



Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

www.crppd.com

July, 2023

Manager Memos -by Curtis Kayton

Dear Consumer,

I have always thought the only time our rugged hills are more beautiful when they are covered with snow is when they are lush and green. This year has confirmed that statement in grand fashion! According to the National Weather Service our area received 7.33 inches of rainfall in May which trails behind May of 2018 at 7.51 and May of 2015 with a record 7.95! Spring rains have delayed planting, but the condition of growing crops appears very well. More than once I have noticed a spot in the grass that turned out to be a calf. What a difference a year makes!

I am experiencing my own high-water event in getting situated, and learning the culture at Chimney Rock PPD. The staff is performing Yeoman's work in answering my lines of questioning while maintaining the level of service to you the customer. I have much ahead of me to learn, and I do know I am learning from a good group.

A unique feature about CRPPD'S electric system is that we operate in both the east and west grids in the US. There are three grids in the United States, West, East, and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas or ERCOT. The points that allow flows between the East/West grids are called Direct Current or DC Ties. There are seven of them from the Canadian border to Texas, and two of them are in Nebraska. One at Sidney, the other at Stegal west of Scottsbluff. Currently the CRPPD grid north of Hwy 26 is fed from the East, and the rest is from the West. Just a fun fact to share.

As summer activities ramp up and we all get busy let's all remember to make safety a priority when you are not only at work, but when you are at the lake, a baseball game, or family vacation.

As always stop in to visit if you are in Bayard, or call if there is anything you would like to discuss with me or the staff.

Energy Efficiency Credits

Energy Efficiency Credits are available on electric motors, electric heating, electric hot water heaters, and LED lights. Must be new installations only. and submitted within 90 days.

Certain standards of efficiency must be met to qualify depending on the type of electric equipment installed.

Some of the credits include:

- *Electric water heaters - \$50/unit
- *Heat pumps-\$150-\$500/ton
15 SEER Minimum
- *Electric motors 10-500 hp \$8/hp
- *Old refrigerators and freezers going to be recycled
- *Clothes Dryers - \$30-\$90
- *Induction Cooktops 30" or larger, must be replacing gas
- *LED lights - lesser of 1/2 cost of lights or \$8 per lamp, 500 Lumens or greater
- *Electric trimmer, chainsaw, or pruner, electric blower or lawn-mower - 25% of cost, up to \$150
- *Whole House Fans - \$100
- *Smart Thermostats - \$25

Receipts are required.

Chimney Rock also contributes to some of the credit.

Please contact our office for information on requirements and credit amounts at 586-1824.

Let us help pay for your new electric appliances and motors.

How to Keep Your Upstairs Cooler This Summer

Owners of two-story homes face the same problem every summer: The upstairs is hotter than the first floor or basement. The choice seems to be to sweat it out or lower the thermostat to make up the difference. Unfortunately, doing nothing can lead to a lot of hot, sleepless nights, while adjusting the thermostat can give you a chill when you receive your summer energy bills. There has to be a better way.

Why is it hotter upstairs? The temperature imbalance in your home has to do with science, but you don't have to be a scientist to understand it. As air gets warmer, its molecules spread farther apart and it becomes lighter. The lighter hot air rises to the second floor. The denser cool air sinks and gets trapped downstairs.

Striking a better balance - You can't change the laws of physics, but there are things you can do to make your upstairs more comfortable and save money.

- **Use window treatments.** Close shades and curtains on south and east facing upstairs windows during the afternoon. This will help keep out unwanted heat gain, install insulating shades to save even more energy and improve comfort.
- **Circulate air.** If you have ceiling fans, turn them on when you are upstairs. They circulate air and make you feel cooler. They don't actually cool a room, so turn them off when you leave to avoid wasting energy.
- **Seal attic air leaks.** Go in your attic; check for gaps around recessed light fixtures, plumbings, furnace flues and ductwork. Seal with caulking or expandable foam. Add weatherstripping to your attic access or door.
- **Cool your roof.** Conventional roof materials absorb heat and bring it into your home. A cool roof reflects sunlight and emits solar radiation, making your upstairs and your entire home more comfortable. If you live in a warmer climate, look for lighter colored materials when replacing your roof. This will reflect some of the heat that would otherwise warm your house and, particularly, the upstairs area.

