

The Wheat Belt Connection



SEPTEMBER 2026



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Upcoming Work Across Our Service Area

Wheat Belt Public Power District will have two line rebuild projects beginning in late September and early October as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and reliable electric system.

The larger project involves approximately 50 miles of power line in Cheyenne County. The project will rebuild infrastructure damaged during the April 2024 storm and is being completed with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster recovery funding. Colorado Power, Inc. (CPI) will serve as the contractor, with Border States supplying the materials.

A second project will rebuild approximately four miles of three-phase power line near Lake McConaughy to improve reliability. Premier Power will serve as the contractor for this project.

Customers in and around these project areas should expect increased crew activity along roadways and near power lines. There may also be brief, planned service interruptions as new sections of line are constructed and energized. Wheat Belt PPD will provide advance notice whenever planned outages are necessary.

We appreciate our customers' patience and understanding as this important work gets underway. If you have questions about either project, please contact our office.

BEHIND THE POWER: QUESTIONS THAT MATTER

How are power supply costs determined?

Wheat Belt PPD's power supply costs are based primarily on wholesale electricity and the services required to deliver it safely and reliably. These costs include the energy our customers use, capacity reserved for peak periods, transmission, substations, fuel and market adjustments, generation investments, and regulatory charges. We carefully combine these expenses with the cost of operating and maintaining our local distribution system and allocate them across customer classes as fairly and equitably as possible.

Why have wholesale power costs increased?

Wholesale power costs have increased because of inflation in equipment, construction, labor, and plant maintenance; higher projected market, fuel, and contracted-energy costs; state and federal regulatory changes and requirements; new transmission and reliability requirements; and the need to secure dependable capacity as regional demand grows. Wheat Belt is responding by carefully evaluating long-term power supply alternatives that can improve rate stability and cost control while preserving reliability. Every option is being reviewed with our customers' long-term interests in mind.

What factors influence electricity costs?

Electricity costs can change for several reasons, but Wheat Belt actively monitors the factors that affect rates. These include usage patterns—particularly demand during peak hours—as well as fuel and wholesale market prices, dependable generating capacity, transmission charges, weather, inflation, interest rates, labor and material costs, environmental and reliability requirements, and investments in generation and the grid. While some influences are outside our control, we plan carefully and manage the factors we can to help keep service reliable and costs as stable as possible.

How do infrastructure investments affect energy costs?

Infrastructure investments help ensure customers continue receiving safe, dependable service. Generation, transmission, substations, poles, wires, meters, technology, and even cybersecurity all require ongoing care and improvement. Although these projects can add costs through financing, depreciation, and operations, timely investment also helps prevent outages, improve efficiency, support community growth, and avoid more expensive emergency repairs.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Wheat Belt Public Power District is proud to congratulate Austin Dormann on achieving his Journeyman Lineman certification! Austin joined Wheat Belt in 2022 and is based out of Oshkosh, where he plays an important role in providing safe, reliable power to our customers. Please join us in congratulating Austin on this well-deserved milestone and thanking him for his dedication, hard work, and commitment to serving the communities we are proud to call home. Austin was presented with his certificate on Monday, July 27th, by Wheat Belt Manager of Operations and Safety Director Rollie Waite and Board President Brian Zimmerman.



CELEBRATING OUR TECHNICAL SERVICES TEAM



Kurt Cleveland
Staking Technician



Andy Kuhns
AMI & Supply
Chain Administrator



Eric Reimers
Meter & GIS
Technician



Chris Schilz
Warehouse &
Facilities Coordinator



Jim Weeda
Manager of
Technical Services

At Wheat Belt Public Power District, reliable service takes more than the work customers see in the field. It takes planning, coordination, technology, and a dedicated team working behind the scenes to keep our system operating safely and efficiently.

While we appreciate all of our employees and the important role each person plays in serving our customers, this month we are recognizing our Technical Services team, led by Jim Weeda.

This department plays a key role in planning and supporting the many systems and services that keep Wheat Belt moving forward. Their responsibilities reach across several areas of our organization, including line staking, AMI, supply chain, metering, GIS, warehouse and facilities, and more.

From planning where new infrastructure will be built to managing the information and materials needed to support

our crews, their work helps ensure our employees have the tools, resources, and information they need to provide safe and reliable electricity.

Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but the impact can be seen throughout our service territory every day. Whether it is maintaining accurate system information through GIS, supporting our AMI system, coordinating materials and inventory, assisting with metering, or planning projects through staking and engineering, this team helps connect the pieces that make reliable service possible.

We are proud to recognize the entire technical services team for their knowledge, dedication, and commitment to Wheat Belt PPD. Thank you for the work you do every day to support our employees, strengthen our system, and serve our customers!

Wheat Belt Public Power District

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Saturday, September 19, 2026
7:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Wheat Belt PPD Headquarters
11306 Road 32
Sidney, NE 69162

80
YEARS
STRONG
1946 WHEAT BELT PPD 2026

Enjoy breakfast, connect with our team, and experience an electric vehicle firsthand.

The morning will also feature prize drawings, including a Bluetooth speaker, fan, portable extension cord, air fryer, and more! We look forward to seeing you!

FEATURING:



Our first kid's lineworker rodeo! Saddle up for a fun event where kids can discover what linemen do!

LUCKY DRAWING

Wheat Belt Public Power District is pleased to announce Ernest Ag LLC as our July Lucky Draw winner. Our monthly Lucky Drawing is held January through November. All customers who pay before 4:00 p.m. the 16th of each month are automatically entered, and the winner receives a \$50 credit on their account.

We offer the following payment options:

- Mobile Customer Access, iOS and Android; search for Wheat Belt Public Power in your app store
- Online, using our secure Auto-Pay system
- Automatic Bank Draft: Checking or Savings
- Automatic Credit Card Draft: Visa, Mastercard, or Discover

- Future Scheduled Payments
- Phone payments, one-time drafts: e-check/savings or credit card
- Mail: PO Box 177 (please do not send cash)
- Drop box: 11306 Road 32 (please do not leave cash, checked daily except during office closures)
- Pay at the office: cash, check, or credit card

For more information or questions, contact us at (308) 254-5871. Visit wheatbelt.com, select "Pay Your Bill Online," or select the Customer Engagement menu to download our automatic bank draft and credit card authorization forms.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

MAIN HEADQUARTERS:

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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
6:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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MANAGER OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

Jim Weeda

MANAGER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Kelli Chaon

OUR MISSION

Deliver electricity safely, reliably
and efficiently.