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## Dawson PPD board approves increases

Dawson Public Power District's board of directors approved rate increases that will go into effect in January 2009. The average increase is 9.6 percent for all rate classes. It will add about \$9 to \$14 to monthly residential bills.

Increased wholesale energy costs and general operation costs were two factors in the decision. In addition, the new rates will assure Dawson has adequate margins to pay for maintenance and system upgrades to improve reliability and service.

"Our margins generate enough cash to cover our expenses and a small profit that is re-invested into the system," explains Robert Heinz, General Manager.

Sixty-one percent of the 2009 budget is allocated to pay for wholesale power costs. Transmission and distribution costs account for another 12 percent. Financing for the new headquarters facility, which became part of electric rates in 2008, is less than 2 percent of the budget.

In 2009, Dawson plans to build a transmission line between Elwood Eustis as a backup feed that will increase reliability to the villages. A new substation will be built to serve Elwood. South of Cozad, a segment of a transmission line will be rebuilt for additional capacity. Another Cozad area project will put new insulators on an existing transmission line. Specialized substation equipment will be installed across the district to deliver information about the loads being served. The equipment will also allow Dawson to automate some procedures.

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## PRESS RELEASE

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