

A Message from the General Manager

I recently read a profound quote that I'll share. Author Sarah Dessen wrote: "It was unrealistic to be constantly in the happiest place. In real life, you're lucky just to be always somewhere nearby." These words speak to recent events and decisions that we have made in regard to CCPPD.

As I have mentioned over the last few articles, CCPPD had a Cost of Service Study (COSS) performed by JK Consulting out of Lincoln that was completed in August. The purpose of a Cost of Service Study is to determine if the rates being charged for each rate class are correct for the actual costs incurred and to determine if there are any changes in rates that would be necessary to ensure that rates are fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory.

The Cost of Service Study indicated that a 2.1% rate increase in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 and a series of 2.0% annual increases in FY 2020 through FY 2024 would be in order. Not good news but, to put this into the proper perspective, the typical rural general service bill will see an increase of about \$3.32 per month with a 2.1% increase in FY 2019. Although the study indicates at this time that increases are likely in FY 2020-2024, we will continue to analyze all of the information and cut costs where we can to attempt to avoid these increases.

As of this writing, we are working on plans to limit if not remove any increase in rates during the 2020 calendar year. We have been working with the Nebraska

Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, of which we are members, and Nebraska Public Power District on some rate stabilization options. If these come to fruition like we are fairly certain they will, we will be able to hold off on another increase next year. While this doesn't help right now, hopefully it will avoid another dose of pain and hassle for us all down the road.

Around 60 cents of every dollar that CCPPD brings in goes out to pay for power that our customers use. This leaves 40 cents or so to cover the operations and maintenance of the system. The CCPPD system requires continual maintenance and upgrades in order to provide safe and reliable service.

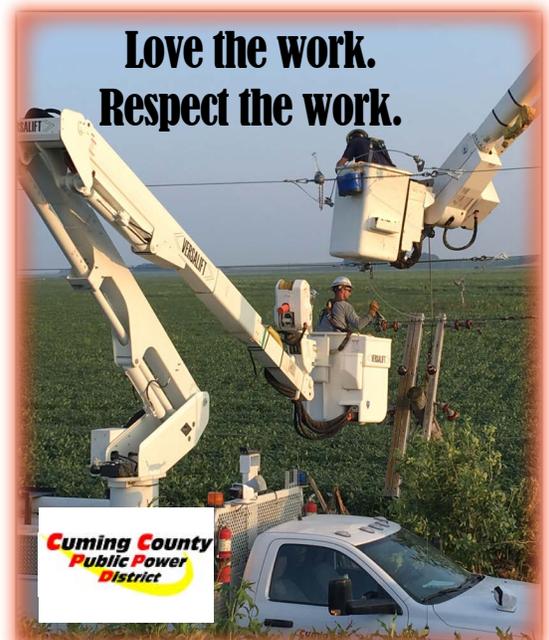
To ensure that our maintenance and upgrades are happening in the right and proper order and that they provide the greatest level of service and economics for all customers, CCPPD performs long range and construction work plans. We just finished a plan with our consulting engineers, JEO, that will cover the District from 2020-2023. This plan will guide us in the areas that need upgrades/maintenance and reduce our system losses. If we can lower these losses enough, this may stave off the need for further rate actions.

The CCPPD Board considered all of the potential rate options and implemented the COSS recommended changes at their September 2019 meeting. You'll see any changes for your particular rate class starting with the bills for



**Chet McWhorter
CCPPD GM**

October 2019 and going forward. After five years of serving you as your District's General Manager, you all know that I despise having to be the bearer of bad news. Since I know that my newsletter hasn't brought you any happiness, I do hope that you have other things in your life that bring you very nearby your happy place. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please let me know or reach out to one of your Directors.



CCPPD Lineman Earns Journeyman Status

Austin Koehlmoos has earned his Certificate of Completion of Apprenticeship to earn the status of Journeyman. In order to accomplish this, Austin had to log his monthly work record for 48 months which equals about 2,080 hours of work per year. This certificate is issued through the United States Department of Labor.

Austin began working at Cuming County Public Power District part time in September 2015 while he was attending school at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. He started working full time at CCPPD in May 2016.

Austin and his wife, Heather, are originally from Pierce, Nebraska, but have ties to West Point. They have one daughter named Natalie.

Please help us congratulate Austin in this great achievement!



Linemen Working on Breakers



The CCPPD linemen have been working on putting in new electronic breakers. Thank you to Scott Haber for the great pictures.



New Look. New Experience. Same Smarthub.

