



Nelson, Nebraska

Watt's Happening

Keeping you plugged in to what's happening!



OBJECTIVE: To make electricity available at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.

'Tis The Season

As the Christmas season approaches, here's hoping all of our customers had a safe and productive year. A lot happened during this trip around the sun. We would like to take a moment and look back at what all happened around South Central Public Power District.

South Central had three employees reach milestones in 2021



Craig Cox

Carol Buschkoetter

Tony Gerard

Craig Cox, General Manager, achieved 30 years in May. Carol Buschkoetter, Engineering Department Clerk, achieved 10 years in June. Tony Gerard, Senior Warehouse Clerk as been with the District since September of 1986 for a total of 35 years.

Dean Zalman retires from Board of Directors after 44 years.

Dean Zalman stepped down from the Board at the beginning of 2021. Dean served on the Board from 1976 through 2020. His 44+ years of service is by far the most ever served by a Director of the District. He also served as President of the Board from 1986 to 2010, a total of 24 years.



His guidance has shaped the District and made it stronger over that period of time.

Extreme winter weather results in rolling blackouts throughout the Southwest Power Pool.

South Central PPD participated in controlled blackouts on February 15th and 16th to steady the load put on the Southwest Power Pool due to a combination of extreme cold weather dipping south into Texas, too much reliability on wind, and a shortage of available natural gas to fuel generators.

South Central PPD announces Production Cost Adjustment.

South Central's Board of Directors approved crediting approximately \$700,000 to our customers through all rate classes over the course of 2021. This cost adjustment showed as a credit on customer's monthly statements. South Central PPD has not had a rate increase since 2013.

New look for this newsletter insert.

February, 2021's edition of our newsletter insert had a different look as we decided to update to coincide with the upgrade to the statewide magazine.





Mark Zalman Elected To South Central PPD Board of Directors

Mark Zalman became South Central PPD's Sub-District 7 Director on January 17, 2021. He was elected to the Board after the retirement of Dean Zalman.

Mark lives south of Red Cloud and is a lifelong resident of the Red Cloud area.

A New Look For South Central PPD Trucks

In May we announced the new look of our service trucks. Many of you fondly remember our logo that identified all of our trucks with the familiar Willie Wiredhand inside a yellow circle. Our new logo shows South Central in blue and green in a grey oval.



South Central PPD launches Internet Speed Study

Our June newsletter announced our participation in an Internet Speed Study to document the need for faster broadband service in our District. This study was conducted in cooperation with NPPD and the University of Nebraska Kearney. Through extensive advertising and phone calls, a large number of our customers volunteered to participate in the study.

A testing device was mailed to the participants which was connected to their internet router. After one week of testing, the units were returned to UNK for redistribution to the next volunteer on the list.

South Central PPD was joined in the study by Loup Power District and Cornhusker Public Power District, both serving in and around the Columbus area.

South Central Irrigators Are Under Control For Only 60 Hours in 2021

South Central's irrigation season was relatively mild this past summer with irrigators only being controlled for a

total of 60 hours. This was still more control than either of the past two seasons. In 2020, we were under control for 33 hours and in 2019, we were under control a mere 16 hours due to the wet growing season.

1-Megawatt Solar Farm Goes On-line Near Saronville

South Central Public Power District is now receiving the electricity being generated by the Alika Alberts Solar Field located just south of Saronville along Highway 6.



South Central PPD General Manager, Craig Cox, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new solar field which was held on Monday, August 23rd.

The solar facility will deliver power through an interconnection to South Central's power distribution lines. South Central has agreed to buy all the power produced over the next 15 years, which is when our wholesale contract with Nebraska Public Power District will be up for renewal. Under the current NPPD contract, South Central can get roughly 10% of our energy requirements from our own renewable sources. This facility will provide about 1% to 2% of our annual needs, at a lower overall price.

Outage Map Shows Real Time Outages On Our Website

In September we introduced a real time outage map on our website that is available to our customers. Our new AMI meters have the ability to report their own outage and our system will automatically plot the meter on our map.

