

SPPD crews provide mutual aid.
Read more on Page 6.

Photo Credit: Steve Wilshusen





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ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS

In the past two years, Southern has made adjustments to our bill calculating process. Some factors have been adjusted upward, others downward.

We realize the formula may seem like a complicated math equation, so we'd like to demonstrate how the adjustments will impact customer bills. Overall, the results are positive for our customers!

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Beginning with the billing statement you receive in March, 2020:

- The Customer Charge will increase from \$21 to \$23 per month.
- The Energy Charge across all rate classes will decrease by 3.45% overall. This will offset the increase applied to the Customer Charge. The factor for individual customers with the Energy Charge is simple--the more you use, the more savings you will experience.
- The Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) will be continued in 2020 through February 2021. The credit applied to each bill amounts to \$0.00229 per kWh. Again, the more you use, the more savings you will experience.

PICTURE IT...

The chart on page three illustrates the annual application of the three key factors that sum up your total bill. The "Bill Total" section on the bar graph shows the results of adjustments to the average monthly bill for a rural residential customer, and compares calculations between 2017 and 2020. The adjustments have allowed for a downward trend in overall bills since 2017.

BEAR IN MIND...

There are always variances in your bill that make these savings difficult to see. For example, if we experience extreme fluctuations in weather that alter your usage, a lower bill may not be obvious when you see the next billing statement. But, the amount you would have paid without the adjustments would have been higher.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR USAGE

You can monitor your usage as temperatures fluctuate. If you haven't already, check out our SmartHub account portal. It's a handy way to monitor your hourly, daily, and monthly usage. It can help take the "surprise" out of large bills you experience during months of cold weather.



ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS

CUSTOMER CHARGE

The customer charge is the portion of your bill that accounts for the cost to provide minimum services. This includes the cost for a pole, transformer, and meter, as well as some customer service and billing expenses.

ENERGY CHARGE

The energy charge accounts for the total amount of energy used.

PCA

The Production Cost Adjustment is a credit to pass on excess margins produced by NPPD, our wholesale power provider.

BILL TOTAL

The fourth section of this table illustrates the impact of rate adjustments and the PCA to the average rural residential customer, based upon 1,500 kWh per month.

As budgets and rates are established by our board, our vision and mission statements serve as guiding principles:

VISION

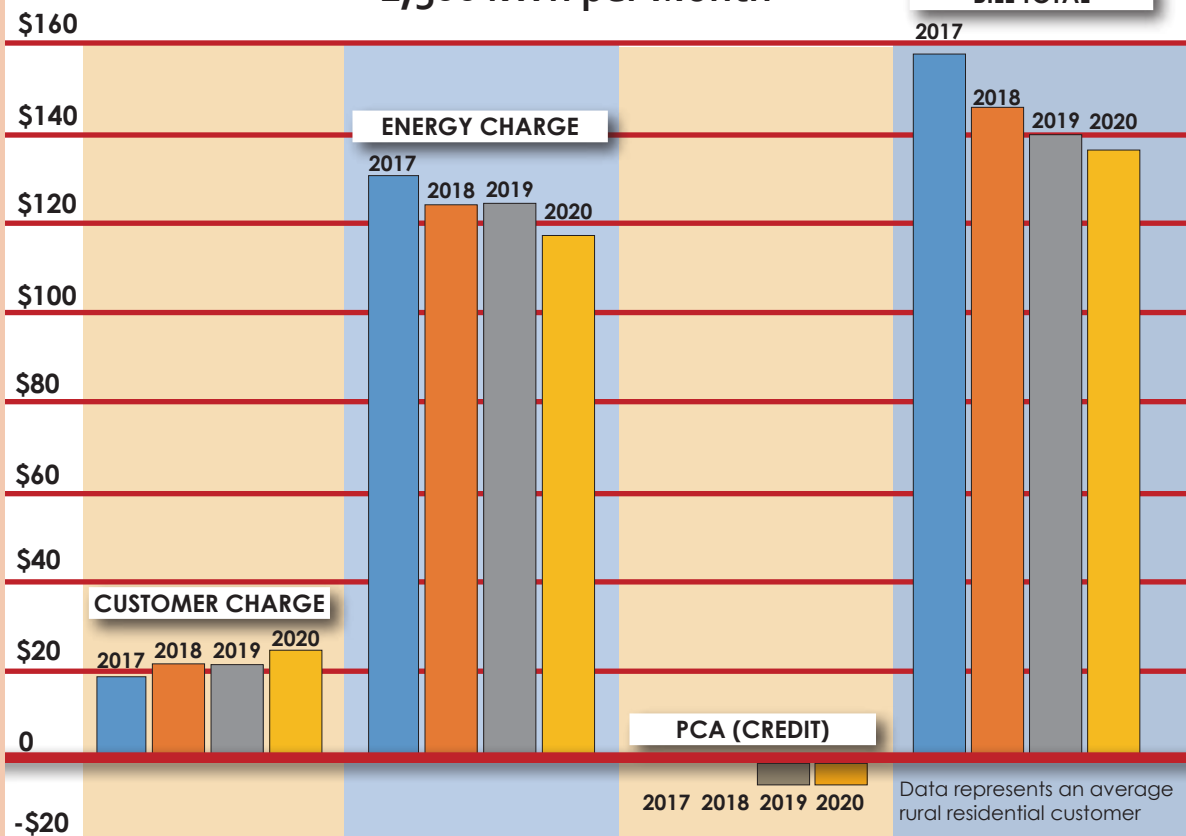
Powering a brighter future for our customers and communities while supporting public power in Nebraska.