If you have an older air conditioning system or one in need of repair, consider replacing it with an ENERGY STAR certified system. ENERGY STAR units use less energy than standard models.

You Can Prep Your Home for Summer

Summer is a time of fun in the sun, but it's also important that your home can take the heat. Here are a few things to check off your list before the hot weather arrives.

- **Check your HVAC system.** Check the filter on your HVAC system and replace it if it's dirty. Call a pro to check refrigerant levels and complete season maintenance. These steps will ensure that your air conditioning system is running efficiently and will help to avoid any uncomfortable breakdowns.
- **Program your thermostat for savings.** Install a smart thermostat and program it so that you are not cooling the house unnecessarily when you are not at home.
- **Check air sealing and insulation.** Inspect windows, doors, and insulation and fix any issues, such as gaps around seals. Keeping the heat and humidity out of your home means that your air conditioning system won't have to work as hard to keep you comfortable.
- **Rotate ceiling fans counter-clockwise.** Ceiling fans can help reduce air conditioning use. Switch their rotation to counter-clockwise in the summer for cooling breezes that help you feel cooler at higher thermostat settings.
- **Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.** Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and put in new batteries for safety.
- **Clean refrigerator coils.** Refrigerator coils can become clogged with dust, inhibiting their cooling capacity. Clean the air intake and compressor coils to ensure efficient operations.
- **Check lawn and garden power tools.** Check and maintain lawn and garden power tools. If old gas-fueled tools are failing, it's a good time to replace them with new battery-powered tools that are cleaner, more convenient and cheaper to operate.
- **Inspect hoses and irrigation systems.** Finally, make sure hoses and irrigation systems are working properly and fix any leaks that may have sprung up during the winter. With just a few hours of your time, you can get your home ready for summer to help make your home more comfortable and efficient.

Cost Increases - 2019-2022

How much have our costs to provide electric services changed?

While we are striving to keep our operating costs down, here is an example of how much prices have increased since 2019.

Poles
69%
Increase



Wire
109%
Increase



Fuel
68%
Increase



Bucket Truck
30%
Increase



Transformers
83%
Increase



Dill Pickle Pasta Salad

For the Dressing:

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1/2 c sour cream
- 1/4 c pickle juice
(from the jar)
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. salt

For the Pasta Salad:

- 1 lb. dried corkscrew pasta
- 2 1/2 c. diced dill pickles, plus more for garnish
- 2 c. diced cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp. fresh dill, plus more for garnish

For the dressing: Stir together mayonnaise, sour cream, pickle juice, black pepper, and salt in a small bowl until smooth, set aside.

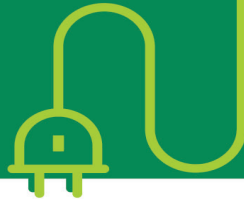
For the salad: Cook the pasta according to the package directions; drain, rinse with cold water to cool the pasta, and drain again. Let stand for 5 minutes. Add the pasta, pickles, cheese and dill to a large bowl; add the dressing, and stir to coat. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour. Garnish with more diced pickles and fresh dill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



A variety of conditions or scenarios can result in a downed power line. Sometimes downed lines are visible while other times they are hidden by ice, snow, branches or storm debris.

Collisions with a pole or padmount transformer can cause the ground and objects to become energized. Regardless of the cause, always consider a downed line or damaged equipment energized and deadly.

If you are in a car accident involving a downed line, stay in the cab or car and wait until someone from the electric utility says it is safe to get out.

Call 9-1-1 to report a downed or damaged power line. Stay away and alert others to do the same.

Remember, if there is a downed line, stay away! Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

If you see a downed or damaged power line or pole or a dislodged electrical cabinet:

- Do not go near it.
- Do not touch it.
- Do not try to move it with another object.
- Do not touch items that could be energized.



**Chimney Rock
Public Power District**
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**During normal office hours
and after hours call:
(308) 586-1824 or
(877) 773-6300**

July Board Meeting:
July 10th - 9:00 am

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.