

Sept 2010 Volume 55 Number 5



NORRIS

ELECTRIC NEWS MAGAZINE

2011 Electric Rate OUTLOOK

EVERYTHING You Need
To Know About

Distributed Generation Systems

FEMA Assists
with Winter Storm
DAMAGE

NORRIS ELECTRIC NEWS

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Area I

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Toll Free: 1.800.827.8099
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Closed each day from 12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Fairbury: 402.729.3835

Area II

Roca: 402.423.3855
Toll Free: 1.800.743.3899
Hours: M–F 7:30 AM–4:30 PM
Crete: 402.826.2517

Zac Bowman has been promoted to Lead Maintenance Technician and began his new duties on August 9. Zac was hired by the District in February 2002 as a Maintenance Technician and held that position prior to his promotion. Zac graduated from Southeast Community College in Milford in 1994 with a degree in Electro-Mechanical Technology. Zac and his wife, Jessica, live in rural Firth with their three children: Lillie age 10, Chloe age 8, and Max 6 months. Zac's new duties will include the supervision, coordination and scheduling of all installation, troubleshooting and maintenance for all District oil- and gas-filled equipment, SCADA and load control systems, revenue metering and communications systems and the administration of the District's PCB and EPA compliance programs. Please join us in congratulating Zac on his new position.



Ryan Krupicka joined the Norris Public Power District on August 23 as the Manager of Consumer and Business Information Systems in the Beatrice main office. Ryan attended Wayne State College and graduated in 2000 with a major in Computer Information Systems and a minor in Business. Ryan



and his wife, Rachel, live in rural Cortland and have a 2 year old son, Keston. Ryan's primary job responsibilities will include providing direction, coordination, management and training of the District's hardware, software, communications and peripheral equipment. Please join us in welcoming Ryan to the Norris District.



Norris Public Power District Automatic Telephone Dialing System Courtesy Call Information

Effective July 12, 2010, Norris Public Power District will perform courtesy calls to customers regarding account information at the direction of the customer. Courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including when an account becomes past due or as a reminder that a customer needs to read their meter. The courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number provided by the customer, if written consent is granted by the customer. Customers may provide written consent by completing the back of this form and returning to a Norris office. If a customer does not provide written consent, the courtesy calls will not be made. Customers may rescind their courtesy call consent in the future by contacting one of the Norris offices.



Norris Public Power District Automatic Telephone Dialing System Written Consent Form

_____ (customer/organization) and _____ (spouse/co-resident/business owner) hereby give express written consent to the Norris Public Power District or its assigns to be contacted via a phone call for courtesy calls regarding the account listed. I understand courtesy calls may be made for various reasons, including if my account becomes past due or as a reminder that I need to read my meter. I understand these courtesy calls will be made by an automated dialing device to the cellular or landline phone number listed herein or as later updated.

_____	_____	_____
Account Name	Account Number	Telephone Number
_____	_____	
Signature	Date	

Please return completed form to:
Norris Public Power District,
P.O. Box 399, Beatrice, NE 68310

NPPD Wholesale Rate Outlook



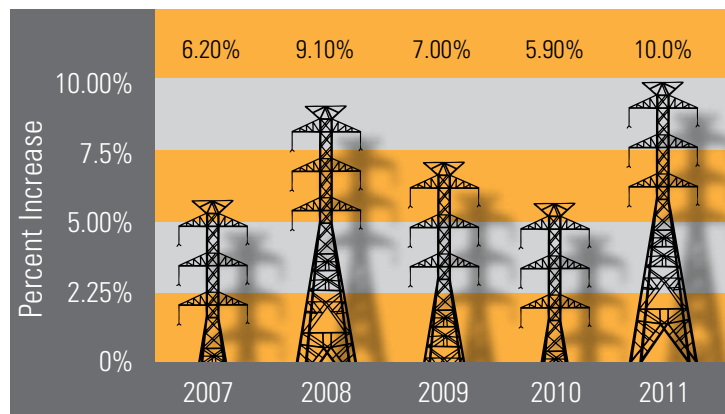
Kevin Pollard, P.E.
General Manager & CEO
Norris Public Power District

I have the rather unpleasant task of informing Norris ratepayers that their 2011 electric rates will again be rising, predominately due to a rate increase from our wholesale power provider, the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Unfortunately, this comes on the heels of rate increases from NPPD since 2007 which total over 31 percent. The 2011 rate increase is predicted to be approximately 10 percent. This equates to cumulative NPPD rate increases from 2007 through 2011 of over 44 percent for that five-year period.

