

Utility line scholarship awarded to Gruntorad

Tyler Gruntorad of Lexington has been chosen as the recipient of Dawson PPD's 2011 Utility Line Scholarship. Tyler plans to pursue a career as a utility lineman by attending Northeast Community College.



Tyler Gruntorad

The scholarship is offered to people in the Dawson PPD area that plan to attend an accredited utility line school. The application is available on dawsonpower.com and the deadline is March 16, 2012.

We'll get you started with online payments

Making a payment over the Internet can be intimidating the first time, but Dawson PPD would like to help customers become more comfortable.

Simply stop by one of our offices or call Dawson PPD. Our customer service personnel will take the time to walk through the process with you.

To make online payments, customers need to have a computer with Internet access, their account information and some form of payment

(debit card, bank account information or a credit card).

Online security of the bill payment system ensures that your personal information stays private. New federal privacy rules will mean that Dawson PPD employees will no longer be able to accept credit card information over the phone.

For assistance setting up your online bill pay account, please stop by one of Dawson PPD's offices or call 308-324-2386 or 800-752-8305.



Trying something new is easier when you have a friend who is willing to help. Dawson PPD encourages customers to make payments online and offers assistance as you log-in for the first time.

New rebate program rewards those who prepare

It doesn't seem right to talk about ice storms, freezing drizzle and howling winds while the sun shines in May. However, it is a good time to prepare for less than ideal conditions and potential power outages.

Dawson PPD is now offering a rebate to customers who have a transfer switch (also called a double-throw switch) installed so they can safely connect their generator for use during a power outage.

A transfer switch is important because it does not allow power from the generator to flow back through the meter and transformer and out on the power line. If a customer's generator sent power back on the line, it could kill linemen who are making repairs to the line.

To qualify for the rebate, the transfer switch must be installed by an electrician according to the Nation-

al Electric Code. Once installed, Dawson PPD personnel will inspect and test the switch to ensure it is working properly.

The rebate for transfer switches is \$200 for a 100-amp switch or \$300 for a 200-amp switch.

For more information about the rebate program, contact Bernie Svoboda at 308-324-2386 or 800-752-8305.



Dawson PPD now offers rebates to customers who have transfer switches installed by an electrician. The transfer switch allows customers to safely connect a generator to power their home or business.

Strangulation by regulation...

EPA's train wreck chart



I am posting a very busy and complicated chart which I will attempt to explain in general terms. It is a time line – 2008 thru 2017. It displays in chronological order, the actual and projected regulation that the electric industry expects the EPA to place on coal fired electric generators such as NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station. New, more stringent regulation on ozone, green house gasses, water, coal ash, particulate matter, and of

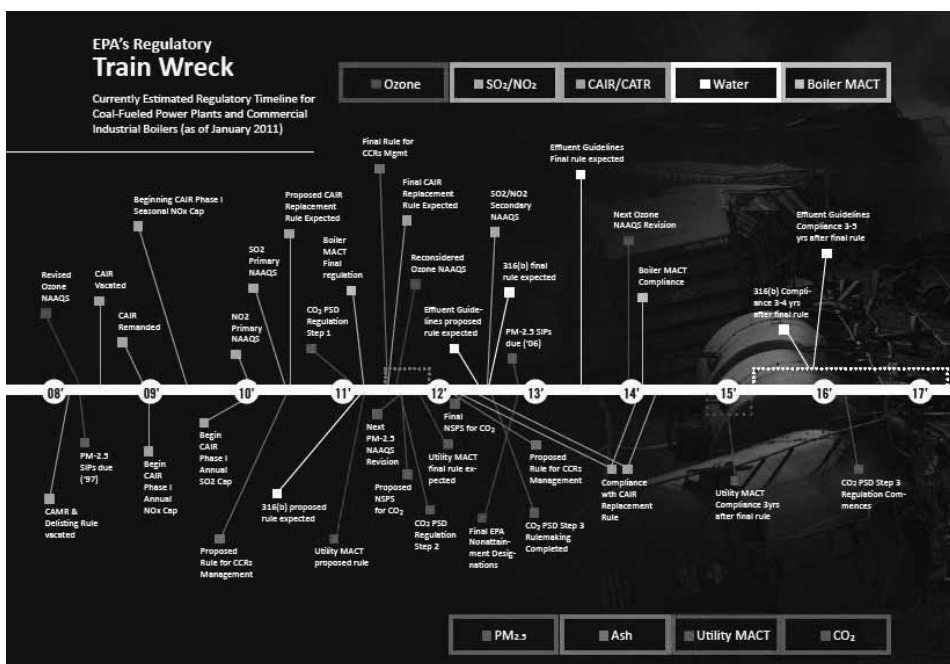
course the big one, carbon dioxide are expected to be enacted. Currently, 50% of all electricity produced in this country comes from coal.

It is no secret, the current EPA Administrator, Lisa Jackson, has publicly stated that she intends on shutting down all coal fired plants in the United States. This appears to be her blueprint. I suppose you could call it a death by a thousand cuts. Regulation upon regulation, enacted over time

which increases costs and decreases the efficiency of the generator to the point where it is not economically viable to operate. Now, I don't have a big issue with doing what we need to for improving our environment. However, what I do have is a problem with *how* it is being done.

First, the electric industry is capital intensive, in other words it costs big money to build or modify electric infrastructure. It takes 10 – 15 years to plan, design and construct base load generators. Sufficient time must be allowed for the industry to depreciate current generation and receive a reasonable return on the investment instead of trying to slam all these regulations in a short period of time to force shut downs. These kinds of changes can be made but over a realistic period of time.

Second, new base load technology to replace current coal generators is not available, except for nuclear or natural gas which is also a carbon based fuel. More emphasis on collaborative research and development with the federal government to find realistic solutions makes more sense



This complex timeline tracks changing regulations for coal-fired power plants from 2008 to 2017. The rapidly changing legislation will make it difficult to comply. *Graphic courtesy of the American Legislative Exchange Council.*

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Free wood chips are available

Dawson PPD customers can receive wood chips the next time the tree crew is working in their area.

Call 308-324-2386 or 800-752-8305 to get your name on the list.

Two employees mark service anniversaries

Kearney Service Center employees, Jerry Folck and Justin Epley, are celebrating milestones in their service to Dawson PPD customers.

Jerry Folck has been working for the District for 10 years. He worked a short time with the Lexington construction crew. Folk then was assigned to Kearney as a maintenance lineman. He is a journeyman lineman and lives in Kearney.

Journeyman lineman Justin Epley has achieved five years of service. He began his career working with the construction crew in Lexington, before transferring to maintenance work in the Kearney service area. Justin lives near Pleasanton.



Jerry Folck

Justin Epley

Serving Dawson PPD customers for 44 years

In May, Arch Kneeland will retire after a 44-year career serving Dawson PPD customers.

A long and productive career

Arch learned to be a lineman through on the job training starting in 1967. He learned to climb poles southeast of Ravenna.

"I was part time because I was only 17 and received \$1.50 per hour," Kneeland recalls. "When I went full time, I received a 50-cent raise."

Another Dawson PPD lineman -- his father, Bryce -- reminded him of his good fortune because he was hired at a rate of only \$0.35 per hour.

Arch grew up in the business -- with Dawson PPD's Ravenna office located in the home where he grew up. Eventually, the office was moved to its current location.

When he started his career, there was only one substation that served most of the Ravenna area, which meant outages covered many miles of line.

During the early part of Kneeland's career, the lineman's family were often involved with the job. Their home phone numbers were published in the newsletter. The spouses answered the phones and dispatched the linemen to repair problems.

"Over the years, my boys and Carol helped with outage repair," Arch said. "They got good at watching for frays and other problems on the line. It sure helped when I was trying to see the road and the line in the rain or snow."

In 1979, Arch became the Chief Area Serviceman in the Ravenna area.

During his time at the Ravenna office, Kneeland kept detailed records

of the meters and other electrical equipment installed in the area. At the time, the office didn't have direct access to Dawson's computer system. The files contained the information the linemen needed for their work. The current Chief Area Serviceman in Ravenna, Kurt Keaschall, says Kneeland's knowledge of the area's electric system has been very helpful to him.

In September 2002, Arch became one of Dawson's staking engineers. The staking engineers plan the placement of new poles and lines for new installations, upgrades and to accommodate road construction.

"I had been doing small staking jobs while I worked in Ravenna, so I knew part of the job. I just had to learn the computer part," he explains.

Ironically, in 2009 he staked upgrades to the line where he learned to climb poles 42 years earlier. At that time, many of the original poles were still in use.

