



Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

www.crppd.com

January, 2025

Manager Memos -by Curtis Kayton

Ready or not 2025 is here! As you read this, we want to remind you to be watching your bill stuffers for announcements regarding our increase. One thing to keep in mind is that last year's increases were driven largely by wholesale power costs. This year, the increase is for CRPPD operating cash, and not wholesale power. Here is what to look for in 2025. We added a demand component to single and three-phase commercial rates. Depending on how much the service is used will result in either a small increase or decrease.

Our residential customers will see an increase in the monthly base charge, but the energy charge will remain the same. We also discontinued the rate for our Cabin services, as their cost of service aligns with our monthly residential class. All services in our Large Commercial class were migrated into our three-phase commercial class. Irrigation customers will see a higher annual facilities charge but the demand and energy rates will remain unchanged.

As previously mentioned, be looking at your bill stuffers and as always please call when any questions.

We will have also approved our 2025 budget which includes a Substation Transformer upgrade at our Goodstreak substation, a bucket and digger truck, and another cost-sharing project that will increase system-wide reliability in conjunction with the Department of Energy.

Another annual event that is always on our radar screen is when the legislature convenes in January. We will bid farewell to Senator Steve Erdman and thank him for his support of rural electricity and welcome Senator Paul Strommen from Sidney.

As always, we stand ready to respond to your needs and if you have questions feel free to stop in or call.

Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, and LED lights. Must be new installations only. and submitted within 90 days.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

- *Electric water heaters - new construction or conversion from gas to electric
- *Heat pumps-minimum standard 7.8 HSPF2/Energy Star version 6.1
- *Electric motors minimum of 10 hp -\$8/hp
- *Old refriger and freezer going to be recycled
- *Clothes Dryers - \$30-\$90
- *Induction Cooktops 30" or larger, must be replacing gas
- *Electric trimmer, chainsaw or pruner, electric blower or lawn-mower - 25% of cost, up to \$150
- *Whole House Fans - \$100
- *Smart Thermostats - \$25

Receipts are required.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.

Let us help pay for your new electric appliances and motors.

Stay safe and warm this Winter

As the colder months hit, many of us are not prepared for Old Man Winter's potential wrath.

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) advises everyone to ready their home and cars, prepare for possible power outages, and to check on older adults. Specifically, the CDC recommends taking the following steps so that you will be more likely to stay safe and healthy when temperatures start to fall:

Prepare your home

Winterize your home:

- Install weather stripping, insulation, and storm windows.
- Insulate water lines that run along exterior walls.
- Clean out gutters and repair roof leaks.

Check your heating systems:

- Have your heating system serviced professionally to make sure that it is clean, working properly, and ventilated to the outside.
- Inspect and clean fireplaces and chimneys.
- Install a smoke detector. Test batteries monthly and replace them twice a year.
- Have a safe alternate heating source and alternate fuels available.

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) emergencies:

- Install a CO detector to alert you of the presence of the deadly, odorless, colorless gas. Check batteries when you change your clocks in the fall and spring.
- Learn symptoms of CO poisoning that include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Prepare your car

Get your car ready for cold weather. Service the radiator and maintain antifreeze level; check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires. Also:

- Keep the gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your car in case you become stranded.

Other steps

Be prepared for weather-related emergencies, including power outages. Be sure to have plenty of non-perishable food on hand and extra water stored in clean containers. If bad weather is forecasted:

- Avoid travel;
- Fully charge your cell phone; and
- Keep an up-to-date emergency kit on hand.

Take steps to protect your family from carbon monoxide:

- Keep grills, camp stoves and generators out of the house, basement and garage; and
- Use fuel-powered generators at least 20 feet away from the house.

Leave your home immediately if the CO detector goes off and call 9-1-1.

When Winter Winds Howl, Power Lines Can Gallop

Severe weather with strong winds can cause damage to trees, buildings, and electrical equipment. While power lines can sway in high winds, add freezing rain or icy conditions and the result can be galloping power lines.

