



LET'S GROW

Planting Season is Here!

Look inside for electrical safety tips and energy efficiency incentives.

ENERGY EMERGENCY

Rolling blackouts impact SPPD customers, more on Page 6.





LEADERSHIP CHANGES

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SPPD BOARD ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

SPPD's Board of Directors elected a new slate of officers for the 2021-2022 term. This process is conducted every two years, and the newly-elected officers will serve their terms through December, 2022.

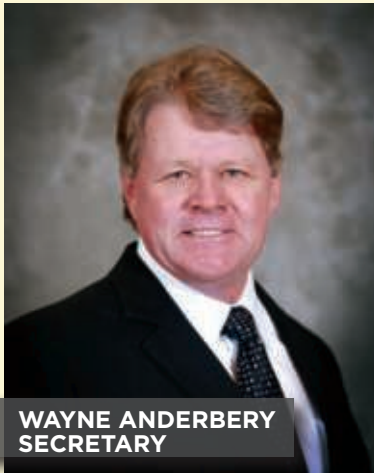
Members elected to office included Arlon Jacobitz, Adams County, Chairman; Dana Meyer, Franklin County, Vice-Chairman; Wayne Anderbery, Kearney County, Secretary; and Kevan Choquette, Franklin County, Treasurer.



ARLON JACOBITZ
CHAIRMAN



DANA MEYER
VICE-CHAIRMAN



WAYNE ANDERBERY
SECRETARY



KEVAN CHOQUETTE
TREASURER

KLUTE COMPLETES CHAIRMAN TERM



Hamilton County Board Member Dean Klute was recognized for his service as the 2019-20 Board Chairman, following the election of officers in January, 2021. Dean has served as a board member since 2003.

DISTRICT NEWS

OATH OF OFFICE CONDUCTED

In January, the District's newly elected and re-elected Board Members participated in the Oath of Office procedure, following their successful election bids in 2020.

Board Members re-elected included Marvin Fishler and Larry Benson, both of Merrick County; Dean Klute, Hamilton County; and Dana Meyer, Franklin County. Joel Kuehn of Kearney County was administered the Oath as a newly-elected member.

Board members elected into office at SPPD serve six-year terms.



JOEL KUEHN

EXTENDING WELL-WISHES TO JOHN CIEMNOCZOLOWSKI

On February 26th, John Ciemnoczolowski logged his final hours of service to SPPD after 42 years.

John most recently served as the District's Area Manager for the Hastings Service area. He began his career as an apprentice lineworker on September 13, 1978. He advanced through the ranks as a Journeyman Lineworker, Lead Lineworker and Maintenance Supervisor. He began his leadership role as the Hastings Area Manager on January 1, 2014.

John's role in his current position included the typical responsibilities for an Area Manager, such as leading Hastings Lineworkers through daily maintenance tasks, construction projects and major outage events. In addition to those duties, John was a valuable resource in planning for, maintaining and troubleshooting metering technologies throughout the District. The value of his knowledge and contributions was earned through his keen interest in understanding exactly what makes things work. His expertise will be missed around staff meeting tables.

If you know John, please join us in wishing him a restful, well-earned retirement. It has been our privilege to know him, and we will always appreciate what he has contributed to the District and its customers.



**ARLON JACOBITZ PRESENTS
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
TO JOHN**

PRODUCTION COST ADJUSTMENTS: 2021

In our January/February Magazine, we broke down changes to your rates for the upcoming year. We mentioned a line item called "Production Cost Adjustment" (PCA), which is a credit that passes excess margins produced by NPPD, our wholesale provider, back to you!

While the individual adjustment on your bill each month may seem small, it adds up to a big number that is returned to customers of SPPD as a whole. At the close of 2020, a total of **\$2,451,005** was returned to customers in the form of PCA credits!

IN-LIEU OF TAX PAYMENTS

In 2020, SPPD distributed **\$1,206,312** of in-lieu-of-tax payments to eight counties in South Central Nebraska served by the District.

These payments assist governing bodies to provide basic services to those living in the counties we serve. These services are essential in maintaining the life and vitality of our local areas, and are a benefit of our public power system.

