



NEWS MAGAZINE

Message from the CEO

SPPD holds retail rates steady for eleventh year in a row. — Page 2

Smart Hub Redesign

Smart Hub users will see a new look to the platform beginning in February. — Page 4

Cover Photo

Crews worked together to string new line over the interstate by the Giltner exit this fall.

Photo by Todd Barger



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Message from the CEO

Retail rates remain the same for 11 years in a row

The calendar moves to 2024 and all of us at Southern PPD are excited for another year! Our planning process for 2024 began this past fall with a comprehensive budget process and a Cost of Service study and rate review. We typically set the electric rates on an annual basis allowing customers of the District to plan for their year. The Board of Directors have approved electric rates for 2024 and I am pleased to inform you that for the eleventh year in a row, we will not be increasing retail rates. Furthermore, we will be passing on a Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) rebate equal to the 2023 PCA to most of our customers.

The budget process looks at many indicators in our business including outage time, system engineering data and industry trends. We must maintain a workforce and fleet to adequately serve customers, we need capacity to serve our existing loads with the high level of reliability and also be able to take on the new electric



*Southern Public Power District President/
CEO*

loads as efficiently as possible. This is all carefully considered within the annual budget process.

Once we determine the needs of the District, we then must consider the financial impacts. The revenue requirements are studied and current rates are evaluated to determine if additional funds are needed to maintain the financial position deemed acceptable by management and Southern Board of Directors. The determination has been made to only adjust the large power rate classes

that are impacted by wholesale power adjustments. These minor adjustments will result in zero “new” revenue for Southern and will help keep our rates as affordable as possible.

We are currently receiving a PCA from our wholesale power supplier and this credit will continue in 2024. Southern will again pass this credit on to a majority of its customers. The credit will continue to be .00022 per kwh for next year. This is a direct savings to all customers of Southern. I would like to remind everyone that this PCA credit is not guaranteed beyond December of 2024. Please keep this in mind as you make financial plans going forward. I applaud the Board

of Directors and all the staff at Southern PPD who help make this possible and we will continue to work hard to make sure this credit ends up in our customer’s pocket!

When managing your electric service, we must evaluate the best options to keep your electric service reliable, affordable and be able to meet the needs of our growing customer base. We strive to keep your rates as low as we can without sacrificing reliability. We will continue the critical maintenance programs that are necessary to maintain the high reliability standards we are accustomed to. We plan to complete several work plans projects to harden the

Supply Chain Updates

The pandemic has caused supply chain challenges for many industries including the electric sector. As mentioned in an article early in 2023, Southern has seen lead times for some items extend beyond 12 months. While there are some materials, we are still seeing extended delivery times on the good news is most of the supply chain is starting to correct itself. We are continuing to work with suppliers to ensure we have the inventory we need to serve all our customers. We are confident that we will be able to continue to meet the needs of SPPD customers in 2024.

We have also seen great growth in the demand for services among our irrigation customers. As a power supplier it’s a great problem to have, but one that we monitor closely. We are working diligently to serve all requests for service while managing the supply chain at the same time.

system and keep the lights on for all customers. We also will continue to add load without causing undo harm to existing customers.

I want to thank our team at

Southern for keeping you, our customers, in mind as we look to continue to provide your electric service. We thank you for trusting in us and look forward to serving you in 2024!



Smart Hub Redesign Coming in February

Customers will begin to notice changes to the SmartHub website beginning in February. SmartHub allows customers to manage their accounts quickly and easily. While the site may look a little different, you will still be able to review and pay your bills and check your usage.

