

POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

‘The Livewire’

“Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation”



October 2023

Uniquely Nebraska

By Wade Rahn

October brings a special celebration – Public Power Month. While many states nationwide rely on a mix of public and private utilities, Nebraska proudly stands as the only state with 100% public power in the United States. This achievement sets Nebraska apart and underscores the state's dedication to providing affordable, reliable energy while supporting local communities.

100% Public Power

Nebraska's unique status as the sole state with 100% public power is a testament to its long-standing commitment to serving its residents. Public power means that the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity are all in the hands of publicly owned utilities, ensuring that decisions are made with the community's best interests in mind.

Public power utilities in Nebraska operate under the guiding principles of affordability, reliability, and community service. These principles have allowed the state to maintain competitive electricity rates while ensuring the lights stay on when needed.

Affordability

One of Nebraska's most significant advantages of public power is its contribution to affordable energy. Public power utilities are non-profit entities whose primary goal is to

provide electricity to consumers at the lowest cost possible. Any surplus revenues generated are reinvested into infrastructure improvements, further benefiting customers.

Because the public owns Nebraska's utilities, there is no need to generate profits for shareholders. This absence of profit-driven motive translates into savings for Nebraska residents, who consistently enjoy some of the lowest electricity rates in the country. Affordable energy is not just a perk; it's a fundamental right for Nebraskans.

Reliability

Reliability is another hallmark of Public Power in Nebraska. The state's utilities invest heavily in maintaining and upgrading the electrical grid to ensure that power outages are rare and brief. Nebraska's severe weather conditions, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, and harsh winters, make grid reliability a crucial aspect of everyday life.



Public Power utilities in Nebraska demonstrate their commitment to reliability by maintaining local control and quick response times during emergencies. When disaster strikes, the utilities can mobilize their resources efficiently to restore power and support their communities.

Supporting Local Communities

Beyond providing affordable and reliable electricity, public power in Nebraska plays a pivotal role in supporting local communities. Public Power utilities are deeply embedded

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Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

Public Power Districts power communities across Nebraska, ensuring reliable and affordable electricity for their customer-owners. Public power is unique in the governance structure, with board members elected during general elections. As a not-for-profit Public Power District, our loyalty is to our customers, not stockholders. The main objective of public power is to safely provide reliable electricity with rates based on cost and in a transparent and accountable manner.

The PCRPPD Board of Directors acts as the representative voice of our customers and helps shape the direction of the District by ensuring decisions are made in the best interests of the communities they serve and that customer concerns and needs are heard and addressed. While daily decisions are made by PCRPPD staff, major decisions are made by the Board, whose primary mission is to look out for the well-being of the homeowners, business owners, and farmstead owners we serve. Day-to-

day operations are run by community members serving other community members, friends helping friends, and we are proud of the work we do.

Public Power is committed to building for the future to ensure reliable, affordable, sustainable, and customer-focused service for many years to come. PCRPPD will continue to work hand in hand with our customer-owners to make sure we meet their goals and needs.



Uniquely Nebraskan, Unusually Proud

Price Joins PCRPPD

By Wade Rahn

Calvin Price started his duties as an Apprentice Lineman in July of this year. Calvin grew up in York where he attended York High School and graduated with the class of 2021. After high school, Price enrolled for college classes at Northeast Community College in the Line Worker's program, in Norfolk, Nebraska, where he successfully graduated in the spring of 2023.

Additionally Calvin was previously employed by Perennial Public Power District in York, Nebraska, as an intern Apprentice Lineman, during his college enrollment.

Price said, "It is nice to put my degree to work doing something I like to do."

Randy Reese, PCRPPD Operations Manager, commented, "It's nice to have a young man from the area that is excited and eager to work. He's a great fit for us!"

In Calvin's free time he enjoys being outdoors, hunting, and fishing.

We are excited to have Calvin join the PCRPPD family. Please join us in welcoming Calvin to PCRPPD.



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in the fabric of these communities, and they take their part as community stewards seriously. Whether through economic development initiatives, sponsorships of local events, or charitable contributions, public power utilities are active participants in the communities they serve.