According to county, the funds were dispersed as follows:

- Adams: **\$82,961**
- Clay: **\$11,371**
- Franklin: **\$20,479**
- Hall: **\$375,646**
- Hamilton: **\$279,606**
- Kearney: **\$149,121**
- Merrick: **\$182,922**
- Phelps: **\$104,208**

LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

REVIEW YOUR RATE SCHEDULES

Irrigation customers, you recently received your Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement from SPPD. If you have not submitted your changes for the year, please do so as soon as possible. Take a look at the summary of rates, as you consider your desired level of control this summer.

If you have any questions about your individual rate schedule or control calendars, please contact our Irrigation Service Department.

CHECK OUT THESE ENERGYWISE AG-RELATED INCENTIVES:

PRESCRIPTIVE IRRIGATION

The Prescriptive Irrigation program offers a \$500 incentive when producers replace all of a system's existing outlet components. These components may include sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads, nozzles and regulators on qualified systems. This incentive is currently offered to qualifying systems once every five years, and components being replaced must be at least five years old to qualify for the incentive.

CORNER PIVOT VFD

Variable Speed Drives (VFDs) reduce output by controlling the motor speed, rather than having the motor work at a constant, almost full load. VFDs can reduce the amount of electricity (kilowatt-hours) you use in a season up to 30%. The EnergyWise incentive offers \$12 per horsepower for these improvements.

LEARN MORE:

These are just a few of the incentives available to SPPD irrigation customers through the EnergyWise incentive program. We strongly encourage you to contact Sam Reinke at SPPD before making improvements if you have questions, or before making major improvements.

Check out some of the other helpful incentives and rebates available to customers at southernpd.com. We also provide programs for residential and commercial customers, and offer options for customers looking to pursue new technologies with the purchase of an electric vehicle.



SUMMARY OF RATES 2021 LOAD MANAGEMENT

ANYTIME INTERRUPTIBLE

Interruption possible any day of the week. Control limited to 72 hours per week, including 6 possible hours on Sunday.

HP CHARGES	KWH CHARGES	BILLING PERIODS
\$25.50 Per HP	\$0.058 FIRST 400 kWh/HP	\$0.036 BALANCE OF ENERGY
		\$25.50/HP APRIL 1st

FOUR "PLUS" DAY INTERRUPTIBLE

Interruption possible anytime on the same four designated days each week, including 6 possible hours on Sunday.

HP CHARGES	KWH CHARGES	BILLING PERIODS
\$31.40 Per HP	\$0.068 FIRST 400 kWh/HP	\$0.045 BALANCE OF ENERGY
		\$25.50/HP APRIL 1st
		\$5.90/HP AUGUST 1st

THREE "PLUS" DAY INTERRUPTIBLE

Interruption possible anytime on the same three designated days each week, including 6 possible hours on Sunday.

HP CHARGES	KWH CHARGES	BILLING PERIODS
\$36.00 Per HP	\$0.071 FIRST 400 kWh/HP	\$0.049 BALANCE OF ENERGY
		\$25.50/HP APRIL 1st
		\$10.50/HP AUGUST 1st

TWO "PLUS" DAY INTERRUPTIBLE

Interruption possible anytime on the same two designated days each week, including 6 possible hours on Sunday.

HP CHARGES	KWH CHARGES	BILLING PERIODS
\$41.75 Per HP	\$0.074 FIRST 400 kWh/HP	\$0.052 BALANCE OF ENERGY
		\$25.50/HP APRIL 1st
		\$16.25/HP AUGUST 1st

FULL POWER

No planned interruptions of power.

HP CHARGES	KWH CHARGES	BILLING PERIODS
\$51.00 Per HP	\$0.1045 FIRST 400 kWh/HP	\$0.074 BALANCE OF ENERGY
		\$25.50/HP APRIL 1st
		\$25.50/HP AUGUST 1st

Interruptions normally occur between 9 am and 11 pm, Monday through Saturday. Visit our website for more information.

LOOK UP. LOOK OUT. LIVE!

After a very cold, snowy winter and ongoing periods of time spent in doors, farmers are anxious to get outdoors and prepare for the next growing season. As the planting season descends upon us, we'd like to remind anyone working on the farm this year to LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, and LIVE. The message is simple, and keeping safety at the front of your mind is essential. We encourage you to read over the following safety tips before you begin your work:

ASSESS.

