



EnLIGHTening NEWS



Winter Hazards

January/February 2024

Official Publication of

STANTON COUNTY
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT



EnLightening News
Published bi-monthly by
Stanton County Public Power District
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Stanton, NE 68779

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Koehlmoos

Jim Scherer

Doug Oertwich

John Gall

Bob Schellpeper

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



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PROTECTING RELIABILITY

Trever Turner, General Manager

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be a top priority for Stanton County PPD. These days, power reliability seems to be making news more than ever. As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's grid.

With winter storm season upon us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you about a few measures we're taking to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say, I love trees and the charm they add to our communities and I know you do too. While trees provide many positives, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

Our overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our customers while maintaining the beauty of our area.



That's why we strive to keep the power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a district uses to construct, maintain, replace, or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables SCPPD to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines.

Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keeps lines clear to improve power reliability. Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. These are designed to perform system repairs and upgrades to ultimately improve electric service. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of such an outage.



2024 INCENTIVE REBATES

Residential Heat Pump/Water Heater:

- \$400 for air source with an EF > 1.9
- \$650 for ground source with an COP > 2.8

High Efficiency Heat Pump:

- \$400 - \$3000 Incentive
- Minimum SEER 16, EER 12.5 & HSPF 7.7
- 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.

SERVICE CHANGES

Are you planning to build a new service or upgrade an existing one?

With the cold and snowy weather here, people aren't necessarily thinking about the electric service they will be needing for an upcoming project. These projects could be a new irrigation service, a new house, or maybe you just want an existing service relocated. There are several things to discuss before these services can be constructed:

- 1. Determine the size of service needed.** Will your service need 200 amps? 400 amps? Do you need a breaker or double throw? Your electrician can be very helpful in determining what size of service you will need for a new house or shop. We can size your irrigation service by nameplate horsepower of the motor.
- 2. Determine whether the service will be overhead or underground.** An underground service will be more expensive to install but eliminates the hazards of an overhead line and is a cleaner look.
- 3. Determine the route for the service.** How will the service be connected to the existing system? This route is important and will depend on several additional factors.
- 4. Service agreement contract signed.** All new services require a 10-year service agreement to be signed.
- 5. An easement will need to be signed for all new construction.** This is an SCPPD requirement. This process can take some time, especially if an LLC with multiple members are involved. Signatures are required from all members of the LLC.
- 6. Secure the material and equipment needed for the project.** We do stock a lot of material and equipment such as transformers, however that material is used up quickly if we receive a lot of unexpected requests for new services. Transformers and meter boxes have especially long lead times and can take up to a year to be delivered.
- 7. Engineer/stake the service.** Once all the other items are finalized, SCPPD personnel will need to map out the project for construction to begin.

It is best to get an electrician involved early to help with the sizing and location of the service and discuss where you want the power line to be located, and if it will be overhead or underground line.

Please contact SCPPD as soon as possible when considering a new service or upgrade to your existing service. We are here to help you through the process. For additional information you can find our line extension and aid in construction policy on our website, www.scppd.com, under the Customer Service Tab in the Rates folder.

SERVICE RECOGNITIONS



Pictured above: Jennifer Michaels, Bob Schellpeper, Matt Hoferer & Jackson Reed

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

- 3 years - Jackson Reed - Apprentice Lineman
- 5 years - Luke Renter - Journeyman Lineman
- 10 years - Jennifer Michaels - Accountant
- 10 years - Bob Schellpeper - Director
- 15 years - Jerett Rolf - Crew Chief
- 20 years - Matt Hoferer - Assistant Operations Manager
- 25 years - Mike Larson - Crew Chief
- 35 years - Gary Koehlmoos - Director

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 123 years worked with these 8 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.

CAREERS IN PUBLIC POWER

Empowering our State with our People

Choosing a career in public power comes with a great deal of pride and responsibility. Neighbors and communities across the state rely on you day in and day out. It's because of our people that we remain one of the most respected fields.

