

CURRENT FLASHES

CEDAR-KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Possible Affects of Climate Change Legislation

Concern that human activity is changing our earth's climate has gotten the attention of many in Washington. Lawmakers are considering legislation that would attempt to curb the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that is emitted into the atmosphere from coal-burning electrical generation plants. Nearly 2/3 of Nebraska's electricity comes from this type of generation resource. Debate is expected to take place later this year on cap-and-trade legislation and also renewable portfolio standards.

Cap-and-Trade

Under cap-and-trade, the government would set a "cap" on the total CO₂ emissions that would be allowed. Companies would be issued, or be forced to purchase permit allocations to cover a certain amount of their emissions. If the allocated allowances were not sufficient to cover all emissions, they would be required to purchase additional credits or pay expensive fines. If these allowances are distributed under an auction system as the Obama Administration would like, Wall Street speculators could have a dramatic affect on the price of our electricity.

Renewable Portfolio Standard

A national renewable portfolio standard would mandate that each utility would have to have a certain percentage of their energy production come from a renewable source. Our power supplier, the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), currently has a goal to reach 10% renewable by the year 2020. Reaching this goal will require adding a wind farm the size of the Elkhorn Ridge project near Bloomfield, every other year through 2020. If a national renewable portfolio standard were put into place, NPPD would have to make arrangements to meet the new criteria – and its time lines.

That could mean adding more wind sooner. NPPD and other private companies from outside Nebraska have been busy negotiating wind rights deals with local landowners partly in anticipation of this.

Costs

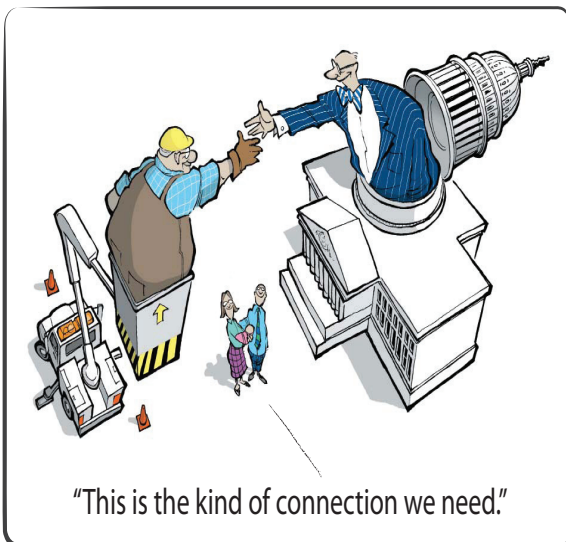
Unfortunately these things will lead to higher costs. Buying credits to be able to operate the existing generation and adding more renewable resources to meet aggressive mandates would be very costly. Estimates vary but depending on final legislation, electricity prices could increase dramatically. Lawmakers need to consider the economical impacts that climate-change legislation will have on consumers. The decisions that are made today will have long-lasting effects on our electricity prices and our rural economy.

A balanced approach to CO₂ reduction that includes increased efficiency, conservation, renewable energy and nuclear energy will help reduce our carbon footprint and keep cost increases tolerable.

If you want to help keep electricity reliable and affordable, go to www.ourenergy.coop and join the "Our Energy Our Future" campaign. It's simple and you will be joining nearly 300,000 other Americans that have asked their representatives tough questions about our energy future through this campaign.

FROM THE DESK OF
THE MANAGER

DAN LEISE



Public Power and Congress, together we can keep electricity affordable

These are hard economic times for America's families. Many are struggling to afford the basics: food, housing, and energy.

In fact, the cost of electricity is up 40 percent since 2002 and projected to go even higher—and today's electricity supplies won't be able to keep pace with future demand.

We need an answer right now to keep our electricity affordable.

The solutions won't be easy—but America's electric cooperatives are ready to work with Congress toward an energy plan we can all afford.

Ask your elected officials to work with America's consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives and public power districts. Together we can face these hard times with resolve to build a brighter future.

Visit www.ourenergy.coop and get started.



Matt Sudbeck and Mike Lammers are celebrating 15 years with Cedar-Knox PPD in May 2009. Matt is Crew Foreman and Mike is responsible for Load Management/Metering. Congratulations!



Nathan Rutar, Eric Becker and John Freeman are celebrating five years with Cedar Knox Public Power District. All have achieved Journeymen Lineman Status/. Not pictured John freeman. Congratulations!

May is National Electrical Safety Month

Actually, every month should be Electrical Safety Month, you should always practice strict safety rules when around electricity. In the U.S. around 400 electrocutions occur each year. It is estimated that 70% of these could be prevented if a GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) had been in place. If your home is already equipped with GFCI's, you should test them monthly. To test a GFCI, follow these simple steps:

Push the "reset" button on the GFCI receptacle to prepare the unit for testing.

Plug a light into the GFCI and turn it on. The light should be ON.

Push the "test" button on the GFCI. The light should go OFF.

Push the "reset" button again. The light should again turn ON.

If these steps don't result in these occurrences, contact a qualified electrician to check the GFCI and correct the problem. If you don't have GFCI outlets in your home, consider at least having them installed where they are near water, such as bathrooms and kitchens



Irrigation Reminders:

- Irrigation Hotline Number: 254-6322
- Control Hours: are 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- Monday thru Saturday: - 12 hours maximum

• Sunday in extreme loading conditions - 6 hour maximum

• Please provide our crew truck access to all CKPPD equipment. It is a safety hazard to our employees if they don't have

radio and other equipment on their trucks with them out in the field.

Be safe around irrigation pivots, farm equipment and our power lines, always look up and beware.

Update – Energy efficiency programs

As part of our continued effort to encourage energy efficiency, we have added a couple of programs, if you have an electric water heater:

• **Low flow Shower Heads** — Submit to CKPPD a receipt dated after April 1, 2009 for a low flow shower head (1.9 gallons or less per minute), we will give you a \$10 rebate. Limit of two rebates per customer.

• **Electric Water Heater Blanket** — Submit to CKPPD a receipt dated after April 1, 2009 for an electric water heater blanket and we will give you a \$10 rebate. Only water heaters made before 1992 will benefit from a blanket. If you are not sure how old your water is,

touch the outside of the tank, if it feels warm, it could use a blanket. Limit of two rebates per customer.

A quick review of existing programs –

• **Irrigation Efficiency** – Incentive that covers the cost of pump efficiency tests up to \$350.00 allowed. Financial incentives to defray improvement costs associated with energy efficiency improvements to electric irrigation systems (payments equivalent to up to 20 cents per kilowatt-hour saved.)

• **Residential Cooling System Tune-up** – a homeowner incentive of \$30 upon proof of having a certified tune-up done

by a qualified dealer.

• **Energy Star Window air conditioner** – Incentive amount of \$30 is available upon copy of receipt of Energy Star qualifying air conditioner.

• **Commercial and Industrial Lighting Programs** – Please contact us for details.

• **High efficiency Motors** – Please contact us for details.

• **CFL Bulb Giveaway** – Stop in the office for a free CFL bulb

Please contact us if you are interested or have questions about any of these programs.