

SPD Newsletter

LIGHTING THE WAY

April 2017

Series 34, Issue 4

SOMETHING NEW

to help us

SERVE YOU BETTER

We're installing automated meters to improve **efficiency** and **reliability** for our customers.



New Meters Will Help Us Serve You Better

Southern has recently begun installing new, automated meters. The process for transitioning to these new meters will occur over the course of 2 years, and will increase the efficiency and reliability of our electric system. Improving the efficiency of both operations and electricity delivery can help us keep costs down.

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#ThankALineman

April 18th marks a special day to recognize and honor the hard working linemen who build and maintain a reliable power system. These people answer your call, day and night, to restore your power in conditions which are often harsh.



We have 53 of these great people in service here at Southern. We thank each one of them for their dedication to their work and for their service to our customers. If you happen to know a utility linemen, please join us in extending appreciation to them!

Natural Resources Committee Votes Down Retail Choice Bill

On February 16th, the Nebraska Legislature's Natural Resources Committee heard testimony regarding LB 660. This bill, introduced by Senator Justin Wayne of Omaha, would have opened the door for retail choice for electricity in Nebraska.

Over two hours of testimony was heard on the proposed bill, with all but four individuals providing testimony in opposition to the bill, and one testifying "neutral". Representatives from public power districts across Nebraska provided testimony expressing concern for the effect the legislation would have on service and affordability to public power customers.

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New Meters Will Help Us Serve You Better

What Will Change with the New Meters?

INCREASED SYSTEM EFFICIENCY



With the new automated meters, Southern will be able to obtain readings remotely from our headquarters.



The District will save a significant amount of employee time and vehicle miles by no longer traveling to customer service locations to read meters. Fewer miles of drive time is also a big boost for our employee's safety.

INCREASED BILLING EFFICIENCY



Customers will not have to wait for their bill to see their energy consumption as they will have immediate access to their usage information on our SmartHub application.



Billing estimates will be eliminated, resulting in a reduction in billing errors and disputes. No estimates allows for accurate and consistently recorded meter readings.



Customers who live elsewhere during the winter will receive a bill that reflects their actual monthly usage rather than an estimate.



The process of conducting customer account connections, disconnections and transfers will be streamlined.



New meters can provide more information to us, in the event that you experience an unusually high bill. The data can help us to identify any problems that would cause high usage.

INCREASED RELIABILITY



Outage restoration times will improve as specific outage location information will be reported, which will benefit District personnel who respond to outages.

Also take note:

Southern personnel, as well as a meter installation contractor, are currently working in various locations across the District installing new meters. Their trucks will be marked with Southern Public Power District's logo on their doors. Not all trucks will have a yellow bumper, so be sure to look for the logo on the door.

Throughout the course of the meter installation project, we are mailing letters to customers who will see a meter change in the near future. As we work through the process, you may also see notifications on Southern's social media pages to keep you in the loop! Follow southernpd on Twitter, or "Like" Southern Public Power District on Facebook.

We are excited to bring this technology to our system, as it will bring some very valuable efficiencies to our system and help us to serve you better!

Safety...Its Job #1 In The Field!

Farmers, as you venture back out into your fields, we remind you to keep safety at the top of your mind.

We understand how easy it can be to forget about the power lines up above as you are working swiftly to complete your field preparation and planting. But for your safety, it is imperative to always be aware of the location of lines in relation to your equipment.

Electrical safety in the field is as easy as two words...**LOOK UP!** Keep cultivators, sprayers and planters **AT LEAST 10 FEET** from power lines and electrical facilities. Always inspect entrances to fields to ensure there is adequate clearance for equipment without jeopardizing the safety of the equipment operator. Use a spotter who can verify there is sufficient clearance from a better vantage point.

In the event that you are involved in a contact incident, remain inside the equipment until linemen from SPD arrive to de-energize the line. Stepping out of the equipment creates a path from the equipment to the ground, and electricity will use YOU as a path. Do not allow any person to approach your equipment until you receive clearance from SPD personnel, and can verify that lines have been de-energized.

We look forward to serving our farming customers this growing season, and we wish you a safe and prosperous year!

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Legislation Update

Additionally, customers told members of the Committee that they are highly satisfied with the excellent service provided by their local power districts and affordability of electric rates. Dozens of opposition letters were entered into the record, including letters from villages across the state, several from our own service region. We are humbled and grateful that so many customers have recognized the value of the relationship between public power districts and their customers.

The unique relationship between public power districts and their customers dates back to 1933, when the Nebraska Legislature acted to create public power districts that would electrify rural Nebraska customers. This was a capital-intensive venture that privately owned utilities refused to address at that time. But then...and now...Nebraska's public power utilities are obligated to serve all customers in Nebraska, without a profit motive. This has been achieved with leadership right here in Nebraska, elected by YOU, the customer. Decisions are made locally by customers just like you, where the interest in your service and affordability of your rates matters the most.

While the Natural Resources Committee removed this bill from consideration this year, we anticipate it is a topic that will come forward again in the future. But for now, we would like to thank all of the customers who provided testimony in opposition to this legislation. We will keep you informed about this issue, if it should be brought forward for further consideration.





It's Time To Tune-Up Your Cooling System

NOW is the time to have your unit inspected, serviced and cleaned... and we have an incentive for that!



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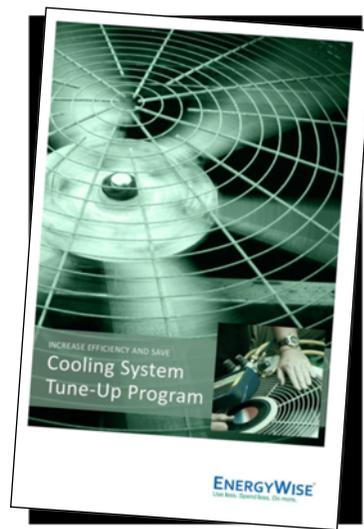
Comments or questions?
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Warmer days are becoming more frequent as we transition into spring! Before the heat really kicks in, make sure your cooling unit is ready to do its job!

Regular tune-ups on your cooling system are important in assuring its efficient performance, and ultimately, provides savings in your cooling costs. Systems that have been neglected can yield a savings of five to fifteen percent in energy costs, or more, if you invest in a tune-up! Also, a tune-up can extend the life of your unit.

Southern Power District offers a \$30 EnergyWise incentive to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned-up, regardless of what type or age the system is. This incentive is available to residential customers once every three years.

If you would like to learn more and access an application for the Cooling System Tune Up Incentive, log onto our website at www.southernpd.com.



Delicious Artichoke Dip

- 1/2 C. mayonnaise
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 (14-oz.) can artichoke hearts, drained
- 1/2 C. minced red onion
- 1 T. lemon juice
- Salt and pepper to taste

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. In a medium-sized mixing bowl, stir together mayonnaise, sour cream, Parmesan cheese and onion. When these ingredients are combined, mix in artichoke hearts, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Transfer mixture to a shallow baking dish.
3. Bake at 400° for 20 minutes, or until light brown on top.