Local Representation

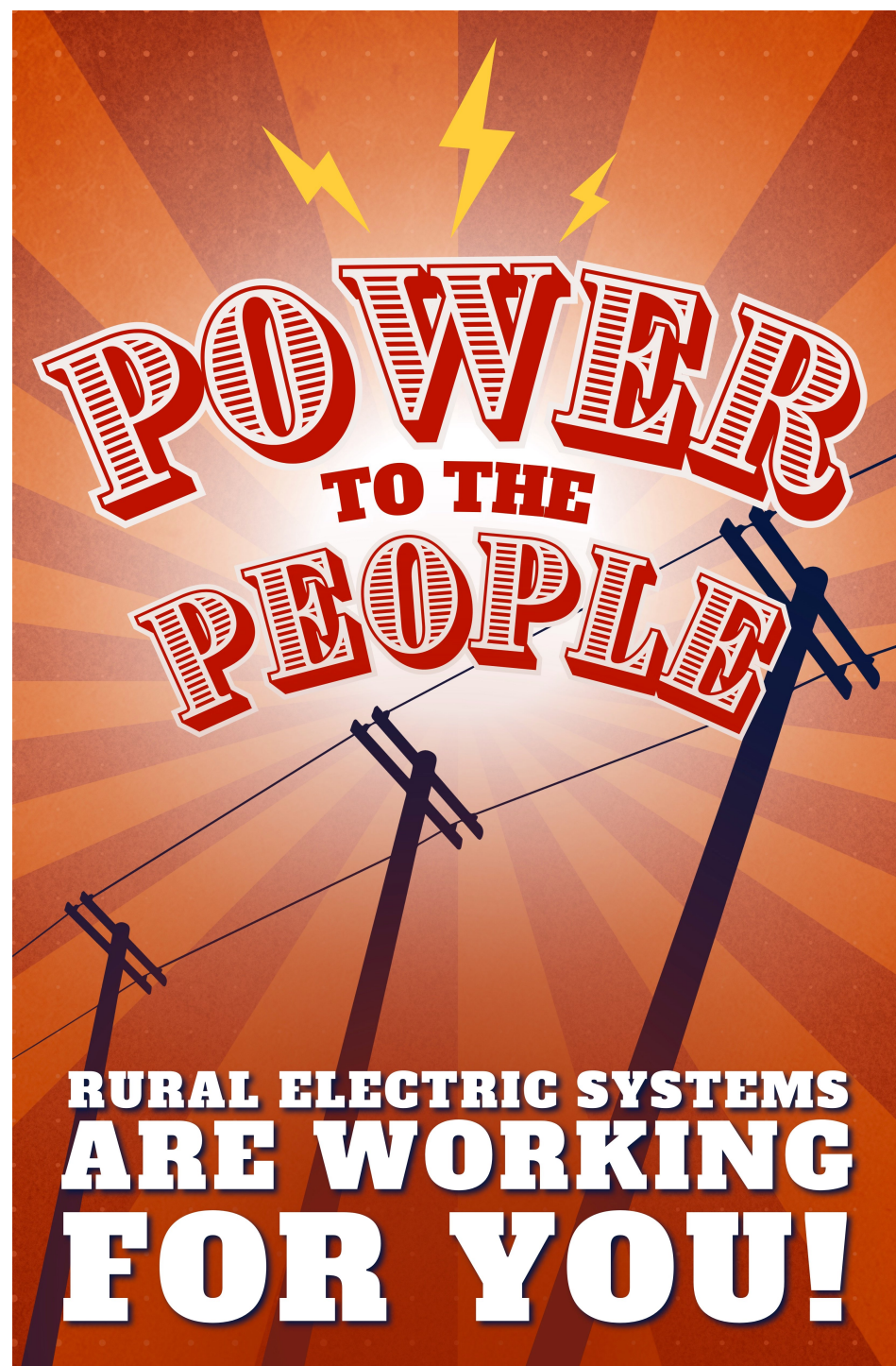
Public Power Districts in Nebraska are structured to ensure that the people they serve have a direct say in managing their utilities; unlike many privately owned utilities where decisions may be made by distant corporate entities, Public Power Districts allow for local representation at its finest. Residents within the district have the privilege of voting for their board of directors, who are often their neighbors, friends, and colleagues.

These directors are chosen to oversee the utility's operations, financial health, and strategic planning. Their close connection to the community ensures that the decisions made align with the unique needs and priorities of the local population. Whether it's making investments in infrastructure, setting rates, or implementing energy-saving initiatives, these decisions reflect the interests and values of the community.

Accessibility and Accountability

Having board members who live and work in the area they serve also means accessibility and accountability. These directors are approachable and actively engage with the public to gather feedback and address concerns. This open and responsive approach fosters trust between the District and the community.

Furthermore, local directors are deeply invested in the well-being of their communities because they share the same challenges and opportunities. They understand firsthand the importance of maintaining affordable rates, ensuring reliable power, and supporting local economic development. Their commitment is



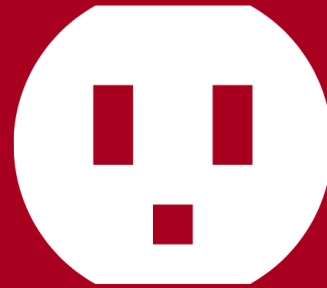
not just professional but also personal, which drives them to make decisions that benefit their neighbors and local businesses.

Public Power Month in Nebraska is a time to celebrate the state's exceptional dedication to providing affordable, reliable energy while bolstering local communities.

Nebraska's status as the only 100% public power state in the nation reflects its unwavering commitment to the well-being of its residents. As we enter October, let us not only celebrate the achievements of Nebraska's public power utilities, but also appreciate the benefits they bring to our homes, businesses, and communities every day.

Safety Tip

In the bathroom, kitchen and anywhere an outlet is located near a water source, check the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) once a month. The fast-acting circuit breaker shuts off the power in case of a wiring issue.



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POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Term Expires
2024

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2024

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2028

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2026

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2028

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2024

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Barb Fowler

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Wade Rahn-Customer Service/IT Manager
Justin Sunday-Engineering/Safety Manager
Andy Roberts-Foreman
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