Begin every morning by assessing your day's work. As you think about hazards you will encounter, take note of overhead power lines. Take measures to avoid electric facilities, and share these hazards with others working on your farm or in your field.



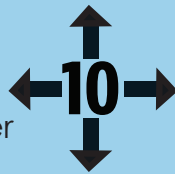
DON'T TOUCH!

If you see a downed power line, keep your distance. Never assume that a line on the ground is de-energized, even after a storm. Contact SPPD or the local utility, and urge other people in the area to keep their distance.



DISTANCE.

Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions, at all times.



Use care when raising equipment such as booms or sprayers. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and sometimes, a power line is closer than it looks.

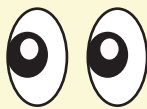
ASK FOR HELP.

Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. The only people authorized to move a power line is a line-worker from SPPD, or the local utility.

Use a qualified electrician for work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems. Don't attempt this work yourself.

EXTRA LOOK...MORE EYES.

An extra set of eyes can really clear up your focus on safety practices on your farm or in the field.



Since the actual location of a power line can be deceptive, use a spotter for a second point of view when moving tall or adjustable equipment.

IF YOU MAKE CONTACT...

If you're in equipment and contact a power line, stay inside. If you step off, you become the electricity's path to ground and receive a potentially fatal shock.

Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and confirmed it is safe for you to exit the vehicle.

LOWER YOUR EQUIPMENT.

Always lower equipment extensions to their lowest possible level before moving or transporting them.

Wind, uneven ground, shifting weight, or other conditions can cause you to lose control of equipment and make contact with power lines.

OTHER CAUTIONS ON YOUR FARM:

Be careful not to raise tall items such as ladders, poles, or rods into power lines.

Remember, non-metallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity, depending on dampness and dust/dirt contamination.



SPPD NAVIGATES SERVICE INTERRUPTION

In the midst of record low temperatures and wind chills in mid-February, Nebraska was faced with challenges greater than what we experience with typical winter weather. Historically low temperatures resulted in more energy demand across the entire central United States. Additionally, decreased availability of natural gas and wind generation created the need to curtail electric loads to protect the electric systems throughout the **Southwest Power Pool (SPP)**. Rolling blackouts were experienced from North Dakota to northern Texas on February 15th and 16th.

Shortly after noon on February 15th, the SPP issued directives to Nebraska Public Power District to begin controlled interruptions of power. For our customers, the initial round of interruptions affected most of Franklin County, and customers in portions of Merrick County. Several waves of outages continued through February 16th, with customers impacted in every county that we serve. Most outages ranged from 45 minutes to one hour, and others extended beyond one hour. In all, we estimate that 4,300 residential customers and 1,600 commercial and industrial customers were affected by an interruption of power due to the emergency status administered by the SPP.

Between February 15th and 18th, utilities in the SPP footprint were subject to varying levels of Energy Emergency Alerts, ranging between Levels 0 through 3. Each level shift signaled a different state of emergency, all of which asked for various energy efficiency measures, with Level 3 requiring reduced peak demands by implementing brief, rolling outages. The outages were applied to customers of all sizes--residential dwellings, stock pumps, industries, and businesses. The specific locations where outages occurred was determined by Nebraska Public Power District.

This was Southern's first experience with such an event. We understand that the developments were concerning for you as customers, and we assure you, we learned a lot about the process as we worked through the challenge.

Going forward, we will be communicating with Nebraska Public Power District and other power districts throughout Nebraska. Together, we will review the events that occurred during the emergency alert period. We hope to identify better practices to help us navigate a similar situation in the future with greater efficiency.

Now that this event is finished, we would like to extend to you, our customers, an expression of our gratitude for your cooperation through this event. We continuously asked for your efforts to conserve energy, and we feel that your efforts made a difference. We also thank you for your patience through this process, especially to those who experienced an outage during such an uncertain time.

SOUTHWEST POWER POOL

Nebraska Public Power District is a member of the 17-state Southwest Power Pool (SPP)--a regional transmission organization that monitors and controls the multi-state electric grids. The organization is a non-profit corporation mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, charged to ensure the reliable supply of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale electricity prices.



