

North Central's News

Delivering a difference to parts of Knox, Antelope, Pierce, and Holt Counties Since 1945



Thoughts and Comments from General Manager, Keith E. Harvey

The Theory of Global Warming and the Truth About Energy Subsidies

It seems like almost every day I read or hear about the consensus of scientists supporting climate change that is caused by mankind and its foolish ways. To me there are two major problems with this whole climate change rhetoric – first calling it climate change is disingenuous because the climate is always changing so that tells us absolutely nothing and second there is no such thing as consensus in science! Let me repeat that. Consensus does not exist in the world of true and unadulterated science. As the catch-phrase of the old Dragnet television series “Just the facts ma’am”, science is concerned with the facts and the facts must be reproducible over and over. Otherwise instead of a scientific fact that is proven it becomes a theory that still needs more proof to become a scientific fact. That is why there is a Theory of Evolution and a Theory of Relativity and why there should be a Theory of Global Warming (not a Theory of Climate Change because climate change is a scientific reality). Consensus is fine for educators or politicians or any of a number of other groups – just not scientists.

The study of the Theory of Global Warming is not the sole province of meteorologists and climatologists but actually comes from three large

groupings of scientists: the first group is comprised of those expert in meteorology, atmospheric physics, atmospheric chemistry and computer modeling and who study change over short periods of time (weather processes) and extrapolate that into climatic processes; the second group is comprised of geologists and other earth scientists who work with delineating climate history with inference as to ancient climatic processes; and finally the third group is made up of the enabling sciences such as mathematics, statistics and perhaps engineering.¹ Thus, “global warming is

a topic that sprawls in a thousand directions. “There is no such thing as an ‘expert’ on global warming, because no one can master all of the relevant subjects. On the subject of climate change everyone is an amateur on many if not most of the relevant topics.”² It is indeed a brave scientist or movie-making ex-politician that claims to be an expert on the global warming issue as he or she is only one short step away from foolhardiness.

Much of the “consensus” on the Theory of Global Warming comes

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Irrigation meeting and luncheon scheduled

Irrigation customers are invited to attend an irrigation meeting and luncheon on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 in Creighton at the Walter Larsen Senior Citizen Center (located at 705 Peabody Ave). Lunch will be served at 12:00 (noon) and the meeting will follow. The topics that will be discussed are:

- New load control schedule option
- Irrigation conversion cost comparison
- System load growth and its effects on control hours
- USDA grant information - presented by Korey Young, Rural Development Specialist
- Q & A

A direct mailing will be mailed on January 21 to all irrigation customers, concerning this meeting and luncheon, so please watch for this mailing.

RSVP: Please contact Sherrie Zimmerer by February 1, if you plan to attend the irrigation meeting and luncheon at 402-358-5112 or 800-578-1060 or by email ncirrigation@ncppd.net

Transformer upgrade in 85-1 Creighton Substation increases reliability and capacity

Ensuring a reliable supply of energy is available when customers need it takes more than the simple flip of a switch. North Central works hard behind the scene to deliver electricity to homes, farms and businesses through an extensive network of transmission and distribution lines.

On December 8, North Central installed a new transformer in the 85-1 Creighton Substation, located two miles west and 1 mile south of Creighton. The new three phase 7.5 MVA transformer replaces three 1,667 KVA single phase transformers at Substation 85-1. According to the Operations Manager, Chad Waldow, the new transformer will help ensure the reliable delivery of electric energy to services served by this substation, meet the growing electrical needs and will serve as an alternate feed to other areas of the district as needed. The transformers that are being replaced can be used to upgrade another substation in North Central's electric system when necessary.

During this process the supporting infrastructure (regulators, reclosers and conductor) were also upgraded. The insulators, standoffs and connectors were also replaced. This is all done in effort to maintain reliable service with adequate capacity. During the upgrade, power was backfed from a different feed so customers would not experience outages.



The 3 phase 7.5 MVA transformer weighing in at 49,000 pounds was set into place and installed on December 8, 2010 in the Creighton Substation 85-1.



Pictured above are line crews upgrading infrastructure in preparation for transformer upgrade.

