

TONY GERARD CELEBRATES 40 YEARS



Tony Gerard is celebrating 40 years of dedicated service at South Central Public Power District. He began his career in September 1986 as

a lineman, a position he held until 2006. After an injury required him to step away from line duties, Tony transitioned into a new role and continued serving the District. He now works in Warehousing, Purchasing, and Environmental Compliance, where he oversees much of the District's purchasing, conducts research for procurement, manages inventory control, ensures audit requirements are met, and handles all EPA regulations. He also assists with safety tasks including rubber gloving and line hoses, and ensures trucks and equipment meet yearly inspection standards. His work supports many parts of the organization, and his reliability and thoroughness have made him a trusted part of daily operations.

Tony grew up in Iowa City, Iowa, and now lives in Nelson, Nebraska. He and his wife, Lynn, who works as a Pampered Chef Director, have one son, Anthony, who works for KFRS AM/FM Radio in Superior.

Thank you for your 40 years of dedicated service, Tony!

UNDERSTANDING THE LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

For more than 50 years, South Central Public Power District has used load management also referred to as load control, to manage electricity demand and keep power costs affordable. During periods of high demand, certain large electrical loads may be temporarily reduced. This does not mean electricity is running out. Instead, load control helps utilities manage when electricity is used, reduce peak demand and operate the system as efficiently and economically as possible.

A History of Innovation

South Central has been a leader in load management for decades. The District began offering irrigation load management more than 50 years ago, following successful experimental testing by then-manager Yale Meyer. South Central was among the first utilities to provide this service.

As irrigation technology advanced, this program evolved. Early customers would experience up to 12 hours of control each day. With the rise of center pivots, South Central introduced thermostat and time-clock controls to improve service. Around 1990, remote communications allowed pumps to be controlled based on real-time electrical loads, significantly reducing control hours.

In the 1980s, Nebraska Public Power District began managing loads across its service area and notifying rural utilities when local control was needed, further reducing control time. Around 2020, South Central upgraded to a two-way communications system, allowing the District to verify that irrigation wells have turned off when required.

Managing Demand and Controlling Costs

Electricity demand changes throughout the day and throughout the year. On hot summer afternoons, irrigation systems, air conditioners and other large loads may operate at the same time, creating very high demand.

Managing that demand helps utilities control the cost of purchasing and delivering electricity and better manage the capacity needed to serve customers. Load management ensures the system is used efficiently during peak periods.

Irrigation is a highly seasonal load. It creates significant demand in the summer but is used far less during the rest of the year. Load management helps South Central plan for that seasonal usage. Today, irrigators can choose the level of load management that fits their operation, including 7-day, 4-day or no control options. Rates reflect the level selected, giving irrigators flexibility while providing the District with predictable, manageable demand.

Cryptocurrency mining is another large, flexible load. Because mining operations can shift usage to periods of lower overall demand, they make productive use of available system capacity throughout the year. Their flexibility also provides an important benefit during high-demand periods.

Cryptocurrency mining is the first load South Central controls during peak demand. Any mining on our system is under strict, year-round control and can be curtailed before residential, agricultural or other customers are affected. This allows the District to quickly reduce a significant amount of demand while protecting the energy needs of all other customers.

Benefit for Customers

Load management benefits customers by helping South Central manage peak demand, capacity requirements and power costs. It also reduces strain on the electric system during the periods when demand is highest.

For irrigation customers, the financial benefits have been substantial. Over the decades, South Central's irrigation load management program has saved participating irrigators millions of dollars.

What began more than 50 years ago as an innovative irrigation program has grown into a modern system that gives customers choices while helping the District manage demand, control costs and maintain a reliable electric system.

IRRIGATION ACCOUNT REMINDER

If there is a change in ownership or a new tenant on your land, please remember to contact South Central PPD. This helps ensure the appropriate account and billing information is updated promptly.