What's the reason for this year's increase? According to NPPD, there are three major reasons:

- Two major power plant outages scheduled for 2011.** NPPD will be shutting down Cooper Nuclear power plant for refueling, and will be shutting down the Gerald Gentlemen coal-fired plant for upgrades. These two shutdowns will be for short periods of time, but on top of the actual cost to do the work, the outages will require NPPD to purchase more expensive energy on the open market. **Rate increase from plant outages 4.2%**
- Fuel costs.** According to NPPD, the cost of the fuel to run their power plants continues to increase. This would include coal, uranium and natural gas. In addition to these increases, NPPD has purchased a share of the Nebraska City 2 power plant located near Nebraska City,

Nebraska Public Power District Wholesale Power Rate Increases



which carries increased energy costs. NPPD has also experienced a significant increase in energy costs from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) due to recent droughts which affect the amount of available energy to be generated from the Missouri River basin.

- Rate increase from increased fuel costs 1.2%**
- Off system sales.** Another major contributing factor is the soft market for energy sales to other utilities located in the region. Normally NPPD, which has excess generating capacity, sells this excess capacity on the open market at elevated prices. However, with the sagging economy and decreased demand for energy, the market has softened, lessening margins realized a few years ago. **Rate increase from off system sales decline 4.3%**

Unfortunately, this does not appear to be the end of near-term rate increases. NPPD is predicting similar increases over the next several years. Once again we are told the increases will be due to lagging sales, both in Nebraska and on the open market, and needed infrastructure additions.

So, what does this mean for Norris rate payers? About 70 percent of the electric bills you send us pay for the wholesale cost of generating electricity and transmitting it to our area. This means that a 10 percent wholesale power rate increase

translates to approximately a seven percent increase in retail rates to our Norris customers.

Due to the hefty wholesale power increases that we have experienced the last several years, the Norris District is working extremely hard to make sure that your retail rates do not increase any more than necessary. We are deferring major projects where possible, and delaying the purchase of new equipment when able. We will continue to work hard in these areas, however it can be very difficult to absorb these increases that affect a large percent of your costs.



EPCO Carbon Dioxide Expansion

EPCO Carbon Dioxide, headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, is the leading supplier of value-priced liquid carbon dioxide in the Central States area and services a wide range of carbon dioxide customers within the food, beverage, chemical, enhanced oil recovery and general industry segments. From the Gulf Coast through the Midwest; to the upper eastern regions of the United States and southeastern Ontario, EPCO has a proven track record of significantly reducing its customers' carbon dioxide costs for the long term while providing exceptional product supply reliability and outstanding application support services.

For EPCO, CO₂ production, distribution and application support is all they do. As a single product company, they are driven to meet their customers' CO₂ requirements and expectations on time, every time. EPCO was founded in 1987 by Ric Wiesemann to provide low cost choices in CO₂ product supply to the liquid carbon dioxide marketplace within the Gulf Coast area. With the construction of its first CO₂ liquefaction plant, located in Sterlington, Louisiana, EPCO gained rapid market acceptance as a viable carbon dioxide supplier providing high quality liquid carbon dioxide at the lowest possible cost with exceptional product supply reliability. EPCO's reputation of meeting its customers' commitments and expectations spread far and wide and much of its growth over the past years can be traced to

many of those initial customers requesting EPCO carbon dioxide supply in other parts of the country.

Since its inception, EPCO has commissioned 14 carbon dioxide liquefaction plants and currently services many of the major users of liquid carbonic dioxide within the food, beverage and chemical market segments. Today EPCO employs over 140 employees and operates 11 modern CO₂ liquefaction plants servicing over 170 large carbon dioxide users located throughout the central and eastern United States. EPCO currently has two liquefaction plants in Nebraska. The Beatrice and York plants both began operations in June 1998 and each has a plant capacity of 250 tons per day. EPCO recently expanded their operations to include a plant at the E Energy Adams ethanol facility located in Adams. According to EPCO regional manager, Lywn Beard, the plant began operations on August 27 and has the capacity to reach 240 tons per day. To accommodate the new EPCO facility, the Norris District upgraded the transformer in the substation and also installed new metering equipment.

"In tough economic times, it's great to see companies in our service area expanding their operations," said Kevin Pollard, CEO and General Manager of Norris Public Power District. "The new EPCO plant will compliment the E Energy Adams ethanol plant and will also be a great addition to the Norris District."



Setting Up and Maintaining Distributed Generation Systems

Renewable energy and its utilization has been the focus of much interest of late. A renewable resource is an energy source that is regenerative or virtually inexhaustible.

Methods of producing renewable energy include solar, wind, biomass, waste, geothermal and water (hydroelectric generation). *Solar thermal technology* converts solar energy through high concentration and heat absorption into electricity or process energy. *Wind generators* produce mechanical energy directly through shaft power. *Biomass energy* is derived from hundreds of plant species, various agricultural and industrial residues and processing wastes. *Industrial wood and wood waste* are the most prevalent form of biomass energy used by non-utilities. *Geothermal technologies* convert heat naturally present in the earth into heat energy and electricity. *Hydroelectric power* is derived by converting the potential energy of water to electrical energy using a hydraulic turbine connected to a generator.

It has become increasingly more common to utilize renewable resources in a distributed fashion, unlike large utility-scale

generation sources. In many instances, the distributed generation resource is customer, not utility, owned.

