Clap those hands!
Let’s honor our 2020 graduates

POWERING Then & Now
Timeline celebrates historic milestones

POW! WHAM!
Pandemic reignites teammate’s love of comics

Tried and Tested
President and CEO Tom Kent talks COVID-19
Driving forward
(car optional)

Raise your hand in solidarity if you have small children at home and you’re trying to do ALL the things: raise a family, work efficiently and seamlessly adjusting to future unknowns.

Most days are a lesson in grace and patience. On any given day, you can find me somewhere between social distancing by walking, biking or horseback riding on the Cowboy Trail or trying your luck fishing at Grove Lake Wildlife Management Area. Bathe in history at one of the community's four museums, or shop 'til you drop at one of six antique shops. Better yet, practice social distancing by walking, biking or horseback riding on the Cowboy Trail — the nation’s longest rail-to-trail path measuring 195 miles from Norfolk to Valentine.

Glancing into the rearview mirror, we can see the results of our efforts, what we’ve accomplished and the mark we’ve left on the world.

This issue of Energy Insight shines figurative taillights on where we’ve been — and headlights on where we’re going. We see the path NPPD has paved to benefit customers throughout its history. And though much has changed throughout those 50 years, one of our core values remains the same — our ability to provide customers with low-cost, reliable electricity.

The issue is a celebration of the journey in every sense of the word. We recognize recent statewide accomplishments, honor this year’s graduates, and wish them the best on their next adventure. We embrace winding roads that led one Columbus teammate back to a beloved hobby collecting comic books. We see resilience at its best. Really, as Nebraskans, there are many aspects of life that were put on hold this year due to the ongoing pandemic and need for social distancing. Weddings, graduations, concerts. At times, the hands of the clock barely seemed to move. Yet, everywhere, NPPD teammates, our customers and our respective communities are driving goals, projects and plans steadily forward. There are no helpless passengers here — only people getting behind the wheel to make it happen.

It’s resiliency at its best. Really, as Nebraskans, are we surprised?
Tried and Tested

There are countless moments in history that prove to either derail us or make us stronger. This can be true on a monumental scale, such as the world wars, the abolishment of slavery and the invention of electricity. But, it can also apply to personal battles and achievements, like a bold career move, a change in family dynamic, or a victory over illness.

This pandemic plays a role in both, as it has uprooted the world, and our day-to-day lives. But, NPPD is not dismayed. We have looked the pandemic in its metaphorical face, and we have responded as we do in any emergency or critical situation – with respect to the serious nature of the issue, and by prioritizing customer and employee health and safety, creating actionable, long-term processes and procedures, and making logical, composed decisions.

The result is an energy system that has not been compromised by COVID-19, and teammates who continue to generate and safely deliver reliable electricity to our customers, even as more than a third of the workforce has and continues to telecommute. In turn, I’m incredibly proud of teammates for their commendable approach to safety, as this year we achieved 135 consecutive days worked safe – the best demonstrated record since NPPD began documenting days worked safely in 2008.

Teammates have certainly shown their mettle throughout the last four months, proving they can adapt and work in any environment if given the correct resources to succeed. Adoption of new technologies like Teams has been invaluable in keeping us connected, even amid social distancing, continuing our progress to work and communicate in productive, meaningful and efficient ways.

Many corporate changes have also occurred to keep employees and their families safe and healthy, from the addition of a mask-wearing policy to a new telecommuting standard that will give teammates the opportunity for more flexibility and balance in their work and personal lives.

Safety – in all aspects of the word – remains a number one priority at NPPD. We are dedicated to mitigating spread of the virus, and to date, have had just seven teammates test positive. Social distancing and mask-wearing have added challenges in the field, yet our teammates are problem-solvers, and communities to see pandemic fatigue setting in. Folks are anxious to return to the fun in the sun mentality summer brings, yet as positive COVID-19 cases continue to mount at concerning speeds, NPPD’s stance is that slow and steady wins the race. While directed health measures for our facility-located communities may be loosening, NPPD will continue to rely on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as our District physician and data from the state to make educated decisions regarding our recovery and re-entry plans.

It’s said we’re not yet out of the first wave of the virus, and with no idea what the second wave could look like, our Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Team believes small-scale re-entry is the best solution. As such, we will take a cautious, thoughtful approach to ensure continued safety and operational excellence.