Navigation Menu

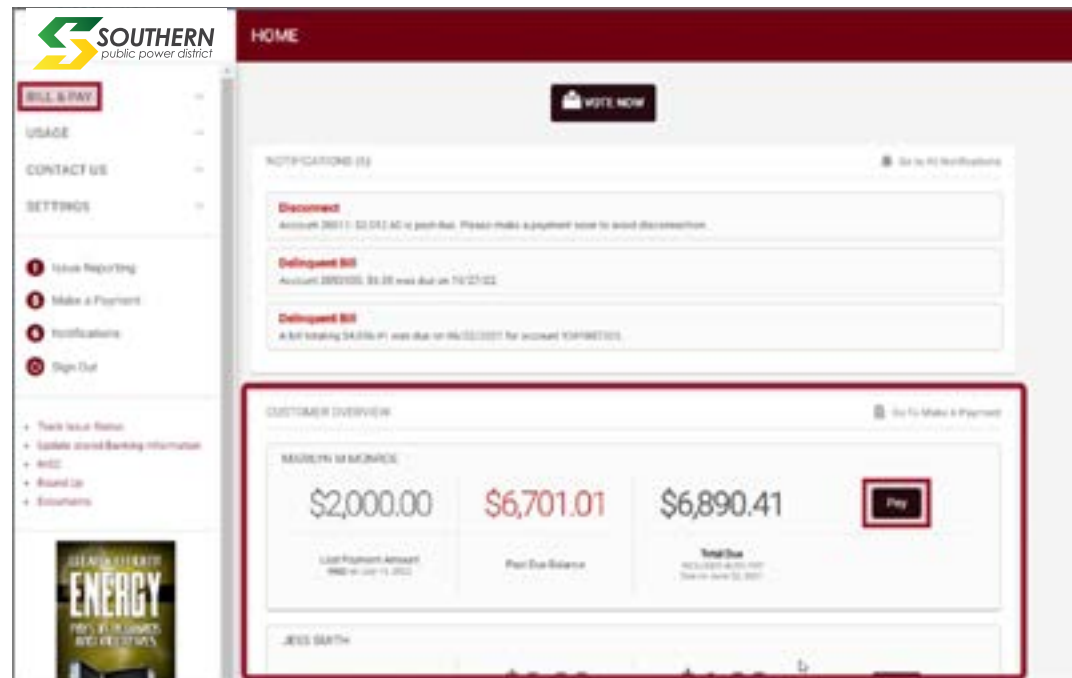
The navigation menu includes links to the main sections of SmartHub, buttons for frequently used features, and quick-links to additional information. The navigation menu will be located on the left side of the screen.

Review & Pay Bills

The Customer Overview pane shows the customer's Last Payment Amount, Past Due Balance, and Current Bill Amount. Clicking the Pay button takes members to the Bill & Pay screen, where they can see more information about their accounts and complete the payment process. This section will be on the home screen of SmartHub below any notifications.

Usage

SmartHub Web offers a number of features that allow members to view their usage. The Usage Explorer can be found from the navigation menu.



Operation Round Up Third Quarter Grant Recipients Announced



The Phillips Fire & Rescue team accept the Operation Round Up grant for \$2,000 to go towards purchasing new pagers and handheld radios.



Amanda Groff, SPPD Public Relations Manager (far left), and Lori Weber, SPPD Franklin Office Customer Service Representative (second from right), present the Franklin County Historical Society with an Operation Round Up grant of \$2,400 for roof repairs.

Thank you to everyone that participates in Operation Round Up! This quarter the Operation Round Up board awarded grants to five community organization for a total of \$10,650.

Recipients for the 2023 fourth quarter will be named soon. Applications for the first quarter of 2024 are due March 29 and can be found by visiting www.southernpd.com/roundup or by contacting [Amanda Groff](mailto:Amanda.Groff@southernpd.com) at Southern Public Power District.

If you would like to help continue to give back to our communities contact our Customer Service Department to sign up by rounding your monthly SPPD bill to the nearest dollar.

2023 Third Quarter Operation Round Up Awards

Phillips Fire & Rescue Team	\$2,000
Pagers and handheld radios	
Franklin County Historical Society	\$2,400
Roof repairs	
Franklin County Senior Center	\$2,500
New blinds	
City of Wood River	\$2,500
Community Storm Shelter	
Shelton Historical Society	\$1,250
New Flooring	

2024 Incentive Programs

Southern Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District are proud to provide agricultural, commercial, lawn and garden, and residential incentive programs to help our customers save both energy and money.

Residential Programs

- » **High Efficiency Heat Pump**
New in 2024 - 16 SEER Minimum Rating
- » **Cooling Tune Up**
\$30 incentive for having Heat Pump/Air Conditioner system tuned-up.
- » **Attic Insulation**
- » **Smart Thermostat**
Up to \$100 incentive for installing a Smart thermostat.
- » **Heat Pump Water Heater**
- » **Water Heater Program**
SPPD customers may be eligible to receive a Marathon water heater for new construction, conversion from fossil fuel or upgrading existing electric water heater. Charges do apply for receiving a water heater
- » **Induction Cooktop**
20% incentive for 30" minimum width cooktop or range

Lawn & Garden Programs

- » **Electric Lawn Mower, Chainsaws, Tillers, and Snow Blowers**
(\$1,500 maximum incentive)

