

Avoid additional charges:

## Be aware of possible delays with bank bill paying services

If you use your bank's online bill paying services, make sure you allow enough time for the payment to reach its destination.

Although some payments may process electronically, others may print a check and mail it to the payee.

"Some people may not realize that payments don't automatically post the day they are made on their bank's website. It can take

several days for the payments to reach their destination," explains Consumer Accounts Supervisor, Connie Hird.



Consumer Accounting Supervisor Connie Hird encourages customers to use Dawson's ebill service if they would like to pay their bills online.

She suggests customers pay monthly electric bills directly, online at [www.dawsonpower.com](http://www.dawsonpower.com). When you use Dawson PPD's ebill service to pay, the money is credited to your account the same day. Payments

are secure and the process is easy. Customers can call for assistance in setting up their e-bill account online.

Dawson PPD structures its bills to give customers a discount if they pay their bill on or before the due date. If a payment is late, the customer forfeits the discount and must pay the whole amount owed.

For more information about your bank's online bill paying services, please contact their customer service department or see their online payment guidelines.

## Teens to represent Dawson PPD at statewide camp

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp will be held July 19 through July 23 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey.

Dawson PPD will be represented by Stephanie Finnegan of Cozad, Calvin Frerichs of Sumner, Heather Hutchison of Hershey and Will Hoban of Maxwell.

Customers nominated the students based on their positive attitude and their work ethic.

Although Energy Camp is focused on teaching about Nebraska's unique public power system, it also encourages students to build leadership abilities.



Stephanie Finnegan



Calvin Frerichs



Heather Hutchison



Will Hoban

Speakers cover a range of topics during camp, including electrical safety and utility careers. The teens also have the opportunity to tour the Kingsley Hydro and Gerald Gentleman Station.

This year's Youth Energy Camp representatives will have an opportunity to compete to attend the 2011 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.



## The winners of the Search for Treasure contest are...

**DAN REIMER** of North Platte won a \$100 credit on his electric account

**AARYN PROCHASKA** of Gibbon won a \$75 credit on her electric account

The contest encouraged customers to use Dawson PPD's online energy audit software. Contest guidelines were printed in the May 2010 issue of the Dawson Dynamo.

# What is a renewable portfolio standard? And how does it affect me?



A renewable portfolio standard or RPS is a term that is found in legislation which politicians or regulators pass to encourage the building of low carbon emitting generation such as wind or solar. An example would be Colorado which passed a renewable portfolio standard of 20% by 2020. This means that over the next 10 years, sufficient new green electric generation needs to be built to generate 20% of all electricity used in the state from renewable sources. This sounds like a pretty good idea but consumers need to know the rest of the story.

Nebraska has the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest residential electric rates in the nation. This has not happened just by chance. As public power districts we are bound by statute to "provide for dependable electric service at the lowest practical cost to the citizens of the state."

***"...consumers need to know the rest of the story. Nebraska has the 5th lowest residential rates in the nation. This has not happened by chance."***

*--Robert Heinz*

Consequently the management and boards of rural power districts tend to be quite conservative and try to keep rates as low as possible. Our power suppliers use sound financial and economic models when selecting generation sources. A renewable portfolio standard could change all that.

In effect, a renewable portfolio standard creates an artificial market for renewable electric generation based on a government mandate. Rather than using sound financial analysis to select new generation because it makes economic sense, renewable generation is put into the portfolio because it is green, with little regard for higher costs. If Nebraska passed a renewable portfolio standard it will affect rates. You just can't pay higher costs for generation, be required to build new transmission infrastructure, integrate the new generation into the electric grid, and continue to have sufficient base load backup generation

to augment renewables (because they don't run all the time), without substantially higher costs.

Even though a renewable portfolio standard may sound like a good idea, know that it will mean higher electricity costs for everyone in the state if implemented.

Until next time...

*Robert Heinz,  
General Manager*

## New lineman on the NP construction crew

Recent Northeast Community College Utility Line graduate David Niles is working for Dawson Public Power District in North Platte.

Niles completed a summer internship at Dawson PPD last summer.

He is a member of the construction crew.



David Niles

## Ansbach celebrates 10 years

Line equipment tech Cory Ansbach is celebrating 10 years of service with Dawson PPD in July.

Ansbach started his career as a warehouse worker. He became a special equipment technician in 2001. He earned journeyman status in 2006.



Cory Ansbach

## New job for Thuernagle

Consumer Accounting Representative Charla Thuernagle has been chosen to work at the front desk at the Lexington office.

She has four years of experience helping customers with billing questions and concerns at Dawson PPD.



Charla Thuernagle

# Hoos golfing now? You bettcha!

**T**ony Hoos retired on June 25 after 26 years of service to the District as a building and maintenance technician. Hoos started his career at Dawson PPD in 1984. He had previously worked as a custodian in the Lexington and Overton public school systems.

His job has included the cleaning and maintenance work at the various offices, plus meal preparation for meetings and organizing the employee golf tournament. He has taken pride in his work and enjoyed knowing the facilities were clean and neat.

No matter what project he is working on, Hoos' personality shines through.

"Dawson PPD has been a good place to work," he explains. "You can get your work done while laughing and joking with co-workers."

Whether teasingly shouting "hey ya bums" to co-workers, making someone laugh or checking on fellow employees after they have lost a loved one, it is always evident that Tony cares about the people he has worked with.

After ice storms caused wide-spread damage, Hoos would make sure crews had a hearty breakfast and a good lunch each day during the power restoration process. At times, this meant starting at 3 a.m. to prepare breakfast for over 150 people so they could get to work by 6 a.m.



Tony and Deb Hoos look forward to having more opportunities to travel after Tony's retirement.