SCPPD employees make it their personal responsibility to lead, mentor and encourage any student that might be interested in a career in public power. For the last three years we have invited high school students to our office for a high voltage demonstration and given the students an opportunity to ask questions about our jobs and how they might become a future employee of public power. We have also participated in the local career day at Stanton Community Schools.

If you are a high school student and you have even the slightest interest in the Utility Line program at Northeast Community College, we encourage you to contact the college admissions department. This program has a maximum student enrollment each year and it fills up fast! You can place yourself on the waiting list for early consideration. It might sound strange, but as a current junior in high school you can already ask to be added to this list. You are not obligated to join the program and can simply remove yourself at anytime.



SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

The Donald D Heller Utility Line Scholarship is sponsored by the Stanton County Public Power District. This scholarship will award up to \$6,000 to one student per year. If you are interested in a career in Utility Line, please register at Northeast Community College and file necessary information with the college financial aid department. The deadline for this financial aid is March 1, 2024 for the upcoming fall term.





SECURING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNTS

Protect yourself from identity theft.

Passwords have become a regular part of our everyday lives. They are the first line of defense to protect online accounts. Attackers will use a variety of methods to get your password. Sometimes it's as easy as buying a list of known accounts on the black market or as rudimentary as brute-force attacks. Other times, we unknowingly give the attackers our passwords through social engineering. Either way, the best way to protect online accounts is by being proactive.

CREATE STRONG PASSWORDS.

Use a combination of at least 13 upper-case letters, lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters. Never use dictionary words, obvious passwords (such as 123456) or personal information (such as social security numbers). Try to make your passwords as unique or random as possible.

STORE PASSWORDS SECURELY.

If you write your passwords down, lock them up. If you keep them on your computer or electronic device, use a secure password manager instead of a spreadsheet or a web browser's auto-fill function. Do not share your passwords with anyone unless you know them, trust them, and they need to know it.

DO NOT REUSE PASSWORDS.

Once you have used a password, never use it again for any account. Also, have unique

passwords for each of your accounts. If one account is compromised, all accounts using the same password are compromised. Change any passwords that are compromised immediately.

DO NOT ANSWER SECURITY QUESTIONS TRUTHFULLY

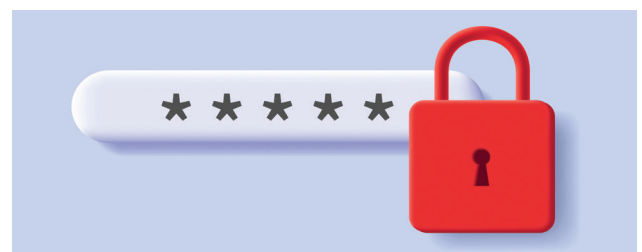
Answers to these questions can sometimes be found with a simple internet search. Securely store the answers to these questions along with your passwords in case you need to recover the account.

USE MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

This is especially important for higher risk accounts such as banks or other financial institutions.

DO NOT LOGIN OVER PUBLIC WIFI.

Your password could be intercepted by an attacker while using public wifi. You should never access accounts that store sensitive data on public wifi.



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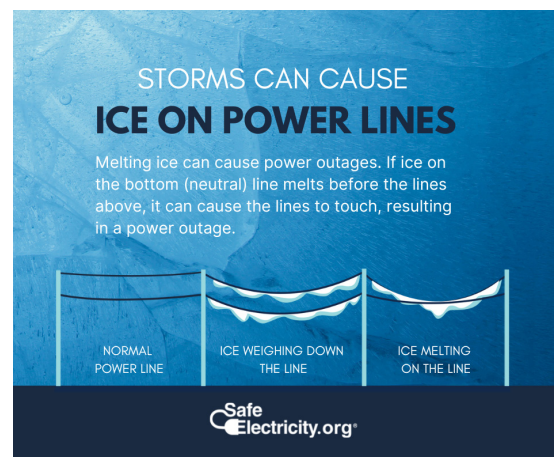
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GALLOPING LINES

Galloping power lines are typically caused when ice and high winds occur at the same time. This can lead to outages.



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