

EnLIGHTening NEWS



Committed

Reliability, Resilience, & Continued Development



EnLightening News
Published bi-monthly by
Stanton County Public Power District
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Report an outage after hours:
877-439-2300

Serving Stanton County and parts of Madison, Wayne, Cuming and Colfax counties.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Koehlmoos

Jim Scherer

Doug Oertwich

John Gall

Bob Schellpeper

Darin Petersen

Unless otherwise notified, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month.



In this Issue

- A message from Trever: Legislative Update
- Commitment to Improving Reliability
- Personnel - Meet Jackson!
- Annual Employee Recognition
- Tech Tips
- Irrigation Contracts Reminder



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

Trevor Turner, General Manager

Dear Valued Customers,

Spotlight on Nebraska Legislation and Government Affairs in 2025

As we kick off 2025, Nebraska's legislative session promises to bring significant opportunities and challenges for the electric utility industry. Staying informed and engaged in government affairs will be essential for navigating potential regulatory changes and advocating for the needs of our rural communities. Here's a look at key upcoming events and legislative priorities.

Nebraska Rural Electric Association Legislative Dinner

One of the cornerstone events of the legislative season for Public Power Districts is the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Legislative Dinner, scheduled for February. This annual gathering serves as a vital platform for utility professionals, directors, and legislators to come together and discuss issues impacting the energy sector. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with state senators, highlighting the importance of policies that promote reliable and affordable energy for rural Nebraska. The dinner provides a unique opportunity to share our perspectives on critical issues, such as infrastructure modernization, renewable energy integration, and workforce development. Our participation helps ensure that the voice of rural electric utilities is heard loud and clear in the policymaking process.

Northeast Managers Group Visits Nebraska Capitol

Following the NREA Legislative Dinner, the Northeast Managers Group will make its way to the Nebraska Capitol the subsequent week to meet with state senators. This coordinated effort underscores the commitment of utility leaders to actively participate

in shaping Nebraska's energy future. By building relationships with policymakers and advocating for the needs of our communities, the group aims to influence decisions that will support sustainable growth and maintain the high standards of service expected by customers.

The visit will also provide an opportunity to discuss priorities such as enhancing grid resilience, supporting economic development in rural areas, and addressing challenges like supply chain constraints and cybersecurity threats.

Legislative Focus Areas for Public Power in 2025

- 1. Grid Modernization:** Advocating for funding and policies that enable utilities to upgrade aging infrastructure and integrate emerging technologies.
- 2. Renewable Energy:** Promoting balanced legislation that encourages renewable energy adoption while ensuring grid reliability and affordability.
- 3. Workforce Development:** Addressing the shortage of skilled linemen and other utility professionals through education and training initiatives.
- 4. Cybersecurity and Resilience:** Supporting measures that protect critical infrastructure from emerging threats.

Our engagement in these efforts is vital. By participating in events like the NREA Legislative Dinner and staying informed about legislative developments, we can collectively ensure that the interests of rural electric utilities remain a priority in Nebraska's government affairs.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to monitor and participate in the legislative process. Together, we can help shape policies that will benefit our industry and the communities we serve.

2025 INCENTIVE REBATES

Residential Heat Pump/Water Heater:

\$400 for Air Source UEF >1.9
\$650 for Water or Ground Source COP >2.8

High Efficiency Heat Pump:

\$400 - \$3300 Incentive
Minimum SEER 16, EER 12.5 & HSPF 8.5
Includes Air-to-Air, and Water/Ground source

SMART Thermostat:

\$25-\$100 Incentive options

Cooling System Tune-up:

\$30

Attic Insulation:

\$0.30 per square foot - \$600 max.

IMPROVING RELIABILITY

Using thermal images to capture potential issues

SCPPD has partnered with Fast Forward, a leading technology solutions company, to document our utility lines and equipment. Using vehicle and UTV mounted camera systems that will autonomously capture data used for inspections and maintenance.



Fast Forward will be in the City of Stanton, Village of Pilger, and all of Stanton County sometime in April or May and again in July or August inspecting electrical lines. The exact dates are not yet determined, and we will update our customers as soon as the dates are finalized. Fast Forward will be following power lines along public roads, alleyways, and driveways to capture daytime and thermal imaging at night of Stanton County Public Power District's electrical system to help increase reliability, prevent outages, and fire risk. The first inspection will take place during daylight hours but the second inspection, which will take place in July or August, will be conducted at night to capture the thermal images. The goal is to pinpoint issues to help eliminate blinking lights and find smaller problems before they cause an outage.

Stanton County PPD would like Fast Forward to inspect as much line as possible to ensure reliability but if you – our customer – absolutely do not want Fast Forward to inspect the line on your personal property, please call our office at 402-439-2228 and you will be put on a list to not inspect, and Fast Forward will not drive down your driveway.

Learn more about the Nebraska grown technology - Fast Forward – at www.ff-ai.com/intro



Thermal image showing hot connections on a substation transformer.



Thermal image showing bad connection on a switch.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Journeyman Lineman Jackson Reed

Jackson began his career with Stanton County Public Power District in March 2020. He began as an Apprentice Lineman and soon worked to advance to Journeyman Lineman. His continued dedication makes him a valued employee and a great asset to Stanton County.