When considering the connection of a distributed generation resource, it is important to consider various aspects of the project. The Norris District offers a "Distributed Generation Interconnection Guide" that will help the potential distributed generation operator with some of these aspects that are required in order to make the project successful.

In order to construct an interconnection to the District's distribution system, completion of the District's "Application for Approval of Distributed Generation Interconnection" is required. It is important to complete this document early in the process so that the District is aware of your intentions and can research the equipment you propose

to connect. After this document has been completed and accepted by both parties, the equipment can be purchased and the interconnection can be constructed. Once construction is complete, an inspection by the State of Nebraska Electrical Division (NSED) and the Norris District is required prior to closing the interconnection switch. NSED should first be contacted by your electrician, and upon NSED's notification to the District that your installation has passed its requirements, an inspection by the District will follow.

Once the terms of the interconnection and equipment have been verified by the District, an "Agreement for the Closed Transition Operation of Distributed Generation" will be signed by both parties and the interconnection switch can be closed. A bi-directional meter will soon be installed and the installation will require a debt of \$50 to be applied to your account for the mileage and labor incurred in the replacement of the existing meter.

The installation, interconnection and operation of a distributed generation resource without an agreement signed by both parties shall be grounds for immediate disconnection of the District's service without constituting a breach of contract.

For installation of distributed generation sources of 25 kW and below, the District has a net metering policy that will allow the customer to stay on their existing rate schedule.

Energy generated will be available for customer use and will be allowed to offset energy that would have otherwise been purchased by the customer from the District. Net energy delivered or received by the District will be calculated by determining the difference between the 'Delivered' and 'Received' registers on one bi-directional meter. The net energy delivered by the District to the customer will be billed according to the customer's applicable rate schedule. The net excess generation received by

“Energy generated will be available for customer use and will be allowed to **offset energy that would have otherwise been purchased** by the customer from the District.”

the District will be credited monthly to the customer as a monetary credit and will be calculated based on the wholesale production costs avoided by the District for the billing period. Monetary credits will be rolled forward to subsequent billing periods; any monetary credits remaining at the end of the calendar year shall be paid directly to the customer. If Jon Pucket or Julie Pucket of Wilber would please call the Area 2 – Roca office, we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your new clock radio.

The District has designed a rate for distributed generation sources that are too large to qualify under the "net metering" program. This rate is designated as Rate 25 and applies to installations of 100 kW and below. All kWh that flow from the generation source to the District's distribution system is paid based upon Rate 25. Both energy and demand components are included in the calculation. A copy of Rate 25 can be found on the District's website.

While the utilization and implementation differ from distributed generation sources, the District recognizes the need for standby fossil fuel generation for emergency use during outages. To protect the safety of the District's customers and personnel, a double throw disconnect switch shall be installed in conjunction with all standby generators. This switch shall be connected in such a manner that there is a visible open between the District's facilities and the standby generator. The installation of a standby generator without a properly installed double throw disconnect switch shall be grounds for immediate disconnection of the District's service without constituting a breach of contract.

For additional information and to obtain copies of the applications and agreements mentioned, please visit www.norrisppd.com/residential/renewable/ or call the Beatrice main office at 402.223.4038.



EnergyWiseSM Tip

Weatherize Your Home and Use Less Energy

Properly sealing and insulating your home is a cost-effective way to become more energy efficient.

According to ENERGY STAR®, homeowners can realize a potential savings of up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs (or up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill) by improving the sealing and insulation of a home.

First, help make your house weather tight. Many air leaks and drafts in the home are easy to find because they are easy to feel, like those around windows and doors. Other leaks may take some hunting to find, like holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces. Sealing any of these leaks with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping will have a great impact on improving your comfort and reducing utility bills. If Kenneth Kenning of Endicott would please call the Area 1 – Hebron office, we will arrange to have a serviceman deliver your new Kill A Watt device.

Second, after any home sealing project, have a heating and cooling technician check to make sure your combustion appliances (gas- or oil-fired furnace, water heater and clothes dryer) are venting properly. Improper venting of combustion appliances can pose a health risk.