While a corporate recovery plan has been developed, which provides a broad framework for more facility-specific and departmental plans, NPPD is also taking into consideration extensive feedback from our teammates that will feed into these plans. Plans include physical changes to facilities, process changes, contact tracing and testing efforts, and precautionary procedures like cleaning and disinfecting shared spaces.

As our physical surroundings may have greatly changed, so, too, have the methods deployed on several projects planned for this year, due to pandemic-related changes to financial projections, project timeframes, outage configurations and more.

There has been much upheaval and social awakening this year – the likes of which we have never seen. Regardless, we will continue doing what we do best – providing customers with energy they can count on. We will listen to the needs of our customers, teammates and communities, and do our part to support and uplift. Throughout the course of the pandemic, we have committed to community involvement efforts, helping distribute hand sanitizer to local businesses, urging folks to support small businesses through various advertising campaigns, and providing options for financial support for those struggling to pay electric bills, including monetary donations to customers in need through our Pennies 4 Power program.

When we look back at this moment in history, I want to remember people coming together, united for the greater good. I want to know we did everything we could to prevent harm from coming to those we care about. And, I want to see our integrity in the work we do shining through, despite all the changes and challenges. This, to me, is what true strength in adversity means.
POWERING THEN AND NOW

Times have changed, but our commitment to move the energy industry forward and provide reliable and safe energy is stronger than ever.

1970s
- Nebraska Public Power District was formed on Jan. 1, 1970.
- Cooper Nuclear Station was synchronized to the nation's power grid on July 1, 1974.
- On March 29, 1976, a severe wind and ice storm left a path of destruction in south-central Nebraska.
- Unit 1 of Gerald Gentleman Station was synchronized to the nation's power grid on April 2, 1976.

1980s
- Gerald Gentleman Station Unit 2 teamed with Unit 1 on Jan. 1, 1982.

1990s
- The Energy Control Center began monitoring NPPD's transmission grid system on July 12, 1993.
- The Nebraska Legislature commissioned a study to examine Nebraska’s public power structure and retail competition.
- The Springview Wind Farm began converting the power of wind into electricity.

2000s
- Nebraska Legislature passed LB901 following a three-year study of the state’s public power industry and electric deregulation.
- On April 3, 2002, the Centralized Customer Care Center started answering calls from customers across the state.
- Beatrice Power Station was put into commercial service on Jan. 7, 2005.
- The Ainsworth Wind Energy Facility was put into commercial service on Sept. 15, 2005.
- On Dec. 30, 2006, a blanket of thick ice and 40-mph winds crippled central Nebraska.

2010s
- Norfolk Operations Center opened its doors on Sept. 13, 2010.
- The Security Operations Center began 24x7 operations on March 1, 2013.
- On April 1, 2017, Scottsbluff became the first retail community to launch NPPD’s SunWise™ community solar program.

2020s
- Lives and work environments were disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A storm dubbed the Bomb Cyclone hit Nebraska on March 12, 2019.
Weinmeister is entitled to these opinions because he’s been in the comic space since the ripe age of five. Visits to his grandmother’s house were coupled with excitement to visit a nearby drugstore. There, he’d camp out in front of the comics, reading. If he was good, he might get to take a few home. It was a “want” that turned quickly into a “need!” Soon, he was picking up a 12-deep stack of comics with each monthly trip to the grocery store. Back then, they sold for around $0.25 to $0.45 cents apiece.

“Nancy Reagan was featured in ads at the back of the comics,” he recalled fondly. “I had a strong desire to ‘just say no’ to drugs because both she and Superman told me to!”

As life progressed through college, marriage, children and a full NPPD career, the comics were gradually placed carefully in boxes above the garage, saved for another day, or perhaps another generation.

“As luck wouldn’t have it, none of my kids are interested in them!” Weinmeister said with a helpless laugh. “What do you do?”

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High School Graduation

Emma Murphy
Auburn H.S.

