurement of energy used) and energy (the continued draw on the system) being the lion's share of our bill, this is the area that we need to pay the most attention to and that has the biggest impact on you.

When it comes to rates, the best I have found as a goal is to provide as much stability as possible for CCPPD's customers. Stability means to me that the rates don't yo-yo up and down and that if they increase it's a gradual increase instead of large increases followed by small decreases. We try to hold the line with small increases, when necessary. With that in mind, we have been able to hold rates to a 1.79% increase over the last four years. I'd love zero, but I'll take less than 1% per year.

For 2019, we are anticipating that we will not have to raise rates. We've been working with our power supplier on pricing options and believe we have in place the tools to hold the line for 2019. Earlier this year, I indicated that we would be looking at a 1% per year increase

and that likely will begin in 2020 unless a few other changes occur. But for 2019, we will have no increase. I hope you find this to be good news in a time of low commodity prices and other economic pressures.

Alas, I leave you with some thoughts from my friend Bob, he said: "Over the years, I have engaged in considerable deep thought about (among other things): Our place in the universe, ancient civilizations, human migrations, international conflicts, local and world economics, ozone depletion, the human genome, cloning, pollution, racism, local and world politics, population growth, extinctions, natural disasters, the environment, health care, Facebook, human relations, the space-time continuum and other aspects of relativity, and other factors that affect mankind's struggle to exist. After all that deep thought, I have arrived at this conclusion: When all is said and done, despite or because of what we may or may not do or think, it is just as likely as not that, for better or for worse, everything will turn out one way or another, sooner or later." Thanks for reading and have a safe harvest!



Top 10 Home Electrical Safety Tips

Make sure your family is safe from electrical dangers. Here is a checklist of basic safety essentials to help you keep your home safe from electrical fire and shock hazards:

1. Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs. Replace missing or broken wall plates so wiring and components are not exposed. If you have young children at home, install tamper resistant outlets (TROs) or cover unused outlets with plastic safety caps.
2. Never force plugs into outlets. Do not remove the grounding pin (third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two prong outlet. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
3. Make sure cords are not frayed or cracked, placed under carpets or rugs, or located in high traffic areas.
4. Use extension cords only on a temporary basis - not as permanent household wiring. Make sure they have safety closures to protect children from shock and burns.
5. Check wattage to ensure light bulbs match the fixture requirements. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage ratings than recommended. Screw them in securely so they do not overheat.
6. Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms, laundry, basement, garage, outdoors, or any area with water are equipped with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). Test them monthly to ensure they work properly.
7. Make sure fuses are properly sized for the circuit they are protecting. Know the correct rating, have an electrician identify and label the correct size. Always replace a fuse with the same size you are removing.
8. If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced. Look for cracks or damage in wiring and connectors. Use surge protectors to protect electronics.
9. Check periodically for loose wall receptacles, wires, or loose lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. Immediately shut off, then professionally replace light switches hot to the touch, as well as lights that spark or flicker.
10. As you continue to upgrade your home with more lighting, appliances, and electronics, your home's service capacity may become overburdened. If fuses blow or trip frequently, have a professional determine the appropriate service requirements for your home.



Over Your Head

If you're not there already, go to the top floor of your home and look up. What do you see? A drywall ceiling? HVAC ducts? Light fixtures? An attic access door? If your home is like most, an unconditioned attic is on the other side of that ceiling. Ask yourself this question: This January, what will the temperature be like up there? Without realizing it, you could be losing more than 30 percent of the heat in your home through your ceiling!

When looking for ways to make improvements, first consider light fixtures, and in particular, recessed "can" lights. Can lights, especially those manufactured before 2004, have plenty of holes and gaps to allow conditioned air from the living space to escape into the attic. Because these fixtures traditionally use hot, incandescent bulbs and protrude up, they should not be covered with insulation without first installing a cover with an airtight barrier. While you may choose to make covers yourself out of sheet metal or lumber, most home improvement stores offer airtight can light covers made of a fire-retardant material that are designed specifically for this purpose. Once the cover is ready for installation, apply spray foam insulation to seal air leakages and secure it in place. Ceiling penetrations for other light fixtures or ceiling fans may also leak air from your conditioned space and should be sealed in a similar manner.