MISSION

To safely provide our customers with highly reliable and competitively priced electricity, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions.

AVERAGE MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL BILL

1,500 kWh per Month



RESULTS VARY

The impact to individual bills will vary according to your usage. If you'd like to review other examples of rate adjustment impacts, we invite you to visit our website.

southernpd.com/budget2020



2020 BUDGET ESTABLISHES OUR COURSE

Affordable rates are made possible with careful planning in our annual Budget and Work Plan. Southern's Board of Directors reviewed the Budget in November of 2019, which set the stage in December for the approval of rates for 2020.

Overall, operating and maintenance expenses for 2020 are expected to increase by 1.81 percent, from \$11.37 million in 2019 to \$11.57 in 2020. These expenses account for costs related to transmission, distribution, customer accounts, customer service and administrative expenses.

The Capital Budget will total \$17.02 million for the upcoming year, a decrease from 2019 projections of \$18.05 million. The capital budget allocates expenses for facilities such as substations, poles, conductor, meters, vehicles and equipment. This year, the Capital Budget also includes costs for the final stages of construction for our Funk Service Center.

HELPING YOU FIND VALUE

2020 WATER HEATER PROGRAM

If you'd like to upgrade your existing water heater, or purchase one for a new home, look to our Marathon™ Water Heater Program for a great value. Units are available in 50- or 85-gallon sizes, with varying fees for the option to utilize a load management clock, which interrupts power daily during established peak hours.

Marathon
WATER HEATERS



	NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION, CONVERSION From Natural Gas or Propane	UPGRADE Existing Electric Water Heater
50 Gallon	\$440	\$630
85 Gallon	\$290 TIME CLOCK REQUIRED	\$680 TIME CLOCK REQUIRED

2020 HEAT PUMP INCENTIVES

If you'd like to upgrade your heating/cooling system to an energy efficient heat pump, we have incentives available for you. Incentives vary according to the unit you are installing, and are outlined in the table to the right.

Once you decide to take the step to improve your home's efficiency with a heat pump, you will be required to have a performance verification completed in order to qualify for your incentive. This will assure that your heat pump is operating properly and assure the energy savings you deserve.