Electric Vehicle Programs

- » **Chargpoint Charging Station**
\$500 incentive for the installation of a residential vehicle charging station
- » **Pre-wiring for Home Charging Station**
\$400 incentive for pre-wiring in new construction for EV Charger, or 100% of costs (maximum of \$600) incentive for wiring in an existing structure for EV charger
- » **Commercial Conduit**
100% reimbursement incentive (maximum of \$1,000) for new commercial construction for the installation of conduit for a future Level 2 or 3 public charging station
- » **Commercial Charger**

Commercial Programs




- » **Commercial HVAC**
- » **Lighting**
Prescriptive Commercial and Industrial lighting incentives for upgrading lighting to energy efficient LED
- » **Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)**
Industrial and Large Commercial incentive for installation of a VFD. Does not apply to irrigation VFD's

Agricultural Programs

- » **Custom Irrigation**
All-electric irrigation systems with pump motors of 20 Horsepower (hp) and larger may qualify for an incentive after you improve its efficiency
- » **Prescriptive Irrigation**
\$500 incentive when producers replace all a system's existing outlet components
- » **Corner Pivot (VFD)**
\$18 per horsepower incentive for installing a VFD
- » **Automated Grain Aeration**
- » **Irrigation Moisture Sensors**
\$300 for installing a moisture sensor with irrigation management program
- » **Custom Ag**
- » **Pumping Test**

1. All programs are subject to change without notice.
2. Some programs require pre-approval, check with SPPD before proceeding
3. All incentives exceeding \$5,000 require pre/post inspections.

For program details:

-  southernpd.energywisenebraska.com
-  800-579-3019
-  sreinke@southernpd.net

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Winter Preparedness

Winter in Nebraska can be unpredictable. We encourage you to be proactive in preparing for major winter weather events. Blizzards and ice storms can last for days, and deteriorated road conditions and visibility can contribute to longer time frames for lineworkers to provide complete power restoration. Here are some important steps to remember this winter.

Make sure account's contact information is up-to-date

Don't forget this important step! When large scale outages occur, our call center may enter into an "automated" mode. If this happens your outage is reported by recognition of your phone number. It's important that you know which phone number is your primary number when reporting an outage. If the phone number isn't recognized you will be asked to manually enter the primary phone number. We recommend sharing your primary phone number on the account with everyone in your household.

In addition, it is important to check your numbers for accuracy. If you have recently updated your phone number or removed one from service, please contact our Customer Services Department.

Create a disaster kit

Make sure your kit includes a battery powered radio, alternative phone charging devices, flashlights, batteries, enough food, water and medical supplies/medicines for 72 hours. Stock up on blankets to get you through the coldest weather conditions. If you have a portable generator, take the time to review the safety precautions in the operating manual, and make sure it is fueled and ready to use.

Prepare your vehicle

Now is the time to complete annual maintenance, test the car battery, and heating/cooling system. Replace your tires if the tread is less than 2/32 of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Attention High School Seniors:

Lineworker Scholarship Application Period is Open

Southern Public Power District has opened its 2023 application period for Utility Lineworker Scholarships. This program offers scholarships to students attending an accredited utility line study program. Scholarships amount to \$2,500 for students pursuing a one-year program, or \$3,000 for those attending a two-year program.

Applicants must currently reside within Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship winners will be required to serve a 12-week summer internship with SPPD in cooperation with the school attended.

The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2024. The application form can be accessed from SPPD's website.

We encourage potential students to reach out to the program of their choosing as soon as possible. These programs can fill up quickly, and it is best to enroll in order to assure a spot will be ready for the next academic year.

To learn more about our scholarship program, please contact Shannon Peard at Southern Public Power District at **speard@southernppd.net**.

Italian Hoagie Dip



Nutrition Information:
YIELD: 8 Servings,
Calories per Serving: 374

Ingredients:

- 1/4 lb pepperoni, diced small
- 1/4 lb deli Genoa salami, diced small
- 1/4 pound deli ham, diced small
- 8 slices Provolone cheese, diced small
- 1/2 cup diced red onion
- 1/2 cup hot banana peppers, finely chopped (optional)
- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 TBLS Italian Seasoning
- 3-4 cups finely chopped iceberg or Romaine lettuce

Instructions:

- In a large bowl, combine the chopped meats and cheese, onion and banana peppers.
- Add the mayonnaise and Italian Seasoning and stir to combine.
- Just before serving, stir in the chopped lettuce.
- Serve with baguette slices or crackers.

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<https://letsdishrecipes.com/italian-hoagie-dip/>