

NEWS MAGAZINE



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Powering A Brighter Future

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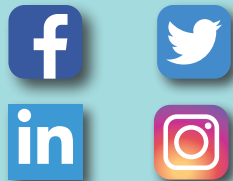
PRESIDENT/CEO:

Neal F. Niedfeldt

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Letter From the CEO

Niedfeldt Reflects on 4

After a 40-year career in the public power industry, I will be retiring from my position as President/CEO of the Southern Public Power District effective September 30.

I am very proud of my years in public service. I started out as the Financial Director for Norris Public Power District in Beatrice way back in 1983 and served as the City Administrator and General Manager of Public Works for the City of Beatrice before serving 11 years here at Southern.

I have had the opportunity to experience the power industry change and evolve over the years. The one thing I will always take away is knowing that I have been able to have a part in improving the lives of our customers. Our mission is critical and our task impacts so many customers and employers across the state of Nebraska and beyond. I look back with pride for all we have done, and feel so blessed to have been a part of the public power family here in Nebraska.

I was asked to recall significant events during my career. My start at Norris in the early 80's was filled with adding improved equipment and technology to our operations. Bucket trucks were making things easier for our linemen and personal computers were just being introduced! We were continually working towards better communications and service for our customers. In 1998, I was afforded the opportunity to work with the management teams from NPPD and many of their wholesale customers to realign the NPPD/Wholesale system resulting in transfers of facilities and customers between entities. The efficiencies from that project are still being realized today.

My stay at the City of Beatrice was highlighted by improving communications across all departments throughout the city. It was also a learning opportunity for me to manage more with less as budgets were tight, but the experience allowed me to grow as a manager and leader.



Neal Niedfeldt and Rick Bergman, past president of SPPD Board of Directors, sign the 20-year Wholesale Power Agreement with NPPD in 2016.

n 40-Year Career in Power Industry

Here at Southern my highest priority was placed on improving the reputation of the District as a superior customer-service organization. We have led the District through growth periods while keeping operations efficient, holding costs stable and providing reliable power. I think I am leaving the District in great shape, both financially and operationally. The rates our customers pay today are lower than they were when I arrived in 2012 and we get lots of compliments on our service. I get a lot of personal satisfaction from that.

There are always challenges in managing a utility that serves seven counties. Improving our ability to respond when service is interrupted pressed us to improve our outlying facilities and provide our employees with the best equipment available. Renewing our wholesale contract with NPPD in 2016 was a multi-year project and made us look hard at the future of NPPD and our needs. In the end our decision to remain with NPPD has been a good one. The year 2020 was a very challenging year with COVID-19 as we changed operations to keep our employees safe and healthy but we were able to keep the same level of service to our customers. I can't thank our team enough for successfully getting through that time period. Customer interest in renewable energy was new to us just a few years ago but is now very much a part of our business model. I had the opportunity to lead the District in the addition of the renewable energy project in Franklin County in 2022. I hope down the



Niedfeldt gives opening remarks during the ground breaking of the new Funk Service Center in 2019.

road the project will serve our customers well.

When asked what I will miss the most, it will certainly be the interaction I have had with all of the great people I have worked with over the past 40 years and all of the customers that we have had the opportunity to serve. Nebraskans are the best!

What will I do in retirement? I am sure I will enjoy my hobbies of golf, hunting, checking out the local music scene and supporting the Huskers in retirement. However, as someone who poured 100% into their job, there were times the downtime was put on hold. I will be spending time with my wonderful wife, do some traveling, and hope to contribute to the community in some fashion.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for providing me with the opportunity to lead the Southern District since 2012 and thank our amazing group of employees who are so highly dedicated to providing superior service to all of our customers. It

has been a joy and a privilege to serve with all of you.

Finally, I would like to share these thoughts with you. I have always felt fortunate that I was raised in Nebraska where my mother and father, like many Nebraskans, taught us to work hard, become independent, and have a strong faith in God. My parents encouraged and supported my education and helped get me off to a good start after leaving the farm. I think they both taught me early in life to treat people fairly, be honest and kind, work hard and you will be successful in life. I hope my service to public power indicates I was a good learner.

We wish Neal and his wife, Julie, the best as Neal retires from SPPD!

Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA)

The Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) was implemented in 1978 to encourage conservation of electric energy (reduce demand), increase efficiency of electric resources (increase supply) and equitable retail rates for electric consumers. Since it was established, PURPA has periodically been amended to require qualifying utilities to consider new standards.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), adopted in November of 2021, amends PURPA by requiring electric utilities to consider two new federal standards. Within this consideration utilities with total annual retail sales greater than 500,000 MWh must determine whether or not to adopt the following standards:

1. Section 40104 - Utility Demand Response Practices

2. Section 40431 - Consideration of Measures to Promote Greater Electrification of the Transportation Sector (Electric Vehicle Charging Programs)

SPPD meets the required size and must complete the consideration process this year. The District will make our recommendations as to whether to adopt, modify or reject the standards during a public hearing at the September board meeting.

The September board of directors meeting will be held September 13, 2023 at 10 a.m. The public hearing for the consideration of adopting the modified standards to PURPA will be held in conjunction with the board meeting. Customers are encouraged to attend this hearing.

This hearing will allow customers and the public to provide input on how SPPD may promote greater demand-

PUBLIC HEARING

SPPD will hold a public hearing as a part of the consideration of PURPA standards. The public is encouraged to attend.

**September 13, 2023
10 a.m.**

**Southern Public Power District
4550 W Husker Hwy
Grand Island, NE 68803**

response opportunities and implement measures to assist electric vehicle owners and electric vehicle charging stations. Your input is encouraged.

SPPD will include a board action item for final determination on the standards at the September 2023 board of directors meeting, following the public hearing. The District will base its final determination on its analysis and consideration of public input received at the public hearing.



Ribbon Cutting for Franklin County Wind Project


Southern Public Power District and Bluestem Energy Solutions hosted a ribbon cutting for the Wind Project in Franklin County on June 6 in order to allow area village boards, county supervisors, and local media the opportunity to view the project up close.

The project was approved by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors in February of 2021. Construction on the two wind turbines was completed last June. The two turbines have been operating since last September.

Above: Neal Niedfeldt, SPPD President/CEO, cuts the ribbon with members of the SPPD staff and board of directors.

Right: Attendees mingle before the ribbon cutting.



A hand holding a smartphone with a call notification overlay. The overlay shows a person icon, the text 'Incoming Call...', 'Unknown', and two buttons: a green 'Answer' button and a red 'Decline' button.

Incoming Call...

Unknown

Utility Scams On The Rise

We've been receiving numerous tips from customers that they have been receiving calls from scammers. These individuals will try to fool you with a claim of an unpaid bill, or they may try to trick you into believing you have a refund due to you from SPPD.

Scammers will create a sense of urgency and use intimidation and fear to catch you off guard. Some important things to keep in mind if you think you are being scammed:

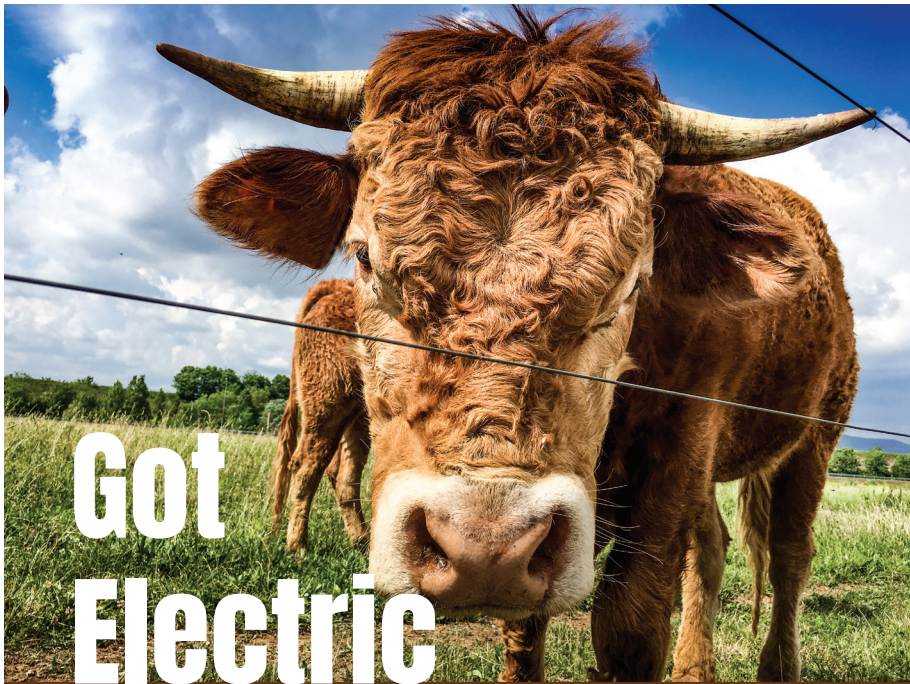
- Were you instructed to keep the purpose of the transaction a secret/confidential?
- Were you asked to purchase gift cards, get cash back or deposit funds into Bitcoin ATMs?