HEAT PUMP SYSTEM TYPE	CRITERIA	ENERGYWISE INCENTIVE
DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT	15+ SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT	VARIABLE CAPACITY (INVERTER DRIVEN)	\$600
AIR SOURCE	15-15.9 SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
AIR SOURCE	16-17.9 SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$800
AIR SOURCE	18 SEER 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$1,200
AIR SOURCE	VARIABLE CAPACITY (INVERTER DRIVEN)	\$1,200
WATER SOURCE 1 OR 2 STAGE	ANY EER	\$2,400
WATER SOURCE VARIABLE CAPACITY	35+ EER 5.0 COP	\$3,300

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS

Air source heat pumps are the most commonly used heat pumps. If you are unfamiliar with their operation, here are a few basics:

- Heat pumps move heat, rather than converting it from a fuel as combustion heating systems do.
- Heat pumps can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces.
- Newer, more efficient systems now offer a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like we experience here in Nebraska.
- Because temperatures here drop below 10-25 F, an auxiliary heating system is necessary, depending on the size of the system.
- Visit with a trusted HVAC contractor if you'd like to learn more more about heat pumps!



INCENTIVE PROGRAMS FOR HOMES, FARMS & BUSINESSES

RESIDENTIAL

Smart Thermostat.

If you have a Wi-Fi connection and a central air-conditioning or heat pump system in your home, you may qualify for an EnergyWiseSM incentive of up to \$100 for installing a qualifying smart thermostat. Be sure to check out the EnergyStar-qualified list before choosing your unit, which can be found on the promotional brochure on our website.

Cooling System Tune-Up.

Incentive of \$30 for a cooling system tune-up by an HVAC contractor. Customers are eligible for the tune-up incentive once every year.

Attic Insulation.

If you have six inches or less insulation in your attic, add at least six inches of R-19 and receive an incentive. Incentive of 15 cents per square foot, maximum incentive amount of \$300 per existing residential dwelling. Incentive is available to customers in electrically-heated homes, or with a dual fuel heat pump.

Heat Pump Water Heater.

Available to customers who replace an existing water heater with a heat pump water heater. These units provide twice as much hot water from each kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed as compared to a standard electric water heater.

ChargePoint Charging Station.

A \$200 incentive for the installation of a ChargePoint 32-amp Wi-Fi enabled charging station.

COMMERCIAL

Commercial Lighting.

Lighting technologies developed in the past ten years can help cut your lighting costs 30 to 60 percent while enhancing lighting quality and reducing environmental impacts.

Commercial HVAC Systems.

Incentives are available for upgrading commercial or industrial HVAC systems, or for optimizing an existing system.

Variable Frequency Drive.

Incentives are available for commercial or industrial customers for adding a VFD to existing equipment.

IRRIGATION

Prescriptive Irrigation Program.

This program seeks to help irrigators utilize water and electric energy in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Options include nozzle/sprinkler packages, pressure regulators and more.

Corner Pivot VFD.

Variable frequency drives can reduce the amount of electricity you use in a season by up to 30 percent. Incentive amounts to \$12 per rated VFD horsepower.

If you have any questions regarding the incentives listed on this spread, contact Sam Reinke at SPPD. You can also find more information on our website at southernpd.com, including program brochures, guidelines and applications.



LINEWORKERS PROVIDE MUTUAL AID

MUTUAL AID:

Mutual aid is an agreement held among electric utilities that provides assistance in areas affected by natural disasters such as ice storms or blizzards. These events can cause prolonged power outages and severe damage to infrastructure.

Through mutual aid, utilities lend a hand to other utilities in order to speed up the outage restoration process.

SPPD has provided AND received mutual aid in the past. We have deployed lineworkers to provide service after winter weather and tornadoes.

Our most significant receipt of mutual aid occurred when hundreds of lineworkers helped us to restore power following the 2007 ice storm.

When we deploy lineworkers to other utilities, the cost for lineworker services is paid for by the utility receiving the assistance.

At 9:30 pm on Sunday, December 1, four lineworkers from SPPD were busy packing their bags for a trip to western Nebraska. High West Energy--an electric cooperative headquartered in Pine Bluffs, Wyoming--had reached out to SPPD management just hours before.

They requested help following a significant blizzard. Hastings area lineworkers were deployed in response to that request, including Steve Wilshusen, Bryan Satterly, Donovan Schneider and Dylan Haas.

"When we arrived, it was a mess", says Wilshusen. "There were broken poles and cross arms, and ice accumulations on wire ranging between the width of a golf ball, and a pop can".

As with storms that result in significant damage, men working for High West put in 14-16 hours of work each day. For their efforts, consumers without power were brought back into service in small numbers.