By checking the Outage Map on our website, www.southcentralppd.com, you can quickly see if your area is under a wide-spread outage. Knowing the outage is not just your individual account and that it is plotted on the map, can ease your concerns about not getting through on the phone right away.

South Central PPD Celebrates 75th Anniversary With Open House On September 12.

An event planned for September of 2020 to celebrate 75 years of service to the area was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The event was held September 12, 2021 with an open house and meal held at the Nelson City Auditorium and South Central's Nelson office.



Nearly 200 people signed the guest book and enjoyed the meal, displays, games, and prizes that were available. Allen and Nancy Ostdiek of Lawrence were the lucky winners of the Grand Prize Samsung 50" television.



Dean Zalman was also honored during the open house commemorating his 44+ years of dedicated service on the South Central PPD Board of Directors.



South Central PPD Working With Glenwood To Propose High-Speed Broadband To Our Customers

The pandemic has brought to light the lack of adequate broadband service in small towns and rural areas throughout Nebraska. Low customer density makes it difficult for broadband providers to make the investments needed to serve these areas. South Central PPD has been considering ways to help facilitate the buildout of fiber optic internet service within our service area.

Glenwood Telecommunications Membership Cooperative has already provided fiber to every customer in their exchange, which covers most of Webster county and parts of southern Adams county and Nuckolls county. They also have fiber to many communities in Clay and Nuckolls counties. As power suppliers, South Central PPD already has poles and wires to every home and business. Based on what other states have done, it looks to be fairly economical to add a fiber optic cable to our power lines and get it to every customer.

There is currently \$20 million in grant money available for qualifying broadband projects through the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program. Glenwood and South Central have submitted our proposal in hopes of getting funding. If successful, and if we elect to move forward with the project, we would represent the first public-private partnership between a telecommunication company and a public power district in the state. It will be early January before we know if we have received the grant money.



DRAWING FOR BROADBAND STUDY PARTICIPANTS IS HELD WITH ROBERT & MARLENE ALBIN WINNERS OF TRAEGER GRILL

Robert and Marlene Albin of rural Guide Rock were the lucky winners of the Traeger grill given away by South Central Public Power District in a random drawing of all the participants who completed a voluntary internet speed study conducted by University of Nebraska Kearney alongside South Central PPD and NPPD.

Pictured to the right are Royce Schott of South Central PPD and Marlene and Robert Albin with their new Traeger grill.





Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL** label.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.

Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



Don't throw lights over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.



Always unplug lights before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.

Learn more at

 **Safe Electricity.org**



Merry Christmas from South Central Public Power District

Steve Johnson
Lorrell Peterson
Tony Gerard
Allen Schiermeyer
Craig Cox
Shirley Fryda
Leon Fanning
Terry Daniels
Jarrod Hajny
Jim Piper
Royce Schott
Dale Endorf
Carol Buschkoetter



Alishia Ostdiek
Ben Reinke
Tyler Loberg
Trey Dasher
Brent Menke
Sara Griffis
Preston Brinegar
Alan Brown
Owen Grube
Samuel Walton
Cody Barbee
Daltan Kinnaman

South Central Public Power District
offices will be closed on Friday, December
24 and on Monday, January 3 in obser-
vance of Christmas and New Year's Day

WATT'S HAPPENING

Newsletter of the South Central Public Power District
Nelson, Nebraska

NOTICE

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

Watt's Happening Editor: Royce Schott

Board of Directors

David Woods -----President
Neal Carpenter -----Vice President
David Hamburger -----Secretary
Philip Wehrman -----Treasurer
John Greer -----Director
James Hoffman -----Director
Mark Zalman -----Director
John Hodge -----Attorney
Craig Cox -----General Manager

Nelson Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254

For **Billing Questions**, please call:
(M-F, 8a.m. - 5 p.m.)

402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254

For **Power Outages**, please call:
(Any time of day or night)

402-225-2351 or 1-800-557-5254