Here is a little more information about Jackson.

1. *Where did you grow up? I grew up in Arlington, Nebraska.*
2. *What is working at SCPPD like? It's very rewarding. Looking back, after finishing a new line; gives me a sense of accomplishment knowing that our system is a tad better and more reliable for our customers.*
3. *What hashtags describe your personality the best? #justrollwithit*
4. *What is one thing on your bucket list? I would like to travel to every national park in the United States.*
5. *What is a fun fact about you? I have been pheasant hunting since the day I could walk with a BB gun.*
6. *What has been your favorite project at SCPPD? I enjoy any project that involves new overhead line with nothing in the way.*
7. *Tell us about your family. I grew up in a family of four. My mother, Michelle, my father, Doug, and my little brother Noah. I just recently added on to my family with my wife Bethany.*
8. *What advice would you give your younger self? Don't be afraid to mess up. That's how lessons are learned.*
9. *If you could learn to do anything, what would it be? I would learn to fly a helicopter... never know when that could come in handy.*
10. *Describe SCPPD in 3 words. Dedicated, Reliable, Trustworthy.*
11. *What else would you like people to know about you? I love to play pickleball in my spare time with my wife and her family.*



SERVICE RECOGNITION

At our annual Employee Recognition Event, the Stanton County Public Power District recognized the following employees and directors for their years of service:



- 3 years: Tom Blain, Lead Lineman
- 10 years: Anthony Lund, AMI/Staking Technician
- 15 years: Tim Wurdinger, Network Administrator
- 25 years: Jim Scherer, Board Vice President

The Stanton County Public Power District sincerely thanks our staff and directors for the many years of service that they have devoted to SCPPD. Their loyalty, commitment, and dedication over the years is something special in this day and age. A combined total of 53 years worked with these 4 people recognized here. We hope this is a reflection on the level of job satisfaction they have felt.

The collective strength of staff and directors stabilizes the district during our most challenging times and prepares us for high-level service to our customers both now and in the future. SCPPD congratulates these employees and directors as we recognize the considerable growth in their expertise, wisdom and capabilities.

CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to Jackson Reed on achieving his Journeyman Line Technician certification in 2024! Jackson came to us in March of 2020, and has been working hard to acquire skills and knowledge, gain experience in the field, and complete the necessary testing to obtain his Journeyman certification. This is no small feat, and quite an accomplishment—well done, Jackson!





PHISHING, VISHING AND SMISHING

What is phishing, vishing, and smishing? These attacks are a form of social engineering that cybercriminals use to initiate contact with their victims to gain trust. Phishing uses email or social media, vishing uses voice calls and smishing uses SMS, better known as text messages.

WHAT IS SOCIAL ENGINEERING?

Social engineering is when cybercriminals impersonate trusted sources to gain the trust of an intended target to manipulate them into giving personal data, money, or gaining access to their devices.

HOW CAN YOU SPOT THESE ATTACKS?

Many times, cybercriminals will make it seem as if the situation is urgent and ask you for personal or financial information. Other times, they may try to trick you with unusually good offers or odd requests to gain personal data, money or access to your devices. Fear and urgency are cybercriminal's two main weapons.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT THESE ATTACKS?

Be wary of any unsolicited contacts. If you suspect that it may be a scam, stop all contact and don't respond to the phone number, message, or email that contacted you. If you can, contact the person or company another way to verify if they tried to contact you.

Never click on links from an unknown source and never give your personal or banking information over phone or email, even if it is from a legitimate company. If anyone ever asks you to pay digitally, such as with digital currency or via money transfer, or with gift cards, end contact immediately.

Use strong passwords and multi-factor authentication whenever possible. Never give out your login credentials or authentication codes to anybody.

If you suspect that an email is a scam, never click the "unsubscribe" link. Simply report the email as spam and delete it. If you suspect a phone call or text message is a scam, stop contact and block the number.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU MAY HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF THESE ATTACKS.

Immediately contact the local police and your bank to seek assistance. If you think that someone may have access to your personal identifiable information, you may want to consider freezing your credit and monitoring your credit report. If the attacker was on your device, have a computer specialist look at it. The quicker you act, the better your chances are of preventing fraudulent use of your information and recovering any money you may have lost.



ATTENTION IRRIGATION CUSTOMERS:

The revolving contract that you submitted last year, will continue into the 2025 season. If you need to make a change, please contact the office for a new contract by April 15, 2025.

For more information, contact the office at 402-439-2228.

EnLIGHTening NEWS

**From Your Stanton County
Public Power District**

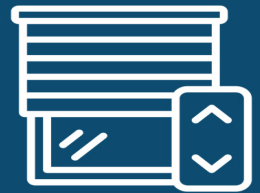
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*Are you looking for low/no cost
ways to save energy year-round?
Check out our website for more tips
or visit safeelectricity.org*

Efficiency Tip

About 30% of your home's heating energy escapes through windows. Use window coverings to minimize energy loss in cold weather and consider smart blinds that automatically adjust based on sunlight and temperature. This helps regulate indoor climate and keeps your heater from kicking on, saving energy.



Safe
Electricity.org®



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
1-800-331-5666



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