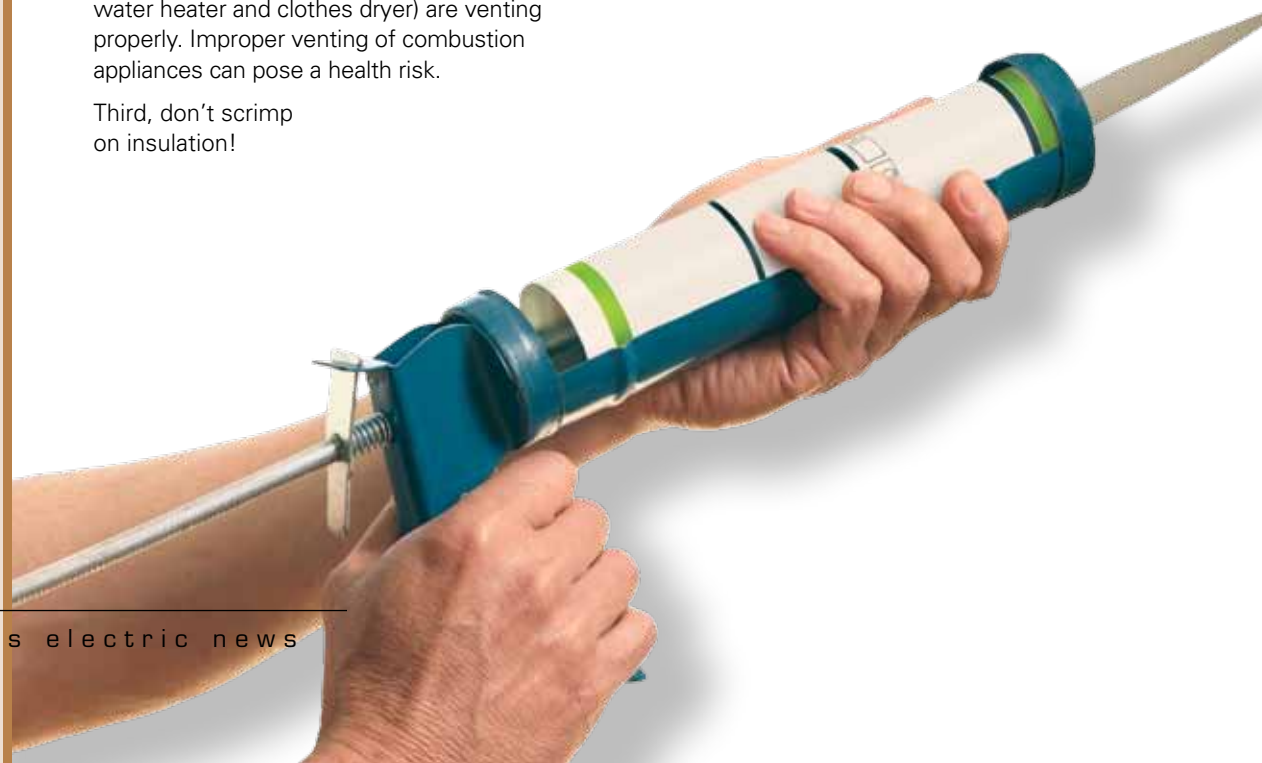
Third, don't scrimp on insulation!

Insulation helps keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer.

There are several common types of insulation – fiberglass (in both batt and blown forms), cellulose, rigid foam board and spray foam. When correctly installed with air sealing, each type of insulation can deliver comfort and lower energy bills for the majority of the year.

To get the biggest savings, the easiest place to add insulation is usually the attic. A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your uncovered attic floor. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.

For more information on steps you can take to improve the energy efficiency of your home, visit www.norrisppd.com/energy/savings/ or call your local area Norris office.



Click Your Way to Home Energy Savings

What's the real story behind your home's energy use?

After all, you try to conserve...switch out your light bulbs.... and those three TVs can't be using much energy, can they?

Now you can obtain these answers and more with a few clicks of your computer mouse.

The new and improved HomeEnergyCalculator on our website at www.norrisppd.com/audits/ offers our residential customers a complete analysis of their energy use based on information they provide about their homes.

On our home page, simply click "Home Energy Savings" on the left navigation, open the calculator and select from the following:

- I am interested in viewing a comprehensive report of my energy usage
- Where are my energy dollars going
- What are some no-cost or low-cost recommendations for my home to lower my energy costs?
- I want to run a custom comparison

With simple and fun navigation, you indicate your home's square footage, age, number of occupants and a few other variables. You also enter other information, such as the types of appliances and windows you have.

The analytic "engine" behind the calculator – which is used by many utilities nationwide – factors in local energy rates and weather data. Within seconds, a colorful pie chart appears with which portion of your monthly bill went to heating, cooling, water heating, lighting, and those darn TVs.

The HomeEnergyCalculator lets you model various scenarios like adjusting heating or cooling settings, tightening up the home by reducing air leaks, adding insulation, or installing storm windows. You can also preview the cost-savings actions or investments that would fit your budget.

The calculation takes less than 10 minutes. It's free and available 24/7.

The calculator on the Norris Public Power website is the latest-generation home energy application available on the market. The tool meshes perfectly with the needs of today's consumers who are super-attuned to their role in controlling energy use.

So, if you'd like a compelling, at-a-glance plan for how to save energy at home, HomeEnergyCalculator is for you. Armed with its onscreen information, you and your family can compare the energy efficiency options available. It's one more way we're working to help customers manage their energy costs.