Energy Subsidies

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from computer models based on thousands of variables. In my college days I remember from one of my many computer classes an axiom of computer programming – “GIGO” – “Garbage In, Garbage Out”. Anyone who has used a computer spreadsheet knows that the output is only as good and as accurate as the input and related underlying assumptions. With all of the variables involved and knowing that having even one of them wrong will distort the output of the model shouldn't we as citizens raise an eyebrow when these models are presented as the God's truth? By the way these model outputs are called projections rather than predictions – that is a very telling situation in and of itself. As an interesting sidelight if a person would graph the modeled rates of atmospheric warming plotted against height in the atmosphere (vertical axis) and latitude (horizontal axis) from 1958 through 1999 and then also graph the actual yearly recorded data for those same projected atmospheric temperatures you would find that the two graphs do not even remotely resemble each other. A kindergartener with a dart board could have made just as accurate a projection as did the modelers. And we are going to change our entire world economy and standard of living based on this?

I would like to make one last comment on the importance of consensus or lack thereof in science. For almost 100 years doctors believed (read that has had a consensus) that stress, spicy food and alcohol caused ulcers. After years of fighting this established consensus in the medical field two scientists – Barry Marshall and Robin Warner – discovered

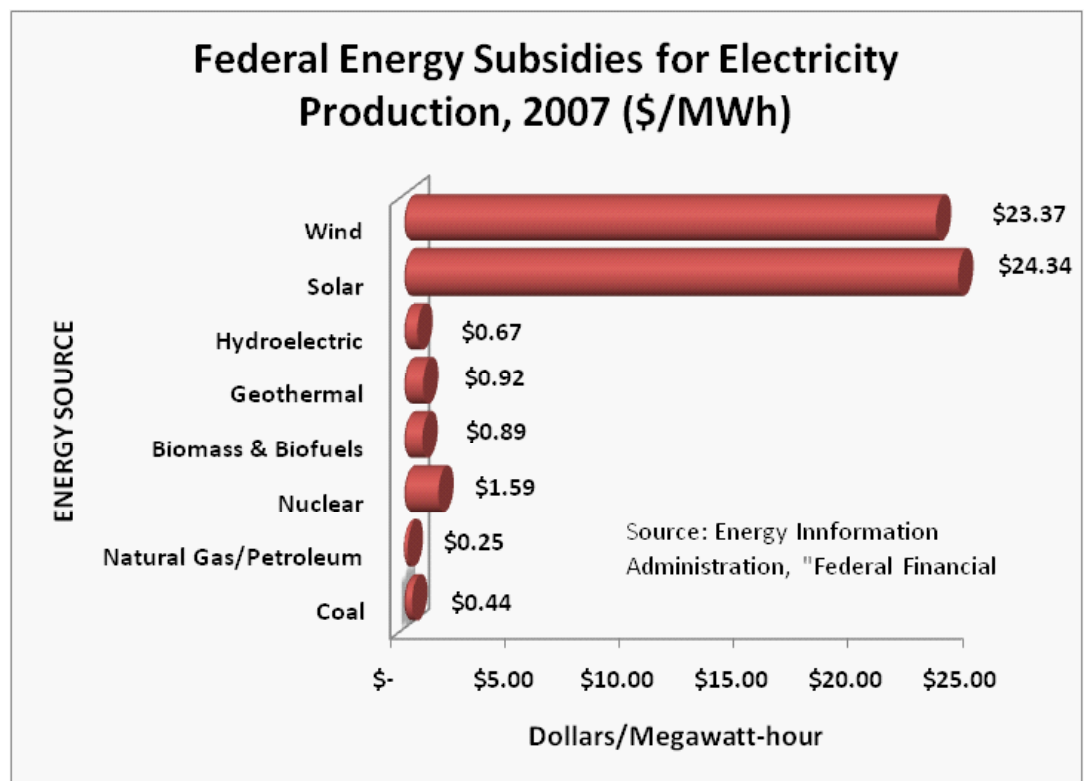
a bacterium that could grow inside the stomach and cause ulcers. They named it *Helicobacter pylori*. This discovery blew the “consensus” of 100 years worth of doctors completely out of the water. Both of these researchers won the Nobel Prize for this discovery that has saved millions of people the unnecessary suffering of an ulcer and put them in the proud company of Al Gore - “climate expert extraordinaire”.