Keegan Nitsch
North Platte St.
Patrick’s H.S.
Son of GGS Eng. & Asset Mgr. - Production Bob Nitsch

Tyler Palmer
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.
Son of CGO Strategic Sourcing Spec. Tami Weber

Connor Parker
Auburn H.S.
Son of CNS Dir. of Engineering Troy Barker

Riley Bender
Nethawk H.S.
Daughter of NOC Planner/Scheduler Gale Bender

George Guang-Egger
Johnson-Block H.S.
Son of CNS Control Room Operator Nick Egger

Brooke Humphrey
Shelby-Hiawatha City H.S.
Daughter of CGO Sr. Planning Analyst Shari Watts

Brooklyn Jakub
Rock Port H.S.
Daughter of CNS Planner Jeff Jakub

Asa Anna Jones
Columbus H.S.
Daughter of CNS Assistant Jill Jones

Dalton Borchers
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.
Son of CGO Sr. Systems Analyst Lisa Borchers

Kamden Bush
Hershey H.S.
Son of GGS I&C Tech. Robert Bush

Abigail Gozuk
Lakeview H.S.
Son of CNS Accounts Payable Spec. Carolyn Ferris

Abigail Gozuk
Nebraska City H.S.
Daughter of CNS Electrical Eng. Steve Gozuk

Megan Endorf
Columbus H.S.
Daughter of CGO Lead Analyst Lori Endorf & Workforce Development Spec. Jeff Endorf

Mady Ludwig
Grand Island Northw. H.S.

Alyssa Gilliland
York H.S.
Daughter of York Dir. of Operations Support Matt Gilliland

Allysa Gilliland
Nebraska City H.S.
Daughter of CNS Electrical Eng. Steve Gilliland

Alex Gozuk
Auburn H.S.
Daughter of CNS HR Business Partner Sherry Clarkson

George Guang Egger
Johnson-Block H.S.
Son of CNS Control Room Operator Nick Egger

Connor Parker
Auburn H.S.
Son of CNS HR Admin. Assist. Laurenly Fabesowski

Asa Anna Jones
Columbus H.S.
Daughter of CNS Planner Jeff Jakub

Sharee Fiedler
Scotus Central Catholic H.S.
Son of CGO Production Consultant Rob Eshleman

Emily Murphy
Auburn H.S.
Daughter of CNS Operational Shift Mgr. Brian & CNS Sr. Fin. Analyst Paula Murphy

Willian Nickish
North Platte St.
Patrick’s H.S.
Daughter of CNS Eng. & Asset Mgr. - Production Bob Nickish

Amber Loutzenhiser
Homeschooled
Daughter of Norfolk Energy Efficiency Consultant Jim Loutzenhiser
Class of 2020
Congratulation graduates!
Customer News

Enjoy a throw-back recipe from the May 1970 issue of The Dispatcher, a predecessor magazine to the Energy Insight. Strawberry pie – it’s perfect for summer. Don’t you agree?

by Bernice Krieger

Desserts are the happy endings of our meals. They may be fancy or they may be plain. Some are rich and some are not. But they always have a touch of sweetness. Desserts do have a nutritional place in well-planned meals. However, we eat them for sheer enjoyment.

Stawberry Meringue Pie

Beat egg whites until foamy; add sugar gradually. Add baking powder and continue beating until egg whites are stiff. Blend in saltine crackers which have been rolled fine. Add pecans. Spread meringue into well-buttered 9-inch pie pan. Bake in an electric oven at 300°F for 30 minutes. When ready to serve, top with sweetened strawberries. Serves 6.

Strawberry Meringue Pie

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 egg whites</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 C sugar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/2 t baking powder</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10 saltine crackers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C chopped pecans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced and sweetened to taste</td>
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From the Archives

Bruce Clymer retired June 22 as the city of Gothenburg’s city administrator after almost 30 years of service to the community. His replacement is Gary Greer.

Gary Greer brings much experience to his new role, having served as city administrator to Kearney from 1986-1996; Manhattan, Kansas, from 1996-2000; Grand Island from 2004-2007; and Farmers Branch, Texas, from 2007-2016. Greer has a master’s degree in public administration from Kansas University, a political science bachelor’s degree from Park University, and continuing leadership training from Georgetown University and the University of Virginia. He is also an accredited city manager by the International City/County Managers Association. Greer has been living in Lincoln since 2018, working in the private sector.

Gothenburg is an NPPD wholesale customer.

Matthew Kibbon new Gothenburg city administrator

Matthew Kibbon new North Platte city administrator

Jim Hawks retired as the city of North Platte’s city administrator mid-May, after 16 years of service. His replacement is Matthew Kibbon. Kibbon brings 20 years of experience as a construction engineer to his position. He received his bachelor’s degree in construction management in 2001 from Nebraska’s Wayne State College; then became a project engineer for Omaha’s Kiewit Building Group. Since then, he’s helped build many impressive facilities, including the Holland Performing Arts Center in Omaha, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Lincoln, and educational buildings, including STEM and energy facilities, at the University of Wyoming.

