

March 2021 >>>

Legislative Update
2021 Irrigation Contracts
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Spring Planting Safety
SmartHub



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

EnLIGHTening NEWS



About Us >>>

Stanton County Public Power District: Board of Directors

Robert Schellpeper.....President
Gary Koehlmoos.....Vice President
Weldon Marotz.....Secretary
Jim Scherer.....Treasurer
Doug Oertwich.....Director
John Gall.....Director

Contact Us:

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Email: scppd@scppd.net
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Check us out on Facebook

**Report an Outage:
877-439-2300
for after office hours service**



Nebraska Legislature

Back in Full Swing

January is the beginning of a new year and the start of a new legislative session here in Nebraska. The 107th Legislature, 1st Session kicked off on January 6, 2021. This session will look a bit different with several protocols and procedures altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nebraska state law requires every bill introduced must have a public hearing. This process is still in place but with some alterations. There are several bills that are of interest to Stanton County PPD and its customer/owners. We will monitor bills, suggest changes and advocate on your behalf with the best interest of all our customers.

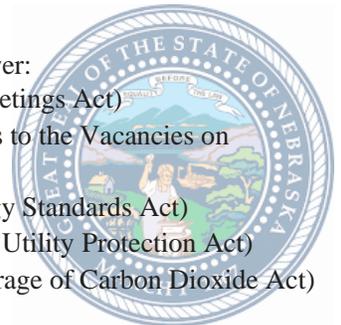
How do we decide what is best for our customers? Our mission has not changed, we continue to advocate for reliable electric service at the lowest cost possible for all customers.

We will continue to be good stewards of the environment, offer renewable energy programs, and keep our rates fair and non-discriminatory. We also understand the cornerstone of our business is reliable, low-cost energy for the farm, business, and households across the District we serve.

We are following some bills that may have an impact on your electric rates. We work through our statewide organization, Nebraska Rural Electric Association, to stop bills when necessary, compromise when appropriate and support legislation that will have a positive impact to the industry. There are several bills that have been introduced, held hearings, and began floor debate.

Here is a small sample of the bills of interest to Public Power:

- LB 83 by Senator Flood (Changes to the Open Meetings Act)
- LB 257 by Senator M. Hansen (Change Provisions to the Vacancies on Boards)
- LB 266 by Senator McCollister (Renewable Energy Standards Act)
- LB 512 by Senator Brewer (Critical Infrastructure Utility Protection Act)
- LB 650 by Senator Flood (Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act)



Attention Irrigators>>>

2021 Control Agreements

The 2021 irrigation agreements, and rate schedules have been mailed out. Please select the rate and load management status you wish to operate for the 2021 season. Complete an Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement for each electric irrigation system you operate.

Even if you wish to continue operating under the same rate/control as the previous year, you will need to complete and sign a new form each year. All Agreements are due in the SCPPD office by April 1, 2021 to allow for ample time for our summer load management planning. As always, please remember to update your contact information as well.

If you have any questions, or need to change the responsible party of your irrigation service please contact the SCPPD office at 402-439-2228.



Interested in converting your pivot to electric?
Call the office and speak to the Operations Manager.

Energy Efficiency:

Smart Thermostats

Consider upgrading your home to a smart thermostat to help save you energy and money!

Don't forget to ask about the EnergyWise Rebate program!



Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.

EnergyWise Incentives >>>



2021 Incentive Rebate Programs

Energy Efficiency is important to all! If you are looking for ways to save energy and money, check our list of rebate programs. There are several options for customers to take advantage of in the 2021 year. For more information, check the website at www.scppd.com or call the office at 402-439-2228.

Residential Heat Pump Water Heater:

\$400 for air source with an EF > 1.9

\$650 for ground source with an EF > 2.8

High Efficiency Heat Pump:

\$400 - \$3,300 Incentive

Minimum SEER 15, 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: \$0.15 per square foot - \$300



On The Farm:

Handle Irrigation Equipment with Care



Stanton County PPD and Safe Electricity would like to remind anyone in the agricultural industry that moving irrigation pipes can be extremely dangerous around power lines. The watering pipes can be made of aluminum, a great conductor of electricity.

We offer these irrigation safety tips:

- Be extremely careful when assembling or moving long sections of irrigation pipes.
- Always consider your location and the length of the pipe you are holding.
- Make sure the pipe's long reach will not come near or into contact with power lines.
- If the pipe touches or comes too close to a power line, you could be electrocuted.
- Do not store, handle or assemble irrigation pipes under or near overhead power lines.
- In fact, do not store (or park) anything under power lines.

Installation and Maintenance

Although farmers are usually great at fixing anything and everything, it's a good idea to have a qualified electrician install and maintain your irrigation's electricals, which must meet National Electrical Code. Hire one who is experienced and well-versed in irrigation systems.

In general, talk to everyone in your family (including kids and teens) about the dangers of moving pipes. Teach irrigation safety to all staff and seasonal workers. Family members or workers might try to rearrange pipes for coverage or move them to free an animal and not realize how close they are to an overhead power line. In addition, they may try to use an electrical system that is damaged or not properly grounded.



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



For more information:

Safe Electricity.org®

SmartHub>>>

Check out the online payment gateway from SCPPD!



We are living in a time of online convenience. Whether you are staying home due to illness, or simply want to streamline your bill payment process, we can help. Using your account number, you can set up a profile to help manage your electric usage and of course, pay your bill online! You can find the link to SmartHub at our website, www.scppd.net and the screenflow will help you get connected to your account and all the ways to use SmartHub to save you electricity and money.

Flooding Dangers

When floods happen, news reports often show homeowners and reporters standing in or rowing through flood waters. This is a **BAD IDEA**. Flood waters can cover downed power lines or other electric hazards, and the combination of water and electricity can cause shock or electrocution. Always be aware of hidden danger!



It's the Law – Call
Before You Dig!
1-800-331-5666



877-439-2228 www.scppd.com scppd@scppd.net
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HOW POWER IS SAFELY RESTORED

Please know that when the power goes out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



**STEP 1: ASSESS
THE DAMAGE**



**STEP 2: ADDRESS
SAFETY RISKS**



**STEP 3: RESTORE
ESSENTIAL SERVICES**



**STEP 4: PRIORITIZE
REPAIRS**