However, the real fly in the ointment when it comes to human caused or corrected global climate change is that we are not working in a laboratory or in the virtual realm of computer models. We are working with a huge and dynamic planet that has over four billion years of violent events and climate catastrophes under its belt. This is a world where we as humans have only recently come onto the scene and to be as egotistic as to think that we can either make or break this planet is a folly of gargantuan proportions. Super volcanoes and collisions with near earth asteroids have been a part of this planet's past along with more ice ages and periods of scorching heat than we can even count. And yet we

are going to save this planet – how naive can an intelligent species be? The earth has weathered events that would push the limits of our collective imaginations and can certainly adapt to any minor disruptions that humans may cause in their pursuit of the good life. I am not advocating that humans should deliberately and wantonly ruin the habitat of other living things but only that we leave complexities outside of our understanding alone until we do completely know how the systems work and interact with the other myriad systems that make up life on planet earth.

Any discussion about energy will always contain claims about which form of energy gets to be the “fat cats” through subsidization by federal tax dollars. “Nuclear power”, yells one voice from the peanut gallery “gets more government money than any other energy source!” The truth is that in a 2008 study by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), nuclear power gets federal subsidies of about \$1.59 per megawatt-hour (MWh) produced. Just for comparison, wind power gets

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Energy Subsidies

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\$23.37 per MWh produced and solar gets \$24.34 per MWh produced³. The more important thing here though is that based on a per-unit-of-output basis, wind and solar get 15 times as much in federal subsidies as nuclear even though nuclear produces about 25 times as much energy as wind and solar combined. And nuclear is a reliable producer of the essential commodity of electricity by being available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year – not even close with wind or solar.

In 2009 the loan guarantees available through the Department of Energy

were \$78.5 billion for renewables, \$18.5 billion for nuclear and a measly \$8 billion for “clean coal”⁴. Remember in the paragraph above how much wind and solar get per MWh of electricity produced? Natural gas gets \$0.25 per MWh produced – yes that means that wind gets 93 times as much subsidy as natural gas but natural gas produces 28 times as much electricity⁵. Solar is even worse with 97 times as much in subsidies while having natural gas produce 900 times as much electricity.

It sure makes me wonder about future federal budget deficits and the price of electricity five years from now. Probably of more concern will be the availability of electricity at some point

in the future. Remember that electricity is the magic genie that turns a third world nation into a modern society – and that this equation also works in the other direction. Have a great month and do be careful and we’ll do our level best to keep your power at the touch of a finger.

¹ Robert M. Carter, *Climate: The Counter Consensus* (Turkey: Mega Basim, 2010), 22-23.

² *Ibid*, 27.

³ Robert Bryce, *Power Hungry: The Myths of “Green” Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future* (New York: PublicAffairs™, 2010), 265.

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ *Ibid*, 266-267.

Rates for 2011 go into effect January 1

The power North Central PPD (NCPD) buys for our customer’s needs comes from Nebraska Public Power District and is purchased at wholesale. North Central PPD’s wholesale power accounts for 60% of our total expenses. NPPD has announced a rate increase of 9.7% for 2011 in their wholesale rates. North Central PPD’s staff shared this information with an independent rate

consultant who reviewed how this wholesale rate increase would impact North Central’s rates.

At the December 2010 board meeting North Central PPD’s board of directors reviewed and approved the proposed rate structure for 2011 prepared by the rate consultant. The board approved a rate increase of 6.9% per rate class with a plus or minus 2% bandwidth for each rate class.

For most rate classes the impact will be between 4.9% and 8.9%. These rates go into effect, January 1, 2011.

For a listing North Central PPD 2011 electric rates log onto our web site at www.ncppd.com, click on Customer Service, then Rate Schedule, then 2011. Customers without Internet access can obtain a copy of the 2011 electric rates by contacting our office at 402-358-5112 or 800-



Linda Sokol, Energy Advisor

New Year's Resolution "Cutting Kilowatts"

Cutting Kill-a-watts is like cutting calories in your diet, it's not easy but can be worth it in the end.

The trick is to start with small changes and goals that aren't out of reach. If you set your goals too high you might get discouraged and quit before you see any results.

Start with shutting off lights and ceiling fans while you are gone. (10 hours gone a day could save you \$4.80 per month)

Turning the thermostat back at night and when no one is home 1 degree could save you 2-4% on your monthly bill.