"The area where we worked is not heavily populated", said Haas.

"We might have spent the good part of a day resetting as many as eight poles, only to power up four homes."

The Hastings men were assigned to a region near Potter, Nebraska, and assisted crews with work in that area for the duration of their five days in service.

Wilshusen noted, "After a few days, we really felt familiar with the area. You get to know the men on the crew, and adapt to their region and work practices."

One member of the High West Energy cooperative--Brad Brothers, had this to say, "The way your crew blended right into this area and went straight to work shows the best of Nebraska. For all anybody knew they had been here for their entire life and fit right in."

Wilshusen added that local residents pitched in and provided support where needed. "They helped us by plowing through impassable roads, and pulling us around in treacherous areas. Its truly a team effort among everyone!"

This effort really does demonstrate what we know and practice here in Nebraska--hard work, and genuine concern for our neighbors. We are glad these men were able to help another utility in need of assistance. We are also grateful this team-effort between utilities exists. When we experience significant damages caused by nature, it's nice to know that additional help is available!

"Our friends in the electricity industry are extraordinary. They stood shoulder to shoulder with us to vercome many challenges and get electricity flowing again."

***--Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager
High West Energy***



OPERATION ROUND UP

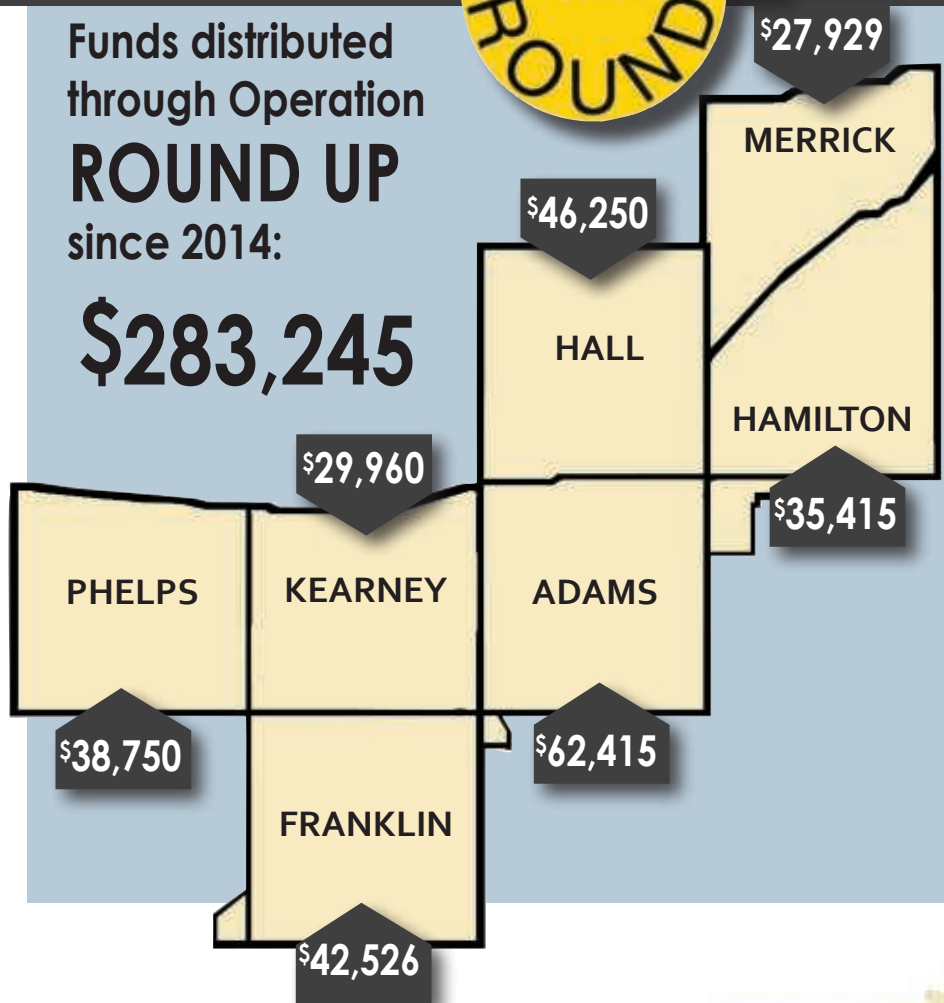
The Operation ROUND UP Program has been growing and building up great things since its inception five years ago. So far, 168 projects have received a boost from this program, with total funds distributed at \$283,245.

