Cuming County Public Power District

October 2021

A Few Words From G.M, Chet McWhorter

Autumn is such a beautiful time of year. Football is being played, the weather is wonderful, and harvest has begun. Soon the leaves will change colors and we'll start getting chilly mornings. Another thing that happens this time of year is that at Cuming County Public Power District (CCPPD) we are looking forward to next year and beyond in the areas of budgeting, financial planning, and work planning. One tool we use to help with planning is the Cost-of-Service Study (COSS). CCPPD had a Costof-Service Study performed by JK Consulting out of Lincoln that was completed in August 2019. 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 nondiscriminatory. 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.

"Bad news isn't wine. It doesn't improve with age." This obvious and true statement credited to General Colin Powell speaks well to my experience with bad news. We did not raise rates in 2020, but need to get back in sequence with the study. We will be implementing a 2.0% rate increase starting October 2021. I know this isn't news you wanted to hear but, to put this into perspective, the typical rural general service bill would increase approximately \$3.35 per month with a 2.0% increase in FY 2021. Although the study indicates at this time that increases are likely in FY 2022-2024, we will continue to analyze all appropriate information and cut costs where we can to attempt to avoid these increases.

This increase in rates will be used to pay for a slight



increase in CCPPD's wholesale power costs and to help pay for the continued operation and maintenance of the electrical system. Around 62 cents of every dollar that CCPPD brings in goes out to pay for power that our customers use. This leaves 38 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 are currently working our construction work plan that covers for the District years 2020-2023.

The CCPPD Board will consider the rate options and implemented the COSS recommended changes at their October 2021 meeting. You'll see any changes for your rate class starting with the bills for October 2021 and going forward. After seven years of serving as your District's General Manager, you all know that I despise having to be the bearer of bad news, but it is "better to have bad news that's true than good news we made up." At least that's what Eric Ries said. I do wish you all a safe and abundant harvest! If you have any questions or ideas for us, please let me know or reach out to one of your Directors.



Happy Halloween

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Eric, Brian, Austin and Jess changed out a power pole near Highway 275 south of West Point.

Local PARADES...

Harvestfest Parade



We enjoy being a part of our great local communities!

Mary Troyer, Nicki, Jackson & Nathan White in Bancroft.

The linemen are holding insulated hoses that they put on a power line that is energized. It's to keep them safe while doing work near the power lines.





This is called a flying dead-end which is a temporary disconnect that the linemen use to shut off power to a certain area. This was used so they could change out a power pole.

If you see these wires hanging on power lines, they are called a ground. The linemen use these to de-energize the line in a certain area to change out a power pole or do other electrical work.



Cuming County Public Power District ~ October 2021

CCPPD's Operation Round-Up® Fund *Round Up Your Electric Bill*

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 29, 2021.



People helping others is a rural way of life. Cuming County Public Power District has a unique way to help others in our area.

It's called Operation Round-Up[®]. The program lets customers round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar amount, with the spare change going to a host of individuals and organizations that apply for funding.

The program was started in 1989 by South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative. It quickly spread across the country as an inexpensive way for customers to make a difference.

It's a small price to pay. The most it can cost in a given month is 99 cents, though it could be as little as a penny. The average amount is 45 cents, and most customers will pay around \$6 a year.

These nickels and dimes make a huge difference. A five-member board volunteers their time and decides where the money is distributed. Our current Operation Round-Up[®] board members are Cindi Peters (Bancroft area), Brooke Fullner (Beemer area), Brenda Duhsmann (West Point area), Kay Raabe (Wisner area) and Danielle Ortmeier (Dodge area).

CCPPD started our Operation Round-Up[®] program in 1999. Since then, many area organizations and individuals have received funding. Since the program was founded, the total amount awarded has been: \$248,408.92.

Thank you to all of our customers that are part of this great program that helps so many in our area!

Authorization Form Choose one Option:

☐ Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up[®] Program. I wish to have my monthly electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar.
☐ Yes, I would like to participate in the Operation Round-Up[®] Program. I wish to contribute \$_____ per month to the Operation Round-Up[®] Program, and the amount will be added to my monthly electric bill. Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email:

Phone:

Account Number:_____

Please return to:

CCPPD • PO Box 256 • West Point NE 68788 Please call with any questions: 402-372-2463

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Bathroom Fans & Efficiency

Walk into your bathroom, turn on the light and fan, and the first thing you think about is energy efficiency, right? Well, probably not. However, your bathroom's exhaust system could be letting you down. Many homes have bathroom fans that:

- are too noisy
- move little air
- are not energy efficient
- may cause backdraft

So, how can you avoid these pitfalls? First, identify what size of fan you need. Fan size is usually rated in the amount of air it can move in terms of cubic



feet per minute (CFM). Most experts recommend eight air changes per hour for bathrooms. Determine your bathroom's volume by calculating cubic feet. You can do this by multiplying length by

width by ceiling height. Take the cubic feet and divide by 60, which is the number of minutes in an hour. Now multiply by eight, which is the targeted number of air changes. For example, a 10'x8' bathroom with an 8' high ceiling would need 85 CFM. When shopping, round up to the nearest size.

Next, choose the quietest, most energy-efficient fan in the size range required. Most fan labels have Home Ventilating Institute (HVI) ratings so you can compare noise levels, as well as their energy efficiency. Fan noise is rated in "sones." The lower the sone rating, the quieter the fan. Efficiency can be compared by how many CFM of air a fan moves per watt of electricity the fan requires. The best fans have sound ratings of 0.5 sones or less and move about 2½ CFM of air per watt. For added assurance of quality and efficiency, look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

Third, select low-resistance (smooth) exhaust ducting. Seal the joints and insulate sections that run through unheated spaces. This will help maintain the fan's air volume rating while reducing the amount of heat gained or lost while the fan is not operating. Undersized or droopy flex ducting and ineffective or dirty backdraft dampers and exhaust louvers can cut rated airflow by more than 50%. Also, duct the exhaust air to where it will not cause moisture damage. Many times, this requires ducting to the outdoors.

Remember, if you have combustion appliances, such as natural gas or propane water heaters or gas furnaces or fireplaces, backdraft may be a concern. Because fans can potentially create a negative pressure in your living space, they may cause the combustion appliance exhaust to back up into the indoor environment. Not only should you ensure this will not happen by installing sealed-combustion appliances, but it is always a good idea to have a working carbon monoxide detector in use for an extra layer of safety.

Fifth, install proper controls. Bathroom fans connected to light switches start running when the light is turned on. Often, users turn the light "off" before all the moisture is exhausted after a bath or shower. Meanwhile, use of a separate fan toggle switch often leaves the fan running longer than necessary. Instead, use a timer switch with a maximum of 60 minutes. This should keep the fan running for at least 10 minutes after you leave the room to remove excess humidity.

Following these simple steps will help you save energy and confirm

installation of a quality, energy efficient bathroom fan that will provide you years of service. For other ideas on how you can become more EnergyWiseSM, call CCPPD or go to www.nppd.com

