



# Chimney Rock News



Choice is Local Control

[www.crppd.com](http://www.crppd.com)

May, 2016

## ***Manager Memos -by Diana Reich***

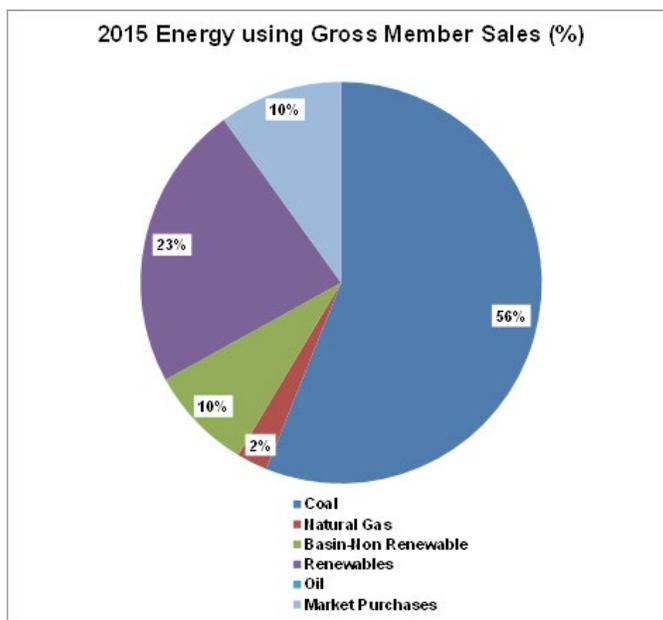
Dear Consumer,

Public Power was built to bring electricity to rural Nebraska when Investor-Owned Utilities didn't want to spend the money serving farmers at the end of the line. We continue this tradition today of building and serving customers in rural Nebraska. The challenges faced 70 or 80 years ago are somewhat the same but also different. Whether we're talking about the EPA or the Rural Utility Service, there have always been regulatory issues in this industry.

On top of that regulation, there is pressure to build more renewable energy. There are those that want to see the skyline dotted with wind turbines or solar panels and those that want low cost reliable electricity. In some respects you can't really have both of them. There needs to be a balance between the two.

We buy our power from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. and sell it to you, our consumer. We have the benefit of having Tri-State's diverse generation mix that is always there when you need it.

Tri-State's generation mix for its members is 23% renewables, 56% coal, and 2% gas and oil. The rest comes from purchases outside of the Tri-State system. This is shown on the graph below:



We at Chimney Rock believe that there needs to be a balance in the generation mix in order to serve you, our consumer. That generation mix needs to include all of the generation resources including fossil fuels such as coal and gas plus renewables such as wind and solar.

## ***Dusk to Dawn Lighting***

Many of our residential farmyards have a mercury light that turns on as the sun sets and goes off as the sun rises. Not too many people consider the efficiency of that light burning nightly in the yard. Maybe it is time to consider the amount of energy a 175-watt mercury vapor yard light is costing. This light is costing you around \$100 per year.

That mercury vapor yard light can be replaced with an energy efficient LED, or light-emitting diode, yard light. LED's are a miniature light source encased in a lens. They produce a light when electrons inside the diode release energy in the form of light photons. LED lighting is ultra-compact and dramatically more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs-up to 85% more efficient.

LED lighting has several advantages over traditional sources. It is more energy efficient, has a high light output, and a lifespan of approximately 100,000 hours. Unlike mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium lights, LEDs come on instantly without a warm up time or relighting delays.

Chimney Rock PPD has customers with rental mercury vapor lights, when these lights need to be replaced we will be replacing them with the new LED yard lights.

Customers who own their yard light and replace it with a LED light will receive an energy efficiency credit from Tri-State Generation and Transmission and from Chimney Rock PPD. This credit makes installing a new LED light affordable.



If you are interested in having a LED yard light installed please call our office for more Information.

