



Dawson Dynamo

An informed customer is our greatest asset

Board to set 2010 rates in December

Dawson PPD board members will be voting on new rates at their December board meeting. Preliminary estimates are that retail rates will increase about six percent on average.

The wholesale power rates that Dawson PPD pays to NPPD are increasing 7.3 percent in 2010. NPPD has been planning and building new substations and transmission lines to serve the growing electric loads in the state. In addition, WAPA power cost have increased. WAPA power is produced by federally-owned hydro generators on the Missouri River. WAPA's production has

been down due to drought conditions and they have had to buy more expensive electricity on the market to fill their customer's needs.

In addition to the wholesale power costs, the new rates will also incorporate Dawson PPD's budget items for the new year, including construction and upgrades.

The new rates will be published on Dawson PPD's website and released to the press after they have been adopted. While they go into effect on January 1, the first billing affected by the increase will be mailed to customers in February.

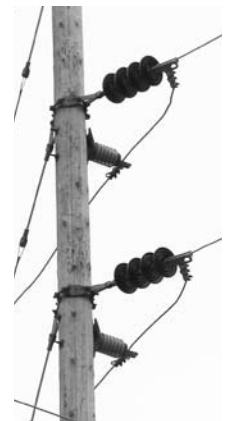
Federal funding held-up, denied for DPPD

The District has applied for two different grants to help with improvement projects.

The first grant application was for funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in 2008. It requested funds to help build a

transmission line between Eustis and Elwood as a backup power feed. The application is still under consideration. As a stipulation of the grant, Dawson cannot start any construction before the grant is funded or denied by FEMA.

Dawson PPD was notified that another project, our application for federal stimulus funding for a smart grid project, was denied funding in October. The District had joined with 14 other Nebraska utilities to request a total of \$64 million.



Dawson PPD still plans to build the transmission line between Eustis and Elwood but the funding request has been delayed. Once built, the line will offer an additional route to move power to the towns, increasing reliability.

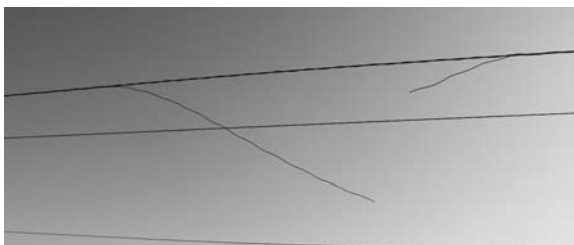
Spotting trouble on the line

Could you spot a problem that could prevent an outage? The photo below is a fray on a line. Some power line wires are made of several strands that are wrapped together. If one of those wrapped wires breaks, the loose wire could come into contact with another wire, causing an outage.

The problem is corrected by attaching a repair sleeve.

If you see a fray on a line, please call us with the location (road name or number and number of miles from a landmark, like a home or an intersection).

Photos by Tony Probasco.



Cap & Trade: Wall Street vs. Main Street



The climate change legislation called cap and trade is now being discussed by at least five senate sub-committees. If the senate can pass legislation it will go to conference committee with the House legislation. Both bodies will need to then pass the compromise legislation before it will go to the president for his signature.

In this writers' opinion, the legislation being discussed thus far in the Senate needs a major overhaul. This is now about big money interests looking to get in your pocket under the guise of improving the climate of our planet.

Let's analyze the cap & trade issue.

THE CAP – The electric industry stands ready to implement a cap or limit on green house emissions. This will take some time to wean ourselves off of fossil fuel generation. Today, about half of all electricity generated in the US is produced with coal as a fuel. During this time, replacement generation will have to be built and paid for such as more renewables, nuclear, or natural gas. This will be quite expensive but can be done over the next 20 years with fairly large

increases in electric rates to cover the additional costs.

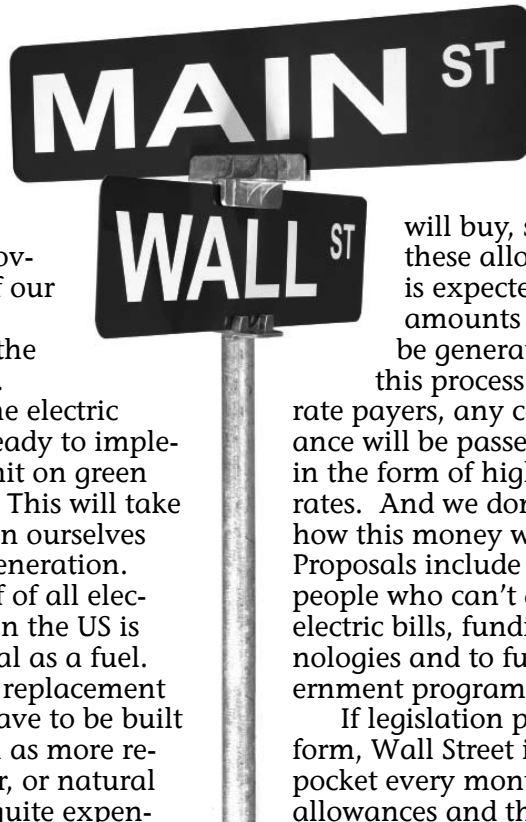
THE TRADE- This is about allowances being issued by the government and a system of trading these allowances to be set up. This will become a new market operated by Wall Street brokerages. An auction will be utilized to initially sell allowances to speculators, hedge funds, and of course electric utilities that must

purchase needed allowance in this new market. The market place then

will buy, sell, and trade these allowances. It is expected that huge amounts of money will be generated through this process. As electric

rate payers, any cost of allowance will be passed on to you in the form of higher electric rates. And we don't even know how this money will be used. Proposals include subsidies for people who can't afford their electric bills, funding new technologies and to fund other government programs.