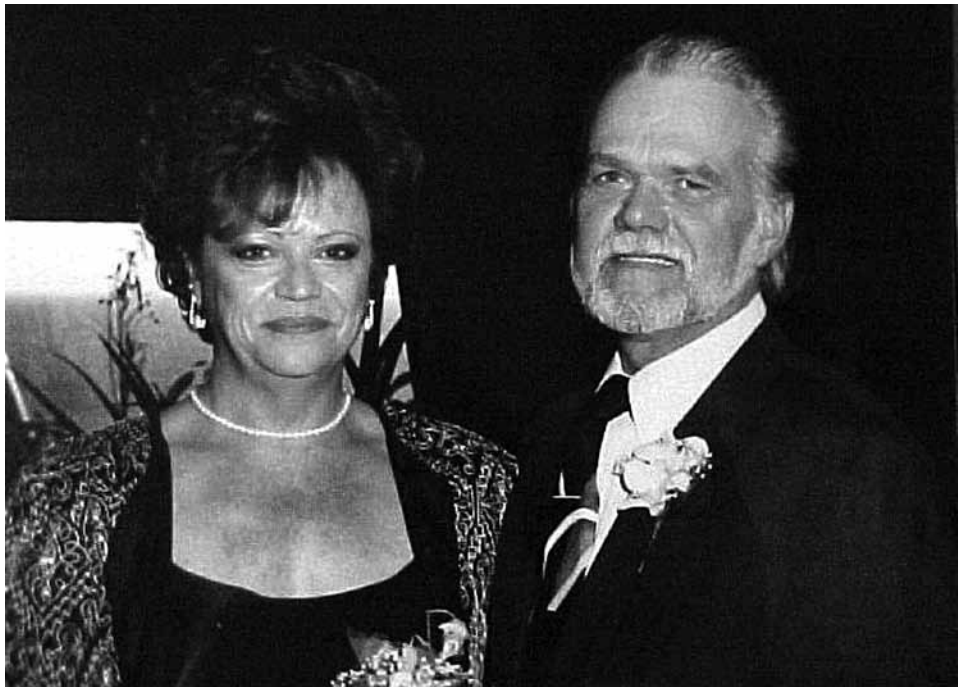
A new plan for the future

Kneeland plans to stay busy in retirement.

"I'm going to spoil the grandkids and maybe get back to fishing -- it's been years," he quips.

Arch admits that he has a list of projects waiting for him in retirement. He plans on working on home improvements and spending more time on his yard and garden.

He would also like to hook up his camper and travel, taking time to visit family and friends.



When Bryce "Arch" Kneeland, Jr. retires in May, he plans to travel with his wife, Carol, and "spoil the grandkids." Arch began his career at Dawson PPD in 1967, working as a maintenance lineman in the Ravenna area before becoming a staking engineer.

44 years of change at Dawson PPD

	<u>1967</u>	<u>2011</u>
Customers served	9,487	22,427
Miles of line	4,132	5,740
Kilowatt hours purchased	6,852,489	519,655,041

EPA's train wreck

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than this current big stick approach. By working together I believe we could do much better.

Third, too much of what is going on is politically motivated. Many of the folks pushing their political agendas have little understanding of the physics of electric system operations, have unrealistic expectations of renewable

replacing base load generation, and do not seem at all to be concerned about reliable electric costs for consumers.

Electricity is essential to our modern lifestyle. Be forewarned that the EPA regulations being proposed will prove extremely costly and problematic to every electric consumer. Let your senators and congressmen know

how you feel.

Until next time...

Robert Heinz, General Manager

Electrical Safety Calendar

Use this handy calendar to help keep your home safe. For more tips, visit esfi.org.

JANUARY

- Check and replace furnace filters

FEBRUARY

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

MARCH

- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide alarm batteries if not done in last 12 months

APRIL

- Check and replace furnace filters

MAY

- Clean air conditioners or schedule annual inspection
- Vacuum refrigerator coils

JUNE

- Dust light fixtures/lamps
- Schedule annual inspection of gas-powered dryer

JULY

- Check and replace air conditioning filters

AUGUST

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

SEPTEMBER

- Schedule annual furnace cleaning and inspection

OCTOBER

- Check and replace furnace filters

NOVEMBER

- Vacuum refrigerator coils

DECEMBER

- Dust light fixtures/lamps

ESFI recommends hiring a licensed, qualified home electrical inspector if:

Your home is more than 40 years old; your home had a major addition or renovation or major new appliance added in the last 10 years; and/or you are the new owner of a previously owned home.

Every month you should:

1. Inspect all electrical and appliance cords for damage

2. Test GFCIs & AFCIs

Whether you have a receptacle-type or circuit breaker-type ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), pushing the TEST button should turn off power to the circuit. To restore power, press the RESET button. To test arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) push the TEST button. The breaker handle should go to the middle or off position. To reset, move the breaker handle to the OFF position and then to the ON position.



3. Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Push the TEST button or use other procedures recommended by the manufacturer. Smoke alarm batteries should be changed at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or "beeps" to indicate low batteries, change them right away. Replace all smoke alarms at least every 10 years.



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