## ***Call Before You Dig***

Safe digging begins by calling 8-1-1. From planting shrubs to building a fence, many outdoor projects require digging. Avoid striking underground utilities by calling the "Call Before You Dig" 8-1-1 number first. All utilities in the area will be contacted, locate crews will arrive within a few days to flag or paint the underground line. Make the free call and protect yourself and others from unintentionally hitting an underground line.



**Our office will be closed  
Monday, May 30th in  
observance of Memorial Day**

## Don't Toy with your Safety!

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment used to send electricity to your home.

Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

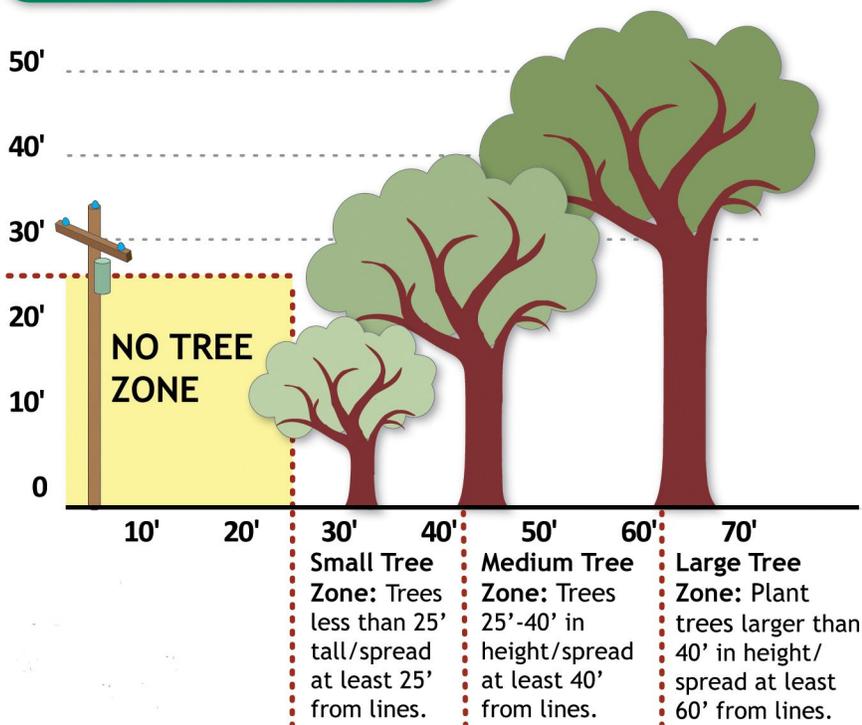
- \*Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- \*Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- \*Never climb trees near power lines.
- \*If you get something stuck in a power line, call the electrical company.
- \*Never touch or go near a downed power line.



### Watermelon Kiwi Smoothie

- 2 cups seedless watermelon chunks
  - 2 kiwis, peeled and chopped
  - 2 cups vanilla yogurt
  - 1 cup ice
  - 2 liters ginger ale
  - 3 sprigs fresh mint
- Blend watermelon, kiwi, yogurt, ice and ginger ale in a blender until smooth. Garnish with a sprig of mint.

## Tree Planting Guide



Trees growing near power lines are safety hazards and are the leading cause of power outages.

When planting trees first look up to see where overhead power lines are located. Know the mature height of the tree to avoid clearance issues with the power lines.

## *Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month*

*Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.*

*Source: energy.gov*

### **Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp**

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Leadership Camp will be held July 11-15, 2016 at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey. Chimney Rock PPD will sponsor one camper to attend this camp, campers must currently be in the 9th, 10th or 11th grade and parents must be a consumer of Chimney Rock PPD. Applications for this camp are due by May 13th. For more information or to apply for camp please contact our office.

### **Payment Options Available for Bill Pay**

Chimney Rock PPD offers several different ways to pay your bill. Automatic bill payment allows the customer to have their monthly bill deducted from their bank account or charged to a credit/debit card. There is no more worry about late fees, mail times, or quick trips to the office to pay your bill.

We also offer bill pay over the phone by calling our office or on line by going to our website at [www.crppd.com](http://www.crppd.com). Payment can be made by credit/debit card or checking account information. There are no additional fees for using this service.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for automatic bill pay, give our office a call.



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