Life is fast, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your Cuming County Public Power District bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your CCPPD account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks...or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous sum-

mer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

Access SmartHub by visiting www.ccppd.com or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your CCPPD account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.



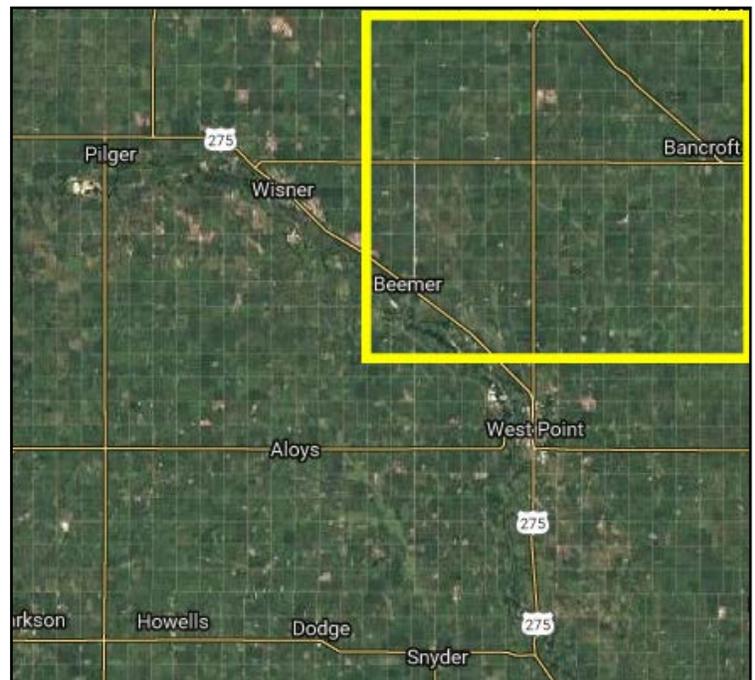
GMS Continues Work

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 north eastern area of the CCPPD service territory.

Cuming County Public Power District is gathering all of this information for our mapping system. It will allow us to use any electronic device to view all of the equipment and locations of the equipment in our entire system.

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.

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



CCPPD 3-Year Construction Work Plan

As Chet mentioned in his article on page one, CCPPD just finished a work plan for 2020 through the year 2023. This plan will guide us in the areas that need upgrades/maintenance and reduce our system losses. If we can lower these losses enough, this may stave off the need for further rate actions.

The work plan for Cuming County Public Power District was conducted by JEO Consulting Group, Inc. They have locations in Norfolk & in Omaha. In the findings of the study, some of the existing system is experiencing voltage drops which could increase as additional loads are added to the system.

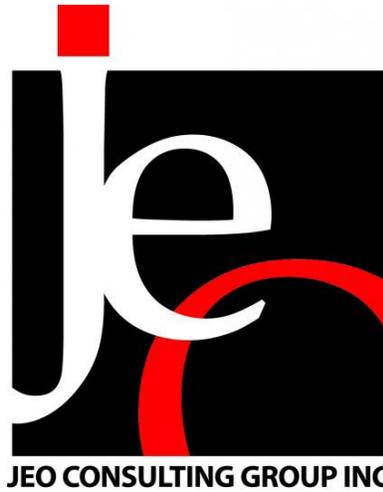
The findings also concluded that conductors could be updated from copper along with pole top assemblies and poles that need to be adequately sized and changed out due to the age of the system.

These upgrades to the CCPPD system will help with voltage balancing, voltage dips, system protection and reliability. Customers will see benefits for many years as CCPPD puts these recommended plans into place.

CCPPD will also work on a ten-year plan that will upgrade existing copper conductors due to age or condition with a priority on three-phase lines due to the amount of customers affected. CCPPD will also look at upgrading aging underground conductors.

Keeping the Cuming County Public Power District system up to date and making improvements continually will help with our customers power reliability for many years to come. Please contact CCPPD with

any questions or concerns 402-372-2463.



Please be careful during harvest!

Farm operators, family members, and farm employees are urged to take these measures:

- ◆ Use a spotter when moving tall loads near lines. Always know where overhead power lines are.
- ◆ Inspect farm equipment for transport height, and determine clearance with any power lines under which the equipment must pass.
- ◆ Make sure everyone knows what to do if accidental contact is made with power lines. Unless the vehicle is on fire, the safest way is to stay inside the vehicle until CCPPD or fire & rescue come to help.



Look Up
And Live!

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 our Blog.
You will find online billpay, tips to save on your electric bill, newsletters, & so much more on our website: www.ccppd.com

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



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Dennis Weiler, Secretary
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