While his list of things he enjoyed about working at Dawson PPD is lengthy, he does have a few responsibilities that he is happy to leave behind.

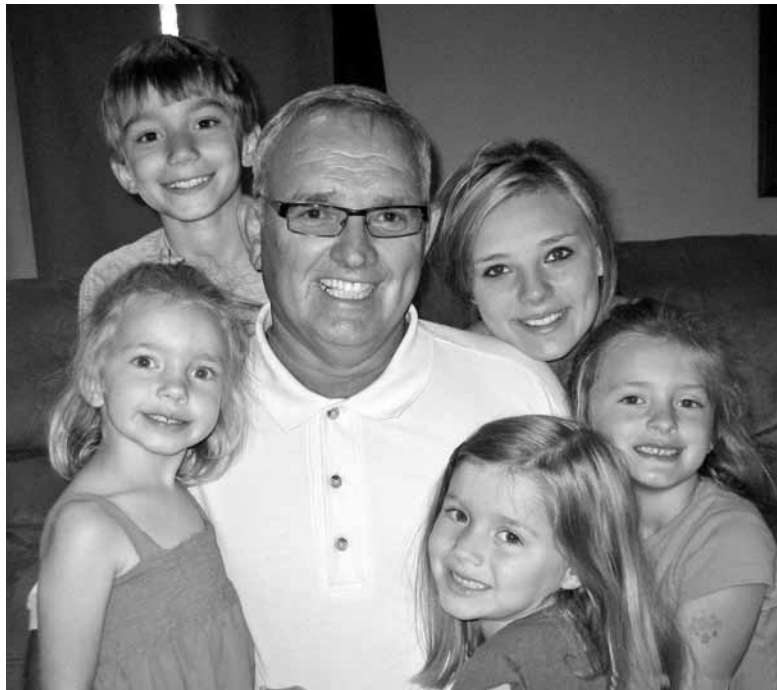
"I won't miss sealing shop floors," he says as he shakes

his head. The process involves cleaning concrete floors and then applying several coats of sealant to protect them from oil and water damage. Dawson generally seals floors at their 5 service centers and the headquarters during the late spring and summer months.

"I also disliked breaking the roads open to get to work early when they were snowy or icy," Hoos explains. He would often come to work in the early morning hours to clean the sidewalks and parking areas before other employees arrived.

## A man on the move

Keeping busy is one of Tony's retirement goals. He likes to golf, garden and do carpentry projects. He enjoys



Tony is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren in his retirement. His grandchildren (top, clockwise) are Brenden Meier, Kaitlyn Lueking, Abbie Rohde, Maeli Meier and Allie Rohde.

attending his grandchildren's events and playing ball with them. Hoos also wants to spend part of his retirement helping others.

Tony and Deb Hoos live in Overton. They have two daughters: Kresha (John) Rohde and Karmen (Joel) Meier and five grandchildren.

## Taco Salad

*This recipe has become a particular favorite of Dawson's board of directors. Tony frequently prepared it for the meal at their monthly meetings.*

- 1 head of lettuce, broken into bite sized pieces
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 can chili beans (drained)
- 2 c. shredded mild cheese

*Before serving, add:*

- 1 bag of Fritos (crushed)
- 1 bottle of Catalina dressing

# Pay attention to the warning signs of wiring

Air conditioning and home cooling demands during long periods of hot weather can strain and overload a home's electrical system, a serious shock and fire hazard.

Outdated wiring can overheat due to the increased loads required to run the appliances typically found in today's homes. If the wiring is deteriorating or crumbling it can damage its own insulation, putting the system at risk for fire.

In order to help protect your home and loved ones, watch for these warning signs:

- Lights often flicker, blink or dim momentarily
- Circuit breakers trip or fuses blow often
- Cords or wall plates are warm to the touch or discolored
- Crackling, sizzling or buzzing is heard from outlets

If you have any of these present, you should have your home inspected by a professional.

"A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden hazards could prevent many tragedies," said Mark Ashenfelter, an electrical inspector. "The time and investment in having a qualified electrician check your residence, and perform a few home repairs and upgrades, are small in comparison to the protection and safety they provide to your family and home."

Safe Electricity recommends an electrical system inspection for all dwellings 40 years old or older and when purchasing a previously-owned home. Most mortgage companies require an electrical inspection on the purchase of a new home before a loan can be approved. You should also have an inspection when you have had a major renovation, if you have added major new appliances in the last 10 years, or have extension cords or power strips permanently in use.

"Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should be in good condition with a sufficient amp or wattage rating," Ashenfelter said. "Never use cords which are frayed, stretched or worn and keep them out of the path of foot traffic."

Never use an extension cord for air conditioners, electric heaters or fans and never run them behind baseboards or beneath carpets or furniture. If electrical items are close together, such as with computer equipment, use a plug bar or surge protector. However, be sure to avoid overloading the electrical circuit, which can create a fire hazard.

In addition to ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets, designed

for protection from electrical shocks, Safe Electricity encourages homeowners to consider having a professional install arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on circuits in bedrooms. The National Electric Code now requires AFCIs in new residential construction.

No matter the season, or age of a home, residents should be vigilant and continually check for electrical hazards such as cracked or fraying electrical cords, overloaded outlets and circuits, and improper wattage light bulbs in lamps and light fixtures. Also, make sure smoke alarms are

placed and functioning properly.

For more information, visit: [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

**Outdated wiring can overheat due to the increased loads required to run appliances typically found in today's homes.**

**Is your home at risk?**

## DAWSON PPD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tara Naprstek.....Finance & Administration  
Gwen Kautz.....Customer Service  
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