Galloping is the bouncing or bucking movement of overhead lines and can cause several problems, from temporary power interruptions to equipment damage, the collapse of power poles and downed lines. Galloping lines often result from ice buildup on one side of the power line due to strong winds. The buildup of ice creates an air foil, which changes the flow of air around the line, causing bouncing wires, or galloping power lines.

There isn't much utility workers can do until the wind dies down. That's why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These help reduce galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

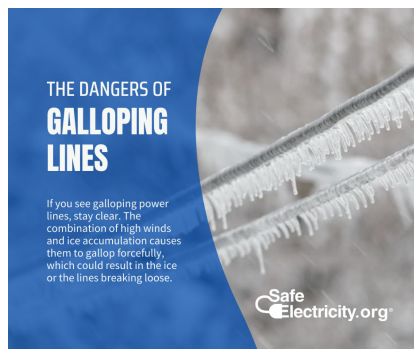
If you see galloping power lines:

- Keep your distance - ice can break off or power lines break loose.
- Contact your utility to make them aware of the potential damage as soon as possible.

If you see a downed line:

- Stay far away and warn others to stay away too.
- Remember, a downed line can remain energized even if it is not sparking or arcing.
- Always report the location of a downed power line and damaged electrical equipment.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit/medicine, flashlight, radio, extra batteries, and toiletries.



Crock-pot Potato Soup

1 bag (30 oz) frozen hash-brown potatoes
14 ozs chicken broth
1 can cream of chicken soup
1/2 cup onion (chopped)
1/3 tsp ground black pepper
1 package (8 oz) cream cheese (softened)
Garnish: minced green onion, shredded Cheddar cheese and bacon

Place the frozen hash browns, chicken broth, cream of chicken soup, chopped onions, and ground black pepper in a crock-pot.

Cover the pot and turn the heat on low. Cook for 5 hours.

Add 8 oz of softened cream cheese. Cook for an additional 30 minutes and stir now and then until combined.

Optional but highly suggested: top with shredded Cheddar cheese, cut up bacon pieces, and minced green onion.

Budget Billing Set Up Time

Customers currently on budget billing will have their accounts “settled up” with the January billing. The accounts will bill the actual amount due on the account.

This is a good time to set up new budget accounts. New budgets will start with the February billing. If you would like more information on budget billing or would like to set up your account on budget just give our office a call.

Scholarships Offered

Chimney Rock PPD in conjunction with Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission are offering a \$1,000 and two \$500 college scholarships. Applicants for the scholarships must be U.S. citizens and dependants of Chimney Rock consumers.

Applicants also must be students enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Scholarship information will include SAT/ACT scores and overall grade-point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, applicant appraisal and an essay question.

Applications for the 2025-26 school year will be accepted until February 14, 2025. For more information contact your school’s guidance counselor or call Chimney Rock PPD.

Rocky Mountain Electric League Foundation Scholarship

Students of Chimney Rock PPD customers pursuing an electric industry career are eligible to apply for this scholarship. There are several scholarships awarded in amounts up to \$3,000. The scholarship deadline is February 7, 2025. For more information on eligibility requirements and for the application information log on to www.rmef.org, click on RMEL Foundation and scholarships.



**Chimney Rock
Public Power District
128 W 8th St.
P O Box 608
Bayard, NE 69334**

Board of Directors

President
Kevin Stuart

Vice-President
Travis Petersen

Secretary/Treasurer
Corey Henkel

Dan Carnine

Larry Fiscus

Richard Kildow

General Manager
Curtis Kayton
Staff

Shauna Abbott
Jacob Ashmore
Tina Douglas
Joel Duffield
Shecky Francisco
Bryce Hargens
Ron Hubbard
Justin McAllister
Dalton Propp
Tanner Rafferty
Brandon Wyckoff

**During normal office hours
and after hours call:**

**(308) 586-1824 or
(877) 773-6300**

January Board Meeting:
January 15th - 8:00 am

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.