- Do you feel pressured or scared by someone to conduct a transaction?

Remember, SPPD will never call you to initiate a refund over the phone. Rebates are issued by check for EnergyWise or Marathon Water Heater incentives. If it is a bill credit we will apply that to your customer account, or issue a check if the account has been closed.

We will never ask for you to provide payment in the form of gift cards, and we do not go door-to-door requesting cash to prevent interruption of services.

If you receive a call that is suspicious, hang up. Call SPPD directly using the number on your bill, 800-579-3019. We will verify the status of your account.



Got Electric Fencing?

INSPECT IT
REGULARLY



- 1. Make sure that fencing is visible.**
Use electric fence tape, warning signs or other methods.

- Inspect electrical fencing regularly.**
Ensure everything is tight, secure and free from frays.

2.



- 3. Make sure your electrical fence is tight and well-supported.**
A lack of support can cause it to sag.

- Cap posts, especially metal T-posts.**
This prevents an animal (or human) from being impaled.

4.



- 5. Check for a loose or sagging fence.**
Not only can animals escape, but wires can fall out of insulators.

Learn more about electrical safety at:

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

Community Events Feature

Southern Public Power District is looking to create a new Community Events Feature in our Customer Magazine. We'd love to help our customers and the communities in our service area get the word out about their events. Please send any community event dates you'd like to spread the word about to Amanda Groff at agroff@southernpd.net. The News Magazine is published bi-monthly and typically hits mailboxes on the 15th of the first month it covers. Please submit any community events happening September 17 through November 17 to be included in our September/October edition by August 18.

We Love Parades

Does your community put on a parade in the summer or fall? We'd love to participate! Have your parade committee reach out to Amanda Groff at agroff@southernpd.net to add us as a parade entry!

Chicken Bacon Ranch Pizza

Prep: 15 minutes, Cook: 15 minutes, Total: 30 minutes
Nutrition Information: YIELD: 8 Slices, Calories per Serving: 364

Ingredients:

- 1 pound homemade pizza dough (or store bought.)
- 2/3 C. Ranch dressing
- 3 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 1/2 C. chopped cooked chicken
- 4 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled
- Preheat oven to 425°F
- Roll out dough to about a 13-15 inch circle. Place on greased pizza pan.
- Top dough with ranch and spread to an even layer.
- Sprinkle with cheese. Top with chicken and bacon. Bake for 15 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

©Countryside Cravings
<https://www.countrysidecravings.com/chicken-bacon-ranch-pizza/>



How to Grill Pizza

Skip the oven and heating up the house in the summertime and try grilling your pizza instead.

- Prep grill and toppings: Prepare the grill for high direct heat. Prepare a small bowl with olive oil for greasing the grill grates and for brushing the pizza. Prepare the toppings so they are ready to go on the pizza (sauce, cheese, and anything else you want.)
- Stretch and shape the pizza dough to about 12 inches in diameter. Do not make a raised rim when grilling.
- Grill one side of the pizza dough: Once the grill is hot dip a tightly folded up paper towel in olive oil and use tongs to wipe the grill grates. Place pizza dough on lightly floured rimless cookie sheet (or pizza peel if you have one). Let the dough slide off the cookie sheet onto the hot grill grates. Close the lid of the grill and let cook for 2 minutes.
- Check the dough and look for air bubbles: After 2 minutes, open the grill and check underneath the dough to see if it is getting browned. if it is on one side but not the other use your tongs to rotate dough 90 degrees and cook for an additional minute.
- Remove grilled dough and flip it over onto a cookie sheet.: Once the dough has browned lightly on one side, Use your cookie sheet or pizza peel to remove it from the grill. Use a spatula to flip the dough over so that the grilled side is now up. Keep the grill covered so it retains heat for the next step.
- Brush with olive oil, add toppings: Paint the grilled surface of the pizza with a little extra virgin olive oil, then cover with 1 ladle of sauce (no more or you'll end up with a soggy pizza.) Sprinkle on your toppings.
- Slide the topped pizza back onto the grill: If you are using a gas grill, reduce the heat. if working with a charcoal grill, close the vents on the cover almost all the way. Close the lid and cook for 2 to 3 minutes more, or until the bottom begins to char and the cheese is bubbly. Pull off the grate with a spatula and onto a cutting board or other flat surface and let it rest for a couple minutes before cutting into slices.
- Slice and serve!

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https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/how_to_grill_pizza/