SPP OPERATING AREA

ENERGY EMERGENCY ALERTS

LEVEL 0: Normal operations, declared when an emergency alert status has expired.

LEVEL 1: Declared when SPP foresees a risk of not meeting energy requirements.

LEVEL 2: Declared when SPP can no longer provide expected energy requirements. Consumers are asked to conserve energy.

LEVEL 3: Declared when SPP begins load interruption, or rolling outages.

OPERATION ROUND UP NEWS

In 2020, SPPD was privileged to distribute a total of \$49,850 in grant funds to projects throughout our service region. Since this program was launched in 2014, a grand total of \$353,315 has been awarded to qualified applicants!

During the Fourth Quarter of 2020, six applications were approved for grant funds as listed below. We thank the customers of SPPD for making this program possible!

Village of Axtell	Park Features	\$2,500
Naponee Rural Fire Protection District	Bunker Gear	\$2,000
Hastings Rural Fire Department	Fire Gear Washer/Extractor	\$2,000
Jensen Memorial Library	Equipment for security and enhancement of wireless networks	\$2,500
Fredericksburg Lutheran Cemetery	Veterans Memorial	\$2,500
Giltner Booster Club	Sprinkler System	\$500

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Severe weather season is upon us, and we remind you once again to make sure your account information is up to date. If you have recently updated your phone number or removed one from service, please contact our Customer Services Department so you can be efficiently found in our system. Contact us at 800-579-3019 to update your information.

When large scale outages occur, our call center may enter into an "automated" mode, in which your outage is reported by recognition of your phone number. When the system does not recognize the phone number you are calling from, it will ask for the primary phone number to be entered manually. If you are a SmartHub user, you can double check your listed primary phone number by choosing "Update My Billing Address and Contact Information", found under the "My Profile" menu item.

We recommend sharing your primary phone number with everyone in your household, or anyone who may report an outage on your behalf.

LAST CHANCE: SCHOLARSHIP APPS DUE

It isn't an April Fool's joke, potential applicants for our Utility Lineworker Scholarship are running out of time! The deadline to submit applications is April 1, 2021.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website, and must be submitted to Brad Kool by the deadline.

The scholarship offers to graduating high school students:

- \$1,000 for attendance at a 1-year lineworker program,
- \$2,000 for attendance at a 2-year lineworker program.

NOTE: Applicants must reside with Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties.

Visit southernpd.com to learn more.



**When the power
goes down,
they go up.
#ThankALineworker**

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION
DAY
APRIL 12, 2021**

RECIPE

BUFFALO CHICKEN CASSEROLE

INGREDIENTS

- Cooking spray
- 12-oz uncooked penne
- 4 T unsalted butter, divided
- 2 T all-purpose flour
- 2 C half-and-half
- 12-oz sharp white Cheddar cheese, shredded, divided
- 2/3 C buffalo-style hot sauce
- 1/2 C sour cream
- 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 3/4 tsp kosher salt
- 3 C shredded cooked chicken
- 1/2 C finely chopped carrots
- 1/2 C thinly sliced celery
- 3/4 cup panko (breadcrumbs)
- 1-oz blue cheese, crumbled

Preheat oven to 375° F. Coat 13- x 9-inch dish with cooking spray. Prepare pasta al dente in stockpot. Drain pasta; return to stockpot, and set aside.

Melt 2 T butter in large saucepan. Add flour; cook, whisking constantly until golden brown. Gradually whisk in half-and-half; cook until mixture is thickened, about 3 minutes. Reduce heat to low; gradually add 2 C Cheddar, stirring until melted and smooth. Remove from heat; whisk in hot sauce, sour cream, Worcestershire, and salt. Pour sauce over drained pasta in stockpot; add chicken, carrots, and celery, and toss gently to evenly combine. Spoon mixture into baking dish.

Melt remaining butter in small saucepan over low. Stir together melted butter and panko in a small bowl. Sprinkle casserole evenly with remaining Cheddar and panko mixture. Bake until golden brown and bubbly, 25-30 minutes. Sprinkle evenly with blue cheese.



**Check out our
“Casseroles” board on
Pinterest for more
delicious recipes!**