Setting your water heater thermostat back 10 degrees could save you 3-5% on your monthly bill.

When changing light bulbs replace with Compact Florescent Bulbs, a 75 watt incandescent gives the same light as an 18 watt CFL.

Go to www.ncppd.com and click on the Apogee tool located at the bottom of the Home page. Put in your house details to see what you could save (or the kilowatts you could cut) if you changed just the few things listed above. When I figured my house I could save \$8.00 per month in electricity, that is \$96 annually. It might not sound like a lot but every little bit helps. Next time you sit down to have a cup of "joe" think about things you could do that might help save more kilowatts and help reduce other monthly bills, which in turn just might help the environment go green.



Did you know?

The "Emergency Heat" setting on a heat pump thermostat is often misused by homeowners. This setting turns off the heat pump and tells the furnace or backup system to heat the home. You should only turn the switch to the "emergency heat" setting if your heat pump is not working properly. It will allow you to have heat until your service technician can fix the problem.

Anytime you use the "emergency heat" setting, you are turning off the heat pump and using more costly backup heat.

From our homes to yours . . .

Tried & Tasted Delicacies

Pineapple Pork Chops

flour
1/4 c. brown sugar
1 tsp. mustard
1 tbs. lemon juice or vinegar
4 to 6 pork chops
1 can Chunked Pineapple

Flour and brown the pork chops, set aside. In a sauce pan mix together and heat the brown sugar, mustard and lemon juice. Drain the pineapples chunks saving the juice and the chunks separately. Add the pineapple juice to the brown sugar mixture, mix completely. Pour this mixture into a baking pan. Put the pork chops into the baking pan with the spice and juice mixture. Add enough water to almost cover the pork chops. Cover with pineapple chunks and bake for 1 hour at 400 degrees.

Herbed Monkey Bread

1/2 c. butter, melted
1 clove garlic, minced
2 tsp. parsley flakes
1 tsp. chives, dried
1/2 tsp. basil
1/2 tsp. oregano
2 tubes buttermilk biscuits

Grease a 10 inch bundt pan. Combine all the ingredients except the biscuits in a mixing bowl. Open the tubes and dip each biscuit in the mixture and arrange around the bundt pan standing the biscuits on edge. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for 10 minutes in the pan before removing to a plate or a cooling rack.



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The Bargain Barn

For Sale: Two pair football receiver gloves, moderately worn size medium \$10 or best offer. GE 18 cubic inch refrigerator, 1996, white-\$100.00. Whirlpool electric stove, white-\$75.00 Will deliver within 30 miles. Please call 402-358-3265.

For Sale: Two Holmes Tower Heaters in excellent condition, \$25 for each or best offer. Please call 402-893-5303.

Wanted: Old upright piano. Please call 605-500-9279.

Give Away: Six year old female Dashhound to a good home. Please call 605-500-9279.

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for something in particular? You can call, send or email (bargain.barn@ncppd.net) your description of what's for sale or what you are looking for into our office. We will run the ad in the Bargain Barn section free for one month. Please include name and telephone number. No commercial ads will be accepted, personal items only.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Is your home more than 10 years old? It might need extra insulation, but how much depends on where you live: www.simplyinsulate.com.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

Meter Reading Reminder for Rural Customers

Meter readings for rural residential and commercial services should be submitted into North Central's office between **January 20 and 28, 2011**

Meter Readings can be submitted by:

- Phone - **402-358-5112 or 800-578-1060**
- Electronically - **www.ncppd.com** or Email - **ncentral@ncppd.net**

Accounts without a meter reading at end of month billing will be subject to the \$20 Estimated Meter Reading Fee

RURAL CONSUMERS please read your meter between the 20th and the 28th. If you are calling your meter reading(s) into our office use our local or toll free "800" telephone number. If you call after our normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, you may leave your reading on our answering service. To submit your meter reading electronically log onto our web site at www.ncppd.com and click Submit Your Meter Readings. You can also email your meter readings into our office by using the following email address - ncentral@ncppd.net. If you are unable to call your meter reading(s) into our office, you can mail your readings into our office by the date listed above.

Town meters are read by North Central PPD personnel.