

Cuming County Public Power District

West Point, Nebraska
402-372-2463

October 2020

A Message from our GM, Chet McWhorter

“The right thing at the wrong time is the wrong thing.” Author Joshua Harris said this, and I found it extremely profound. As of the writing of this article, we are sitting on the precipice of fall. 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. As they say, timing is everything. Could there be a better time of the year to bring up budgeting and rates? Probably, but I’m pretty sure it’s not the wrong thing to do.

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 CCPD’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, with hard, intentional work by the CCPD Board of Directors and employees, we have been able to hold rates to a 2.99% total increase over my tenure (six years). I’d love zero, but I’ll take less than 1% per year.

For 2020, we will not have to raise rates. We, along with other Power Districts in the state, have been working with NPPD’s Board of Directors on pricing options and we have in place the tools to hold the line for 2020 and we will work hard to hold the line in 2021 as well. Last year, I indicated that we would be looking at a 1-2% per year increase and that would begin in 2020 based on our Cost



of Service Study and the estimated financial need of the District. Given the COVID 19 pandemic, the uncertainty in commodity prices, and the effect that all of this has had on our customers, we feel it would be irresponsible to add to your burdens by raising rates. So, for 2020, we will have no rate increase.

I hope you find this to be good news in uncertain times and the right thing at the right time. Speaking of timing, one more quote from Willie Nelson, “The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.” Timing really is everything! If you have any questions or comments please don’t hesitate to reach out. Thanks for reading and have a safe harvest!

RURAL VOTES COUNT

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Make your voice count

Remember to vote this election year.

NOVEMBER 3RD, 2020

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RURAL VOTES COUNT

A Local Family Chooses Solar

Meet Korey and Maria Janata

After a year of research and watching CCPPD's solar system output online, Korey and Maria Janata decided it was time to look at installing a solar system on their farm near Howells, Nebraska. They knew Spenner Electric had installed some panels and talked to them about what the process would entail.

Korey and Maria said they installed solar because they are always looking for ways to be more efficient with their time, energy and money. With being a young, active and busy family they were struggling to find an investment opportunity that wouldn't take time away from their family life and already busy schedule.

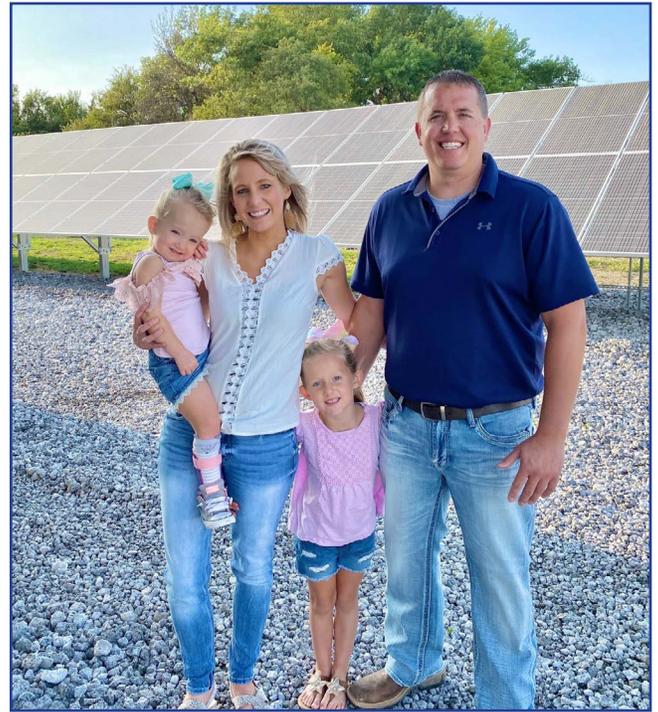
Solar seemed like the right investment for their swine & trucking business. The monthly electric bill was a large expense for them so saving even a little would help in their overall operation costs.