ENERGYWISE

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

SMART THERMOSTAT

If you have a home Wi-Fi connection and a central air-conditioning or heat pump system, you may qualify for an EnergyWiseSM incentive of up to \$100 for installing a qualifying smart thermostat.

Smart thermostat technology is most beneficial for households that have extended periods during the day when no one is home, those that turn their thermostat down during bedtime hours or those that have irregular occupancy through the week, month or year.

For more information on available incentives visit:
www.southcentralppd.com



E-BIKE AND E-SCOOTER BATTERY SAFETY TIPS

Prevent E-Bike and E-Scooter Fires

E-bikes and e-scooters are becoming as common as backpacks. They are popular ways for students to get to class, work and activities. These devices are powered by lithium-ion batteries — the same type used in laptops and smartphones. A few smart habits can help prevent battery fires and keep riders safe.

Charge Smart

Improper charging is one of the leading causes of lithium-ion battery fires. Help reduce the risk by using these tips:

- Use only the charger that came with the device or one approved by the manufacturer.
- Charge the battery on a flat, dry surface away from anything that can catch fire.
- Plug a charger directly into a wall outlet. Avoid extension cords and power strips.
- Do not charge batteries near doors, in hallways or anywhere they could block an exit or create a tripping hazard.
- Charge one high-powered device per outlet to reduce the risk of overheating.
- Unplug the battery when it's fully charged or set a timer to remind you.

Store Batteries Safely

- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible.
- Avoid charging or storing batteries in extreme temperatures, below 32 F or above 105 F.
- Never leave batteries in direct sunlight or inside a hot car.
- Store e-bikes, scooters and batteries away from exits and flammable materials.

Recycle Responsibly

- Never put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. They can spark and start a fire.
- Take used or damaged batteries to a certified battery recycling location. Contact your local waste department or visit batterynetwork.org to find a recycling site near you.

Stop using your battery if you notice:

- Unusual odors.
- Changes in color or shape.
- Smoking or leaking.
- Strange noises.
- It no longer holds a charge.
- It feels unusually hot.

Damaged or defective batteries can overheat, catch fire or explode. If a lithium-ion battery starts to smoke or catch fire, move away and call 911. If it is safe to do so, use water to cool the battery and the surrounding area.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

DORM ROOM ELECTRICAL SAFETY:
TIPS FOR A SAFE SEMESTER

Be smart and stay safe. Share these tips with your campus-bound students.

⚡ DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS Too much power draw = fire risk. Tip: Plug dorm room fridge directly into wall outlet.	⚡ UNPLUG WHEN NOT IN USE Even when off, devices can still draw power or overheat. Tip: Unplug fans, chargers and appliances when you're out.
⚡ DECORATE SAFELY Don't use nails or tacks to secure cords or light strands. Tip: Use plastic hooks to hang string lights.	⚡ NEVER CHARGE A PHONE UNDER PILLOWS OR BEDDING It could overheat or catch fire. Tip: Create a dedicated charging station in your room.
⚡ NEVER USE DAMAGED CORDS Frayed or cracked cords can spark a fire. Tip: If a cord looks worn, replace it — don't tape it!	⚡ KEEP CORDS COOL & CLEAR Don't run cords under rugs, beds or doorways. Tip: Keep cords visible to avoid overheating.
⚡ REPORT ELECTRICAL ISSUES FAST Flickering lights? Warm outlets? Tip: Tell campus maintenance ASAP; don't wait.	Learn more: SafeElectricity.org®



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The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Central Public Power District is held the third Tuesday of each month at 9AM at the District's office in Nelson, Nebraska.

Nelson Office

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402.225.2351 or 800.557.5254



Monday - Friday
8 AM - 4:30 PM



www.southcentralppd.com

Power Outages



402.225.2351 or 800.557.5254



Visit the current outage map
on our website.



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Happy
LABOR
Day!

Our office will be closed on
September 7, 2026 in
observance of Labor Day.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy