

## Merry and bright with LED lights



Photo: istockphoto/ricardoeitmeyer

Holiday lighting displays are getting more energy efficient as people replace their old strings with LEDs or light emitting diodes.

If you haven't made the switch yet, consider the following facts about LEDs:

- Lights with the Energy Star label have been tested and come with a 3-year warranty. They also consume 70% less electricity than incandescent light strands.
- They are more durable and shock resistant than other light strings because there are no filaments or glass.
- They are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

## Would you like to have an electric meter that reads itself?

Have you ever forgot to read the electric meter and had to use a flashlight to get the job done after dark? Automated meter reading may be helpful to you.

Automated meter reading is available to most of Dawson PPD's residential electric customers. These special meters send readings through power lines back to the office, so customers no longer have to record



their meter readings on their payment stubs.

Dawson PPD has been slowly converting residential meters with automated technology. Customers who have automated meters will notice that their monthly bill will have an "X" in the spot reserved for meter reading information.

If you would like your meter converted to one that automatically reports your electrical usage, please contact us at 800-752-8305 or 308-324-2386.



Although it doesn't take long to read an electric meter, sometimes it can be a real chore to go out and get the reading.

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Guest column

# NPPD invests in pollution reduction



A new rule from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, effective January 2012, will have an impact on Nebraska's electric generation due to its significant compliance costs.

In July of this year, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued its final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which is designed to reduce the inter-state transportation of pollutants from fossil-fueled generating plants. CSAPR will impact 28 states and hundreds of utilities with coal-fired power plants by mandating stringent reduction levels of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>).

Compliance with reduced emission levels will come with a significant price tag for Nebraska Public Power District and the utilities who buy power from NPPD, including Dawson PPD. In fact, every utility in the state

operating a coal-fired generation facility is facing similar challenges.

"In October of 2010, NPPD commented on what was - at that time - the EPA's proposed rule for lowering emission levels. We felt NPPD had reasonable options to meet the emission limits as proposed at that time," said NPPD's Corporate Environmental Manager Joe Citta. "However, the

EPA announced much lower emission levels than indicated previously when it published its final rule in July."

To help meet these new and even lower limits, NPPD's Board of Directors approved an emergency resolution in August of this year to purchase and install \$35.5 million in emission reduction equipment at Gerald Gentleman Station, located near Sutherland. Forty-eight, low-NO<sub>x</sub> burners will be installed on Unit 2 at GGS. Unit 1 already has low NO<sub>x</sub> burners in operation. The new low-NO<sub>x</sub> burners should reduce the NO<sub>x</sub> emissions released from Unit 2 by approximately 40 percent.

NPPD was planning to purchase this equipment for GGS anyway to meet a different EPA regulation; however, the installation was not scheduled until 2014. The implementation

## Where do we get our power?

(NPPD's primary generators and their capacity)

Cooper Nuclear Station	Uranium fuel	810 megawatts
Gerald Gentleman Station	Low-sulfur coal	1,365 megawatts
Sheldon Station	Low-sulfur coal	225 megawatts
Beatrice Power Station	Natural gas	250 megawatts

## NPPD Sources of energy for 2010

Coal	43.6%
Nuclear	40.7%
Hydro & renewable	7.3%
Gas & oil	0.7%
Purchased from others	7.7%

date for the CSAPR regulation is Jan. 1, 2012 – thus the catalyst for NPPD's Board to act quickly and install the new equipment on Unit 2 by the second quarter of 2012.

Another of NPPD's power plants affected by the CSAPR is NPPD's Sheldon Station, a coal-fueled generation facility near Hallam, Neb. The EPA's initial proposal required a 40 percent reduction at Sheldon; however, the EPA's final rule requires the facility to reduce its NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by 80 percent—a level difficult to achieve. NPPD's Board authorized \$810,000 to install equipment at Sheldon's Unit 2 that will enhance compliance with the rule, but it will not be enough to help the station completely meet the EPA's new limits.

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## Celebrating 10 years

Ron Teten marks ten years of service to Dawson PPD in December.

Teten works with the District's mapping program. The computerized maps include customer information and details about the line equipment like transformers and breakers. All of this map information is connected by global positioning satellite (GPS) points and linked to aerial photos of the area.



Ron Teten

In addition to his mapping work, Teten also assists engineers with staking projects.

	Gerald Gentleman Station at Sutherland	Sheldon Station at Hallam
Goal of NO <sub>x</sub> scrubber	40% ↓ NO <sub>x</sub> emissions	80% ↓ NO <sub>x</sub> emissions
NO <sub>x</sub> scrubber estimated cost	\$35,500,000	\$810,000
Other possible SCR emissions control equipt. costs	\$1,500,000,000	\$300,000,000

# Dawson's Dynamic Homemaker

Reprinted from the February 1968 Dawson Dynamo

**Evelyn Psota** and her husband, Virgil, live on a diversified dryland farm 8 1/2 miles northwest of Ravenna, where they own 480 acres and rent additional land.