The total funds vary per project, with maximum grant funds awarded at \$2,500.

If you are not currently participating in the Operation ROUND UP Program, you are welcome to enroll at any time. Contact our Customer Services Department, and you can ROUND UP your bill each month to the nearest whole dollar. The average collection per year amounts to \$6, and it makes a big difference in our communities! We gratefully thank everyone who makes this program possible!

Funds distributed through Operation
ROUND UP
since 2014:

\$283,245



DONIPHAN RECREATION CENTER IMPROVES COMMUNITY BATTING CAGE

SPPD recently provided an official presentation of funds to the Doniphan Recreation Association. This group was successful in their application for a grant totaling \$2,500.

The funds were sought to help fund improvements to the community's batting cage, which was in need of a new net and concrete foundation.

The Doniphan Recreation Association provides baseball and softball programs for over 140 local youth every year, ranging from 4 to 12 years old.

This organization also raises funds by selling snow cones at the community's annual Fourth of July Fireworks celebration, and through registration fees and concession stand sales. Their efforts are intended to keep



registration fees low, and offer scholarships to youth that cannot afford those fees. We commend their efforts in adding to the quality of life in the community of Doniphan!

BEST WISHES, RICK DEAN



RICK DEAN

On Tuesday, January 7th, Rick Dean put in his final day of employment with SPPD after 34 years of service and dedication to customers from Franklin County.

Rick began his career as an apprentice lineworker on November 18, 1985. At the time of his hire, he worked for Franklin County Public

Power District, and his service continued when Southern Public Power District merged with Franklin County in 1990.

Six years later, he was promoted to Lead Lineworker on August 8, 1996. He assumed his duties as the Area Manager for the Franklin Service Area on June 3, 2013. During that time he has overseen the daily operations of the Franklin office. He has provided outstanding leadership through major weather events, including a tornado that caused lengthy outages in 2014 for customers in Northern Franklin County.

If you know Rick, please join us in wishing him a restful, well-earned retirement. It has been a pleasure having his friendly demeanor and knowledge of Franklin County to help SPPD better serve customers who live and work in that area!



HARLEY SCOTT

Due to the retirement of Rick Dean, two promotions have been made to complete our operations management team.

Harley Scott has assumed the position of Area Manager for the Franklin Service Area. Harley has 26 years of experience serving the customers of SPPD. He began his new duties officially on January 1st.



BRIAN ANDERSON

Brian Anderson of Holdrege has been promoted to fill Harley Scott's previous position--Maintenance Supervisor for the Holdrege Service Area. He has served SPPD customers for over 14 years, and brings a wealth of practical experience and leadership into his new role.

Contragulations to Harley and Brian.

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One Pot Creamy Tortellini Soup

- 1 med onion diced or 1 cup
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp olive oil
- ½ tsp dried rosemary
- 28-oz can diced tomatoes
- 15-oz can tomato sauce
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 4 large fresh basil leaves or ½ tsp dried basil
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp pepper
- 4 C chicken stock
- ½ C heavy cream
- 20-oz three-cheese tortellini
- ½ C shredded parmesan cheese + extra for garnish
- Salt & pepper, to taste
- Fresh basil, to garnish
- Shredded parmesan cheese, to garnish

1. Place onion, garlic, olive oil, and rosemary in 6-quart soup pot or dutch oven. Sautee over medium heat until onions are translucent.
2. Add in diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, oregano, basil, salt, pepper, chicken stock, and heavy cream. Stir to combine. Simmer for 20 minutes.
3. Place three-cheese tortellini into the soup and cook 12-15 minutes or until tortellini are tender and cooked through.
4. Stir in the parmesan cheese.
5. Serve and garnish with fresh basil and shredded parmesan cheese.

We have a great collection of recipes saved under the "Soups On" board. Look for us on Pinterest.



RECIPE