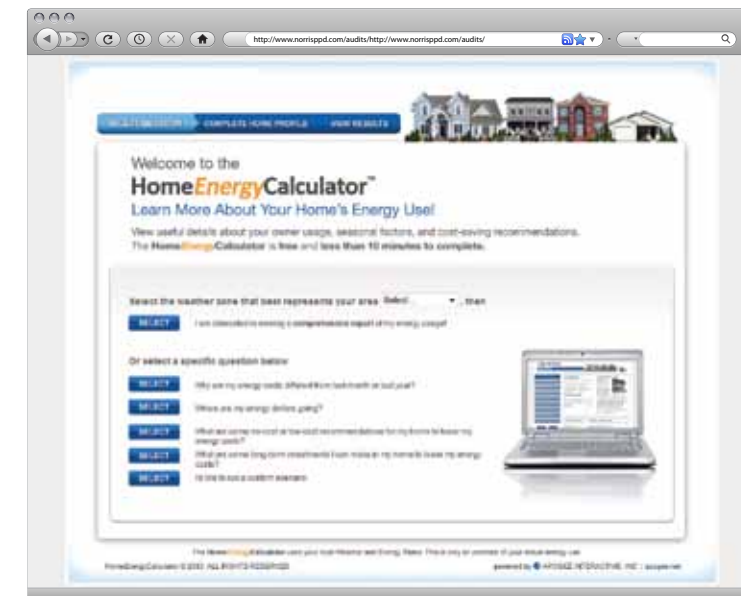


Figure 1

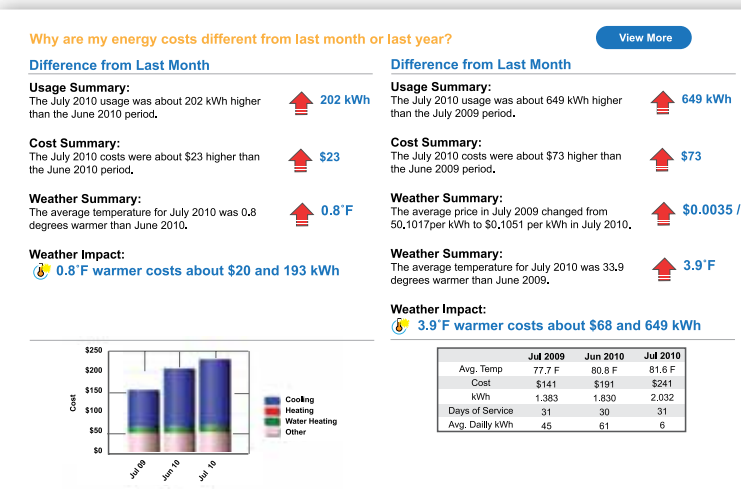


Figure 2

Figures 1 and 2 are examples of results generated from the Norris HomeEnergySuite.

Time is Running Out to Claim Energy Efficiency Tax Credits

Only three months remain to tackle home improvement projects if you want to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill. Measures that qualify include replacing windows, doors or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain; adding insulation; replacing certain air conditioners; and installing air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers and biomass stoves.

"We want to make sure our customers know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on December 31, 2010," stresses Andrea Schafer, Manager of Public Relations at Norris Public Power District.

"This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see energy bill savings right away."

You can recover 30 percent – up to \$1,500 – of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves. Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors, roofing and insulation.

ENERGY STAR®, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Tax credits are especially beneficial as they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe.

"These are tough times, and we know it's important for our customers to keep their monthly electric bills as low as possible," explains Schafer. "Making home energy efficiency upgrades offers a great way to save energy and money, and these tax credits can help make that a reality."

If you're interested in renewable energy, the government also offers a renewable energy tax credit that expires December 31, 2016. That credit covers 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters and geothermal



Time's Running Out for federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits!

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided incentives to make energy efficiency improvements to existing homes, but they expire on **Dec. 31, 2010**. You can receive a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010. The cost of installation is not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation. A list of qualified improvements is at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits. Examples include:

Windows and Doors		Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)	
Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights	Must have Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) and U-factor less than or equal to 0.30.	Central Air Conditioning	For split systems, must have an energy efficiency ratio (EER) greater than or equal to 13 and a Seasonal EER greater than or equal to 16. For package systems, must have an EER greater than or equal to 12 and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Storm Windows and Doors	When combined with the window/door over which it's installed, it must meet the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) in your climate zone.	Air-Source Heat Pumps	For split systems, must have a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) greater than or equal to 8.5, an EER greater than or equal to 12.5, and a SEER greater than or equal to 15. For package systems, must have a HSPF greater than or equal to 8, an EER greater than or equal to 12, and a SEER greater than or equal to 14.
Roofing			
Metal, Asphalt Roofs	All ENERGY STAR metal and asphalt roofs qualify. Must be expected to last 5 years or have a 2-year warranty.	Natural Gas or Propane Furnace	Must have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) greater than or equal to 95.
Insulation		Gas, Propane, or Oil Hot Water Boiler and Oil Furnace	Must have an AFUE greater than or equal to 90.
Insulation	Primary purpose must be to insulate. For example, vapor retarders are covered but insulated siding does not qualify. Also must meet 2009 IECC and be expected to last 5 years or have a 2-year warranty.	Advanced Main Air Circulating Fan	No more than 2 percent of furnace total energy use.