Their children are Rodney, 14, a freshman in Ravenna High; Vicky, 19, and Gary, 20, attend Nebraska State College at Kearney and are home on the weekends.

Although Evelyn Psota insists, "I am not dynamic," she evidently has become an integral part of the community and does more than what is normally expected.

On the day Darryn Gulden dropped by to take Evelyn's picture, our homemaker had just whipped up some malts in the blender which the family saw demonstrated and bought, at the State Fair. "We really enjoy it, Mrs. Psota says. "It has been used for many things but malts seem to be the most popular

with the entire family. It's a small but mighty popular unit in our electrical attachment family.

"The washer and dryer are the most appreciated aids I have though, being used any day of the week, day or night. I find that the dryer really saves on ironing time, too.

"But I also don't know how we'd get along without the welder, the freezer, the electric pump for water, iron, hair dryer, heating pad and many other necessities. When my husband used to



Evelyn Psota of Ravenna was featured as a Dynamic Homemaker in February 1968. Mrs. Psota is pictured with one of her family's favorite appliances - a mixer they purchased at the State Fair.

milk more cows and worked late in the fields in the summer, the electric milking machine was a great aid to me.

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## 12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!

ESFi  
Electrical Safety Foundation International



**Day 1** **What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

**Day 2** **What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

**Day 3** **Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

**Day 4** **Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

**Day 5** **Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

**Day 6** **Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

**Day 7** **Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

**Day 8** **Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

**Day 9** **Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

**Day 10** **Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

**Day 11** **Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

**Day 12** **Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at [holidaysafety.org](http://holidaysafety.org).

## Dynamic homemaker... *Continued from Page C*

"When we were first married 23 years ago, I used my grandmother's old White sewing machine. Now I enjoy the use of an electric model."

The family has been involved in 4-H since Gary was old enough to join, 12 years ago. Mrs. Psota has been a leader of the Eager Beavers club for seven years. "Our club has been fortunate in receiving several honors in exhibiting, modeling, demonstrating and song contests at the state fair," she writes. As girls groups and mixed voices, the club received purples three of the seven years they have competed in Lincoln.

"We had a great group to work with and parental cooperation all the

way," Mrs. Psota says.

This winter, Evelyn is helping six hours a day in Loup City in the government sponsored "Community Action" program, where work consists of obtaining information as to what might be done to help local communities and people needing assistance of some kind.

"I sometimes feel as if I'm doing three jobs and getting no sleep," Mrs. Psota admits, "But my family helps out. My mother and mother-in-law both help too, when I get in a pinch. And here I'm supposed to be helping them instead."

Presently she is taking adult education courses in Loup City a few hours

each week, in bookkeeping and office machines.

As hobbies, Evelyn lists sewing and reading. She does amateur photo tinting occasionally, and enjoys textile painting and ceramics. She tries to raise a few flowers and a garden and has done a lot of canning.

We at the Dynamo office are proud to add Mrs. Virgil Psota to the series of capable, intelligent farm women in the Dawson Public Power District area who make electricity "work for them," and so, in turn, free them for achievement outside the home.

## Pollution reduction... *Continued from Page B*

### ***Are there other options?***

In addition to equipment investments, NPPD will also use other options, including reduced generation from its coal-fired plants, or a combination of solutions.

Utilities that cannot meet the limits and do not have adequate emissions allowances could face substantial fines from the EPA.

### ***State joins the effort***

On the state level, Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning has filed a federal lawsuit to challenge the rule, citing the regulation could cost energy consumers and utilities millions of dollars. Several other states have joined Nebraska in the legal challenge filed in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia.

In turn, NPPD recently filed a peti-

tion with the EPA for reconsideration and stay of the new rule. The petition requests that EPA grant partial reconsideration and delay the CSAPR compliance deadlines for Nebraska and NPPD.

### ***How much could compliance cost?***

NPPD could install additional emission equipment, such as scrubbers and selective catalytic reduction (SCRs) at GGS, at a cost of \$1.5 billion. Similar equipment at Sheldon Station would cost about \$300 million. NPPD projects it would need to increase its electric rates 25 percent to cover the capital costs of such equipment. These control technologies would also help address other EPA regulations coming in the future.

No decision has been made to add scrubbers or SCRs; however, NPPD

is conducting a generation options analysis that will determine recommendations for NPPD's board to consider regarding the right generation mix that will:

- ensure the safe, reliable and cost effective delivery of energy to NPPD customers;
- reduce NPPD's operational, regulatory and financial risks; produce stable, affordable electric rates for its Nebraska customers; and
- meet future power supply requirements, while addressing environmental stewardship and fuel diversity.

NPPD expects to complete the analysis by the end of this year.

*Article courtesy of Nebraska Public Power District*

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