The Janata's were surprised

with how many options of panels, inverters, and racking systems there are with solar. Researching everything really helped them make an informed decision on what they wanted. They installed a solar system for each meter on their farm. Since their farm has two meters, two solar systems were installed. Each system is 25kW which contains about 90 panels per system.

The systems have been up and running for over a month now and they see the systems typically produce from 250kW to 400kW per day. They use pvwatts.nrel.gov to calculate the expected kW production. The output of the system is very close to what the website had predicted.

They also wanted others



to know that there is a federal tax credit currently available for individuals or businesses that invest in solar. The tax credit for 2020 is 26% of your project cost; however, in the following years that credit is expected to decrease. If your solar system involves an agricultural operation, there is a possibility of receiving a grant. There is also a low interest loan available through the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy office. The state office cooperates with many local banks allowing the local banks the option to offer fixed rate financing.

Korey and Maria are excited to see how their solar panels perform and learn more and more about their system. They are happy with the investment they chose and hope their young family can enjoy the benefits from it for many years to come.

If you are looking into solar, please contact CCPPD at 402-372-2463. We can explain the process and then you can research what would be best for you.



2020 Harvest Safety Tips

We hope for a safe, healthy and happy harvest for all!



Harvest Safety Tips:

1. Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.
2. Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.
3. Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.
4. Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
5. Use a spotter to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
6. If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call CCPPD immediately.



PUBLIC POWER MONTH

HOW ABOUT A CONTEST?

Due to Covid-19, we will no longer have our annual Chamber Coffee for Public Power Month in October. Instead, we are going to have a contest! Send us a picture of anywhere in the CCPPD service territory (a pretty landscape, a neat tree, a fun playground, etc.) and you will automatically be entered in a drawing for \$25 off your electric bill. Deadline to submit a picture is October 20th.

Contact CCPPD for more info: 402-372-2463

Power Outages and Blinks

What causes outages & blinks?

Cuming County Public Power District is committed to providing reliable, uninterrupted electrical power to our customers. But sometimes, storms, car accidents and even squirrels can cause power outages.

Let's take a look at the most common causes of power outages:

Animals

Animals, especially squirrels, can cause power to fail when they come in contact with specific parts of the electrical system. When a critter contacts this equipment, it creates an abnormal current which can disrupt the flow of power. CCPPD installs guards and barriers to protect sensitive equipment, but sometimes critters find a way in.



comes into contact with a power line that serves your home. When this happens, protective equipment that acts like a circuit breaker interrupts the flow of power for a split second to reduce the possibility of damage to the electrical system. This is what causes your lights to blink. Many times, the problem on the power lines can be isolated, which limits the number of members without electricity.

Each year the linemen do tree trimming to help decrease outages. Trees and large limbs can come into contact with power lines during storms and cause outages.



Regardless of what causes the power outage or blink, you can rest assured knowing that we will be working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our top priority is to provide you with the safe, reliable electricity you depend on. CCPPD is here for you, our customers. Please call the office if you have any questions or experience an outage: 402-372-2463.

Weather

Mother Nature can be a tough opponent. Severe weather like thunderstorms, tornadoes and hurricanes and the accumulation of ice and snow can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines, resulting in an outage.



Vehicles

Unfortunately, power outages can also occur when vehicles or farm equipment crashes into a utility pole. This can easily bring down power lines and damage other electrical equipment.



Safety Tip: Play it safe and be aware of overhead lines and utility poles when you're driving or moving large equipment.

Blinks

Has your power ever blinked on and off for a few seconds? This is known as a **power blink**. A power blink occurs when an animal or vegetation

Cuming County Public Power District

500 South Main Street West Point NE 68788
402-372-2463 or 877-572-2463

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

Dennis Weiler, Secretary
402-372-2713

Ed Kaup, Treasurer
402-372-2966

Danny Kluthe
402-693-2833

Brad Petersen
402-404-0588

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