If legislation passes in this form, Wall Street is now in your pocket every month to pay for allowances and the electric utilities will still need to expend large amounts of capital to fund



new non-carbon emitting generation. Sweet deal for the big guys, and bad for the little guys in rural Nebraska.

In my opinion the trade part of this equation is bad public policy and will severely damage our economy. Realistic legislation needs to:

1. Provide achievable emission caps and timelines
2. Protect all electric consumers equally
3. Provide adequate cost containment measures to promote economic sustainability
4. Set up a workable offset credit system
5. Address the multiple overlapping regulatory environment and
6. Provide adequate technology and deployment incentives.

The big money players are looking to get into your pocket. Main Street will suffer if Wall Street is given that opportunity.

Until next time...

*Robert Heinz,
General Manager*

Photo credit: istockphoto.com/spxChrome

Former DPPD headquarters property sells

Purchase agreements have been signed for Dawson PPD's facilities in Lexington. Lexington Public Schools purchased the headquarters buildings on Washington Street. The Dawson County Fair Board purchased the storage lot on Walnut Street. A storage building on Walnut Street was purchased by Carolyn Fairbanks.

Correction...

In a previous issue of the Dynamo, a historic photo of the Lexington office was printed. The woman at the typewriter was mis-identified as Dorothy Daul. A reader helped identify her as Doris Cryderman.

Keep the cold out with weather stripping

No mistaking it: winter has arrived. Any drafts around doors and windows that went unnoticed during fall are now downright uncomfortable—and adding to your energy bills.

A low-cost, do-it-yourself project

Weather stripping offers a relatively quick fix for drafty doors. To determine if a door leading out of your house needs new weather stripping look for daylight. If even a sliver of daylight remains visible between the door and its frame or the floor, add weather stripping.

Next, shut the door or window on a piece of paper. If you can pull the paper out without tearing it, you're losing energy.

There are a variety of weather stripping materials available, each good for fitting different types of door and window frames. Most are made of rubber, foam, metal, vinyl, or a combination of materials. To determine the right item for the job, check the area: if any old, worn material has been previously installed, take a sample to your local hardware store or expert like a contractor. If no material exists as a guide, make detailed notes about the type of gap and how the door or window is installed—someone at the hardware store or your expert should be able to make a recommendation for you.

Once you have the proper materials for the job, consult any instructions that may be on the weather stripping package. Installation techniques range from simple to technical, depending on the type of material being used. If replacing old, worn weather stripping, be sure to note how it was installed as you remove it.

SECRETS TO SUCCESSFUL INSTALLATION:

- Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

Weather Stripping Basics

While you should always consult specific instructions on weather stripping packages, here are some basic facts to keep in mind.

- 1** Weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in temperatures above 20°F.
- 2** Measure the area to be weather stripped twice before you cut anything.
- 3** Apply weather stripping snugly against both surfaces. The material should compress when the window or door is shut.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



When weather stripping doors:

- Choose the appropriate door sweeps and thresholds.
- Weather strip the entire door jamb.
- Apply one continuous strip along each side.
- Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners.
- Use a thickness that causes the weather stripping to tightly press between the door and the door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

When weather stripping windows:

- Apply weather stripping between the sash and frame.
- The weather stripping shouldn't interfere with the operation of the window.

Back-up generators can be deadly

Portable generators may come in handy during long-term power outages. However, recent studies show that an overwhelming percentage may be installed incorrectly. As part of the "Teach Learn Care" TLC campaign, Safe Electricity urges consumers to understand the proper safety steps that must be taken.



"A qualified vendor or electrical professional should be consulted to determine the best equipment for your situation or needs," advises Mike Ashenfelter, electrical inspector and member of the Safe Electricity advisory team. "A reliable vendor will know existing safety codes and your utility's safety requirements. If installed and operated correctly, use of a standby or portable electric generators poses little danger, but improper installation or use could be deadly."

Properly connecting the generator into the system is a critical step for safe and effective use. A licensed professional should install a permanent, standby electric generator and can help with proper equipment for safely using a portable generator.

Have a qualified electrician install a transfer switch. The transfer switch breaks the path of electricity between the power lines and your main electrical panel. This is the best way to protect you, your neighbors and repair crews from 'back feed.' Back feed occurs when an improperly connected generator begins feeding electricity "back" through the power lines. It is your responsibility to take necessary steps to prevent the injury of anyone near lines, especially crews working to restore power.

"Safety for the operators and users of a generating system in the home and utility crews cannot be over-emphasized," says Ashenfelter.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Dawson Public Power District has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, all requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination act of 1975, as amended and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U S Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, or solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, solely by reason of such person's handicap, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates, conditions and extension of service, admission or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is the Manager of Finance & Administration.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feels subjected by the organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act or by the rules and regulations of the US Department of Agriculture may personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U S Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250; the Office of the Administrators, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington DC 20250; the office of Advocacy and Enterprise, US Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the US Department of Agriculture.

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The Dawson Dynamo is produced by Dawson Public Power District in a monthly format. Correspondence can be sent to PO Box 777, Lexington NE 68850-0777 or e-mail mbanzhaf@dawsonpower.com. The editor is Marsha Holscher Banzhaf.

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