NOTE: Certain non-solar water heaters and biomass stoves also qualify for energy efficiency tax credits. Tax credits are also available for renewable energy, including geothermal heat pumps. For tax purposes, the Manufacturer's Certification Statement and receipt are generally required.

Source: ENERGY STAR. For details visit www.energystar.gov.

heat pumps for both new and existing homes. Consult Norris Public Power District for advice on which system makes sense for your home.

Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your 2010 taxes using IRS Form 5695.

In addition, the Norris District offers various residential incentives for customers who want to make their homes more energy efficient. For more information on the District's rebate incentives, visit www.norrisppd.com/residential/save/ or call your local area Norris office. The Nebraska Energy Office also offers many programs including low interest loans and incentives relating to energy efficiency. Visit www.neo.ne.gov/ for more information.



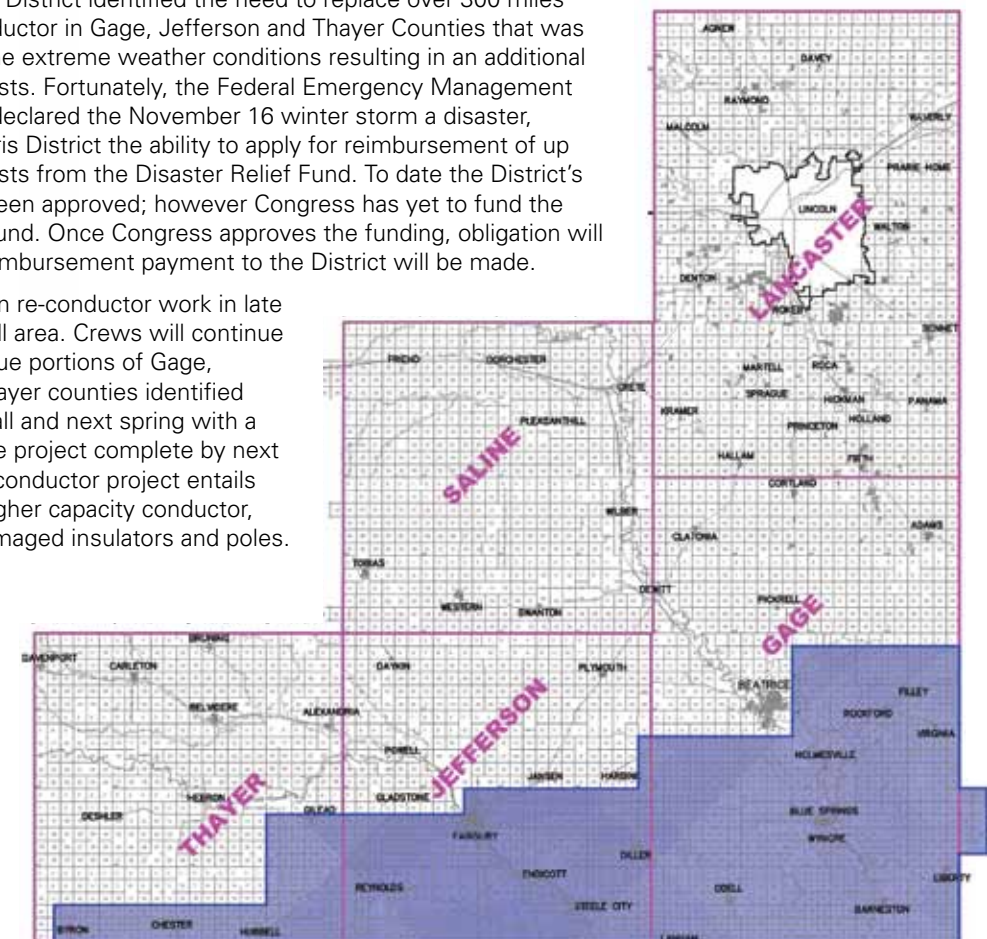
FEMA Re-conductor Project

Roughly nine months ago, on Monday, November 16, 2009, a freakish winter storm system swept through the southern portion of the Norris service area generating heavy wet snow, ice and high winds. As a result of the accumulating heavy wet snow on overhead conductors, insulators, cross arms and associated electrical equipment, coupled with high winds, this storm system caused widespread electrical outages to Norris customers located along our southernmost service area causing major damage to the Norris system in this area. The tally of damage consisted of 542 broken poles lying on the ground, outages to over 4,200 Norris customers, and long term damage to conductors serving this area due to the extreme wind and heavy snow forces associated with the storm.



The total cost to repair the damage and restore power to Norris customers during that week was in excess of \$815,000. After the storm, the Norris District identified the need to replace over 300 miles of overhead conductor in Gage, Jefferson and Thayer Counties that was damaged from the extreme weather conditions resulting in an additional \$1.2 million in costs. Fortunately, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared the November 16 winter storm a disaster, enabling the Norris District the ability to apply for reimbursement of up to 75% of the costs from the Disaster Relief Fund. To date the District's application has been approved; however Congress has yet to fund the Disaster Relief Fund. Once Congress approves the funding, obligation will begin and the reimbursement payment to the District will be made.