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North Platte is an NPPD wholesale customer.
Put us right up there with SpaceX because we just launched a big one! Earlier this year, NPPD officially went live with a tool to support communication efforts with retail customers. A new web portal and mobile application, “NPPD On The Go!,” were introduced in March, bringing customers the best in cutting-edge technology for staying connected.

Smart Energy Water was the vendor selected to bring this vision to reality for both products. The tools provide flexibility, along with a plethora of features that can be used today and into the future. “NPPD’s previous mobile app, launched in 2015, was limited on choices, and our team’s goal was to provide a user-friendly, convenient app which allows users to stay connected from all devices, including tablets and cell phones, and from the comfort and safety of their home,” said Columbus Manager of Retail Technology, Billing, and Customer Care Nicole Brumbaugh. “Persistence and teamwork were a huge part of this project, and I can’t say enough about the team who made the result a success, offering in-depth features that can be used today and into the future.”

News from around the state

Columbus / Kathy Fadrich, Communication Specialist / kfadrich@nppd.com

Kade Wiese, son of Columbus Wholesale Billing Specialist Christi Wiese and her husband, Gerry, broke two of Scutus Central Catholic’s powerlifting records this March during the 2020 State Powerlifting Class B event at Peru State College, setting a personal best of 585 pounds and 520 pounds in the squat and deadlift categories, respectively. Kade set a personal record benching of 235 pounds. He received the title of “Outstanding Heavyweight Lifter” out of all male heavyweight champions, and earned first place in his weight division. Scutus’ powerlifting team earned second place in both the boys and girls divisions at state, as well as first place in the combined team division for the second year in a row. The Scutus team finished with 10 state champions, and 22 of its 23 competitors won medals.

Tyler Palmer was honored with the prestigious Scutus Male Athlete of the Year award and scholarship May 6. He was also recognized as one of the recipients of the KLIR Male Athlete Prep Club Award and scholarship and was named Male Athlete of the Year by the Columbus Community Hospital. Tyler broke the all-time career and single game scoring records for football and the single game and career stolen base records for baseball. He was recognized as Academic All-State in football and baseball his senior and junior years. Tyler was selected to play football in the July 10 Nebraska Shrine Bowl. He will be a freshman at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this fall and play baseball for the Huskers. Tyler is the son of Tami Weber, strategic sourcing specialist.

York / Pam Hoeff, PBX Operator/Receptionist / phoeff@nppd.com

Alyssa Gilliland, recent York High School graduate and daughter of Director of Operations Support Matt Gilliland and his wife, Brooke, was recently recognized for her perfect ACT score by Gov. Ricketts in a ceremony at the State Capitol Rotunda. Alyssa is one of only 44 Nebraska high school seniors to receive this honor in 2020 and the first student to represent York High School.
Special remembrances

A life celebration for Joseph Heitshusen

Cooper Nuclear Station Armed Security Officer II Joseph Heitshusen, 25, unexpectedly passed away June 27. Joseph was a member of team Delta since he was hired by NPPD in January of 2018. His Security Shift Supervisors, Jeff Kuhns and Dan Otto, recall Joseph as hardworking, intelligent and well-liked by everyone fortunate enough to have worked with him. To say he will be missed is an understatement.

Joseph is survived by his wife, Jacy; parents, Quentin and Jane; siblings, Carroll (Laura Jean Perry) and Clara; grandmother, Flora; mother- and father-in-law, Troy and Michelle Hendrickson; sister-in-law, Taryn (James) Osborne; brother-in-law, Alec (Ashlee Fish) Hendrickson; Jacy’s grandparents, Ray and Linda Hendrickson and Gerry and LaDonna Waltzathm; numerous aunts, uncles and cousins; and many friends.

Cooper Nuclear Station Custodian Harry Tyson, 84, passed away May 7. Harry began his NPPD career in 1987 and retired in 1995.


Cooper Nuclear Station Temporary Nuclear Instructor Greg Brewer, 64, passed away July 4. Greg began his NPPD career in 1985 and retired to a periodical part-time position from 2017 to 2020.