

Cuming County Public Power District

October 2026



A Message from our General Manager

Chet McWhorter

Artificial intelligence is showing up almost everywhere these days, the electric industry is no exception and, while CCPPD does not have any data center customers at this time, it is wise to contemplate the possibility and potential issues that will likely arise. In many ways, AI could become a very useful tool for power districts, businesses, and customers. It can help predict when electricity demand will rise, spot equipment problems before they become outages, improve maintenance planning, and make better use of all generated electricity, batteries, and other local power resources.

At the same time, AI also comes with a very real challenge: it uses a lot of electricity. The large data centers that run AI systems are packed with high-power computer equipment that needs steady, reliable power around the clock. That kind of load can put pressure on substations, transformers, power lines, switchgear, backup generation, and cooling equipment. In most areas, the biggest question for a new AI project is not whether the building can be built, but whether the electric system can serve it.

Conversely, there are many positives. New AI-related electric loads can drive investment in the grid. That may mean upgraded substations, stronger transmission and distribution lines, advanced controls, energy storage, and more reliable service. If planned well, those improvements can help more than just the data center. They can strengthen the system for homes, farms, schools, hospitals, and businesses in the surrounding area, too. However, I have read that "Smart machines still need wise humans."

It's important to remember that there are also drawbacks. AI loads can grow faster than power districts and other utilities can build the infrastructure needed to serve them. Major electrical equipment

often takes a long time to order and install. Upgrades are expensive and there can also be hard questions about who pays for them. Customers do not want to see their bills rise just because one large project needs a lot of power. Reliability is another concern if too much load is concentrated in one place or if it changes suddenly can cause real challenges to the CCPPD system.

I am of the belief that the answer is not to avoid AI, but to be honest about what it requires. Power districts, regulators, developers, and communities will need to plan carefully. That means better forecasting, fair cost-sharing, stronger grid planning, and smarter use of storage, efficiency, flexible demand, and generation. Data centers should not simply be big power users; whenever possible, they should also be good grid partners. And it is important to remember that, according to Ace Cloud, "Ethics is the source code of society."

AI has the potential to make electrical systems smarter and more efficient, but it also brings some of the largest new power demands your public power systems have seen in years. The communities that benefit most will be the ones that plan ahead, ask the right questions, and make sure growth is served reliably, affordably, and responsibly, which is precisely what CCPPD is endeavoring to do for the betterment of our communities. Enjoy the Autumn, have a safe harvest, and Go Big Red!



Zobel Family Farms

And a Loving Anniversary



The Zobel Family Farm was established in 1880 near Bancroft, Nebraska, and has grown into a six-generation family tradition. Today, two generations of the Zobel family work together to raise high-quality beef and pork while continuing the family's long-standing agricultural heritage.

The idea of selling their own meat products began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. What started as an idea soon became a reality, and the family began selling their products at local farmers markets. They built much of their initial customer base in the Omaha area and have continued to grow their business through word of mouth and loyal customers.

Zobel Family Farms offers single-sourced Black Angus beef and Duroc-cross pork. They offer individual cuts and processing shares and they also have local restaurants that serve their meat on their menu. Much of the feed used for their livestock is grown right on their own farm ground, allowing the family to maintain greater control over the quality of their products.

Quality is a top priority for the Zobel family. All of their beef and pork is dry-aged before being processed into individual cuts. This process helps bring out the best flavor and tenderness in each cut, providing customers with a high-quality product they can feel good about serving their families.

While the farm has strong local roots, Zobel Family Farms now ships its products throughout the continental United States. Their products have even made their way to Alaska, thanks to a customer originally from West Point who takes Zobel products back home with them.

Among their most requested products are filets, hamburger and bacon.



A Zobel family picture at their daughter's wedding.

Zobel Family Farms remains a small business with a dedicated team of employees who love what they do and share the family's vision of providing high-quality beef and pork. Family continues to be at the heart of the operation, with all of the Zobel children involved in the farm and meat business. The family looks forward to the

day when the next generation, including their grandchildren, can become an even bigger part of the family business.

The Zobel family is proud to carry on a tradition that began more than 140 years ago while building a business for future generations.

To learn more about Zobel Family Farms and keep up with their products and activities, follow them on Facebook and Instagram, or contact them through their website: ZobelFamilyFarms.com

A Fun Family Story

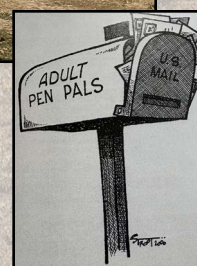
Another fun tidbit about the Zobel family is how Bob Zobel met his wife, Barb. The two met through the Adult Pen Pal section of the Nebraska Magazine (formerly called Rural Electric Nebraskan). This was a popular section in the magazine where people could write to others in Nebraska.

Bob and Barb recently celebrated their 14th wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Bob and Barb!



The Zobel Family Farms Meat Building



The picture in the background is of the family farm.

Zobel Family Farms

Employee Spotlights

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

Scott Haber



Scott Haber serves as the Operations Manager for Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD). He began his career with the District on May 16, 1986, and has more than 40 years of dedicated service.

As Operations Manager, Scott oversees all aspects of the Operations Department. He schedules work for the line crew, works closely with

customers regarding their needs and services, addresses safety concerns, coordinates vehicle maintenance, manages paperwork, and communicates with every department within CCPPD.

Scott began his career as a Groundman and soon advanced to Apprentice Lineman. After completing the required training and testing, he became a Journeyman Lineman, later serving as a Working Foreman before being promoted to his current position as Operations Manager.

Outside of work, Scott enjoys spending time outdoors, attending sporting events, camping, and—most of all—being with his family. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Beemer and have three children: daughter Corie, her husband, Collin, and their daughter, Emery; and sons Colten and Cason.

Please join us in thanking Scott for his many years of dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

Jess Hunke



Jess Hunke began his career with Cuming County Public Power District in 2010. Today, Jess serves as a Working Foreman with CCPPD. Throughout his years with the District, he has continued to grow in his career and gain valuable experience serving the communities and customers of Cuming County

Public Power District.

Jess lives in Dodge with his wife, Crystal, and their three daughters, Reagan, Paisley, and Emery. He enjoys spending time outdoors, and when he isn't working, you can often find him keeping up with the girls' activities or duck and goose hunting. Jess and his family also farm on the side, making agriculture and the outdoors an important part of their family life.

After more than 16 years with Cuming County Public Power District, Jess continues to be a valued member of the CCPPD team and takes pride in the work he does for the District and the community he calls home.

Please join us in thanking Jess for his many years of dedicated service to Cuming County Public Power District.

Cuming County
Public Power
District



CCPPD Linemen Working *Changing a Power Pole*



2026 Incentives ccppd.energywisenebraska.com

Incentives for your Home, Business,
Ag Operation and Lawn & Garden.

We offer a wide range of EnergyWiseSM incentives and rebates designed to help you **SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY** in partnership with our wholesale power supplier, NPPD. For more information contact Nicki White at CCPPD at 402-372-2463.

2026 INCENTIVES

- ✓ High Efficiency Heat Pump
- ✓ Heat Pump Water Heater
- ✓ Commercial HVAC
- ✓ Cooling System Tune Up
- ✓ Attic Insulation
- ✓ Lighting
- ✓ Smart Thermostat



Find more info:
<https://ccppd.energywisenebraska.com/>

ccppd.energywisenebraska.com

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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Leroy Mostek
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