The District began re-conductor work in late July in the Pickrell area. Crews will continue working in the blue portions of Gage, Jefferson and Thayer counties identified in the map this fall and next spring with a goal of having the project complete by next summer. The re-conductor project entails stringing new, higher capacity conductor, and replacing damaged insulators and poles.



	Miles of Line to be Replaced	Costs for Replacement	Total Miles to be Replaced: 316
Gage	208 miles	\$800,000	Total Cost: \$1,225,000
Jefferson	71 miles	\$275,000	
Thayer	37 miles	\$150,000	



2010 Operation ROUND UP 3rd Quarter Results

In 2001, Norris Public Power District launched the "Operation Round Up" program. Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which customers select to have their monthly electric bills "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. The additional cents are placed in the Norris Power Goodwill Fund. This fund is administered by a board of directors made up of one Norris customer from each of the five counties we serve. The board meets quarterly to consider requests and make disbursements. Since its inception, Operation Round Up has granted over \$400,000 to organizations within our service territory.



Recipients of backpacks and school supplies from the "Ready-Set-Go" Back to School Program sponsored by the Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center and the Salvation Army. From left to right, Elizabeth, Naomi, Isaiah and Rebecca Durgin.

Award Amount	Organization/Agency	Purpose
\$50	Nebraska American Legion Junior Auxiliary, Dorchester	Goodie bags for veterans
\$50	Hope Crisis Center, Fairbury	Backpacks & water bottles
\$100	Beatrice Community Hospital & Health Center	Backpacks & school supplies
\$100	Beatrice Humane Society	Security system
\$100	Tri County School Reading Classics	Author / illustrator presentation
\$180	Beatrice Family YMCA	Fitness bikes
\$250	Burkley Library & Resource Center, DeWitt	Retaining wall
\$250	Odell Fire Department	Portable radios
\$500	Jansen Rural Fire Department	Portable water tank
\$500	Struckman-Baatz Public Library, Western	Air conditioner
\$500	Village of Steele City	Tables & chairs
\$500	Bruning Community Foundation Inc.	Library bookshelves
\$500	Village of Hallam	Park improvements
\$700	Hubbell Community Improvement Organization	Stove, refrigerator, & kitchen cabinets
\$750	DeWitt Historical Society	Roof repairs
\$750	Hickman Legion Post 105 Auxiliary	Kitchen renovation
\$750	Southeast Nebraska YMCA Foundation, Beatrice	Handicap-accessible playground equipment
\$750	Blue Valley Community Action, Fairbury	Multiple projects

Total Amount Awarded for 3rd Quarter = \$14,950

If your organization has received a donation from Operation Round Up funds, send us a photo showing how you've benefitted and we'll feature it in an upcoming issue of the Norris News!

COOK of the Month—Susie Stitt

Rural Liberty, NE



Susie Stitt is a farm wife and feels very blessed because of it. She loves country living and thinks it's one of the best places to raise children. After living in several states, including Kansas, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Mississippi, she found that she preferred the Midwest lifestyle and the people that live there.

Susie lives with her husband of 28 years, Garry, who owns their farm near Liberty. She is a Cosmetologist and has been practicing since 1971. She has also been employed by Valley Vet Supply since 2003. Susie and Garry have four children between the two of them – Jon, who lives in Chicago; Josi, who lives in rural Wymore; Jim, who is close by in rural Liberty; and Kelsey, their youngest. They also have five grandchildren that they affectionately call "Grands" – Isabelle, Murphy, Nicholas, Adele and Sullivan (Sully). Their grand labs, Shemi and Sufa, round out the family.

Susie credits her culinary skills with growing up in a family of very good cooks, with the most influence coming from her grandmother, her Aunt Faye and her mother. She has shared some of her favorite family recipes below. The Camp Stew is always made ahead of time and frozen so it can be heated up over a campfire and eaten with rolls (kind of like a sandwich). The chocolate cake was Aunt Faye's signature treat, and the wild rice soup is a Stitt family favorite.