If you saw a register, grille or air diffuser when looking up, you have ductwork running through your attic. Is it insulated? Uninsulated ductwork running through unconditioned spaces can lose as much as 40 percent of a heating or cooling system's energy. Special insulation designed for ductwork with at least an R-6 insulative rating and a vapor barrier is also available at home improvement stores.

If you have air conditioning, properly insulated ducts are necessary for more than energy efficiency. During the summer, cool air passing through metal ducts in warm attics can cause condensation on ductwork, and dripping will occur. This can lead to mold growth and safety issues. Uninsulated ducts are also at risk of becoming rusted and leaking conditioned air.

How about an attic access door or panel? If you have stairs or a ladder mounted above, install a molded insulation cover above the access door. If you have a simple door or panel, you can easily insulate yourself with rigid-foam insulation panels and construction adhesive. Finally, install weather stripping to reduce air leakage around the perimeter of the door or hatch.

Now, for the big one. Consider your attic insulation. Due to temperature, compression, aging and moisture accumulation, some insulations lose their R-value over time. The Department of Energy recommends Nebraska homes have an R38 insulation value or better. Insulation batts and blankets are made of fiberglass or mineral wool

We had a great turn-out!



at our

5K Run/Walk

and

1Mile Run/Walk

Thank you to everyone who participated & helped out at the event.

Congratulations to the winners!

All proceeds from the event were given back to the CCPPD Operation Round-Up fund. The fund is from CCPPD customers rounding up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar. The funds can be applied for by local community businesses, organizations or individuals. Over \$200,000 has been awarded by the ORU board since the CCPPD Operation Round-Up fund was formed in 1999.

and are most commonly used in unconfined areas, like unfinished attics, roofs and under floors. Batts and blankets often have an R-value of 2.9 to 4.0 per inch of thickness. Blown-in loose-fill insulation is commonly made of cellulose, glass fiber, mineral wool, perlite or vermiculite. It can be easily blown or spread into areas needing more insulation. Loose-fill insulation usually has an R-value of 2.2 to 3.8 per inch of thickness. If you don't have at least one foot of either of these insulation types, you probably have an energy efficiency improvement opportunity.

Note that reflective insulation or radiant barriers are sometimes installed in attics to reduce summer heat gain and reduce cooling costs. Barriers consist of a highly-reflective material that redirects radiant heat away from the living space rather than absorbing it. Unfortunately, the same effect occurs in winter when radiant heat is beneficial. Since Nebraska has a heating-dominated versus cooling-dominated climate, the summertime benefit is often negated by increased energy use in colder months. Some representatives of radiant barrier material claim their product will provide an equivalent of thermal insulation with an R-value of 25 or higher. These claims are not substanti-

Featured CCPPD Employee Continued from page 3....Over Your Head

Willy Anderson



Willy Anderson started at Cuming County Public Power District on April 1, 2002. He started as a Groundman and within a few years he became an Apprentice Lineman. He

qualified for his Journeyman Lineman status in 2008.

Willy was a sergeant in the United States Army and served overseas twice in his time in the service. He was stationed in Iraq both times. Thank you for your service, Willy!



Willy and his wife, Kim, reside a few miles south and west of Dodge. They have three kids: Meg, Colby and Gage.

Outside of work, Willy enjoys working on their home, putting on grilling contests, being involved in community happenings, organizing events for the Dodge Veteran's Club and spending time with his family.

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

ated because these products by themselves do very little to reduce heat conduction like thermal insulation materials.

If your attic has six inches or less of insulation and you use primarily electricity to heat it, there is an Energy-WiseSM program to help if you want to add an R-value of at least 19 or six inches of blown-in insulation. By participating in the Residential Attic Insulation Program, customers are eligible for an incentive of \$0.15 per square foot of insulation with a maximum incentive amount of \$300 per existing residential dwelling. New construction and/or additions do not qualify.

Cuming County Public Power District and Nebraska Public Power District want to help you make the most of your home energy use. For more ideas on how you can make your home or business EnergyWiseSM, along with possible energy efficiency financial incentives for a variety of improvements, contact CCPPD 402-372-2463 or visit www.ccppd.com or www.nppd.com.



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Twitter: @CumingCountyPPD

Blog: ccppd.blogspot.com

Online billpay, tips to save on your electric bill, newsletters, and so much more on our website

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



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