Minnesota Wild Rice Soup	Aunt Faye's Sour Cream Chocolate Cake	Camp Stew
<p>1 cup wild rice, cooked 4 cups water (salt water) cook rice as directed. 4 cups diced potatoes 1 med. onion, chopped 2 carrots, sliced</p> <p>Put these items in with rice with enough water to cook the veggies until tender. Add 2 qts whole milk and 2 lbs cubed Velveeta cheese. Cook until cheese is melted, add bacon and mushrooms when ready to serve. You may add salt and pepper to taste but I find it is usually salty enough after you add the bacon.</p> <p>10 strips of bacon diced and fried 2 boxes of chopped raw mushrooms</p> <p>Sauté the mushrooms and fried bacon together. Add this to the soup right before you serve.</p>	<p>2 cups sugar 1/2 cup butter 2 eggs 2/3 cup cocoa with enough warm water to make paste 1 cup sour cream 2 1/2 cups flour 1/2 tsp salt 1 tsp soda 1 cup boiling water 1 tsp vanilla</p> <p>Cream sugar and butter until light and fluffy; beat in eggs. Mix in remaining ingredients, adding water last. Pour into 9x13 pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until cake is done. (Aunt Faye has also used soured milk with 1 Tbsp vinegar instead of sour cream)</p> <p>Cooked Frosting 2 cups sugar 1 stick oleo 1/2 cup whole milk or half and half</p> <p>Combine ingredients, boil for 1 1/2 minutes, add 1 tsp vanilla.</p> <p>Set pan in cool water to thicken, spread on cake before it gets too solid.</p>	<p>4-5 lbs chicken 1 lb pork roast 1 lb beef roast</p> <p>Boil meats and take off bone and shred. Save one quart broth. Add vegetables.</p> <p>1 large can lima beans 1 large can tomatoes 3 cups diced potatoes 1 reg size bottle ketchup 1/2 bottle Worcestershire Sauce</p> <p>Simmer until potatoes are done. You may freeze for camping.</p> <p>I also put in a slow cooker to serve.</p>

Feature a COOK of the Month
If you or someone you know would like to be featured as the Cook of the Month, please send an email to comments@norrispower.com or go to www.norrisppd.com, click "Cook of the Month" and fill out the application.

Community Events Calendar

For the most current list of community events, visit www.norrisppd.com and look for the Community Events Calendar on the right side of your screen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 & 24

Firth Friday Farmers' Market

5:00 PM–8:30 PM

Nemaha St. in Firth every Friday through September

For more information, call Tammi at 402.791.5225 or email at jandtweber@yahoo.com

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17–18

Crete Area Medical Center Auxiliary 5th Annual Garage & Bake Sale

410 East 9th Street, Crete

8:00 AM–5:00 PM

Contact Cheryl at 402.826.5451 with any questions

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18–19

40th Annual Steele City Flea Market – Featuring Ford-Ferguson Tractors

Flea market vendors from Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska
Food concessions, historic demonstrations, museums, tractor drive, tractor parade

8:00 AM–5:00 PM

For more information, contact John Howell at 402.729.5857 or visit www.jeffersoncountyhistory.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Baked Potato Feed, Bake Sale and Basket Silent Auction

Hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Davey

5:00 PM–7:00 PM at the Davey Hall

Children's events will begin at 5:45 PM

Freewill donations taken at the door

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Conestoga Parish Dinner Theatre Presents "Preview to Christmas"

Lincoln Firefighters Reception Hall, 241 Victory Lane, Lincoln 6:00 PM

Denton, Pleasant Dale, Raymond United Methodist Churches

For tickets call: 402.432.7304

\$20: Adults, \$10: Youth, \$8: 8 & Under

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Dorchester United Methodist Church Dinner & Auction

Dinner 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Auction to follow

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Firth Fall Fest

For more information contact Diana Wieskamp at 402.791.5312 or 402.499.4914

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Pawnee City Historical Day

Highway 8 & 50 on east edge of Pawnee City

Events start at 9:00 AM

Admission is free

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Hallam United Methodist Fall Festival

500 Main Street, Hallam

Turkey or Meatball Dinner & Bake Sale

Serving 5:00 PM–8:00 PM

Advance tickets: \$9: Adults, \$3.50: Children

Door tickets: \$9: Adults, \$4: Children

For advance tickets call 402.794.4995 or 402.489.0477

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

Hallam United Church of Christ Turkey & Ham Dinner

Serving 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

Freewill offering will be accepted

Quilt raffle tickets will be on sale for the quilt made by the Hallam UCC sewing group

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Denton United Methodist Church Annual Soup Supper

Denton Community Center

Serving from 4:30 PM–7:00 PM

Featuring fabulous chili & spectacular chicken noodle soup, homemade pie & more

Freewill offering

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Spookfest in Cortland

6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Hayrack rides, spooktacular treats for families, ghoully games for kids & activities for families

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30

Blue Springs United Methodist Church Annual Bazaar

Wymore Community Center

9:00 AM–11:00 AM Rolls & Coffee

11:00 AM–1:00 PM Noon lunch

5:00 PM Pancake Supper

Many homemade items to purchase!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Raymond United Methodist Church Annual Potato Bake & Bazaar

Serving from 4:30 PM–8:00 PM

\$7: Adults, \$3.50: Children 10 & Under

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Daykin Community Club Brunch

Daykin Community Building

Serving 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Freewill donations accepted to assist the Daykin Community Club in purchasing new tables and chairs

Thrivent will provide supplemental funds

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Cortland American Legion, Spobow Post 253, Annual Turkey/Ham Dinner

Cortland Community Center

Serving from 11:00 AM–1:30 PM