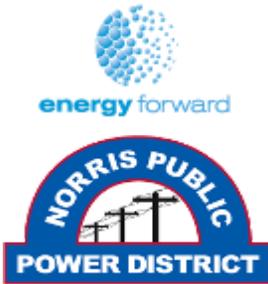


**HAPPY
PRESIDENTS
DAY**



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Lowest Electrical Rates

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Nebraska's Electrical Rates Among Nation's Lowest

The State Chamber has proudly served as the voice of Nebraska's business community for more than a century. The State Chamber supports reliable, low-cost electric service as currently provided by existing public power entities.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Nebraska residential customers in 2015 paid the 10th lowest average retail price for electricity in America. At 10.60 cents per kWh, Nebraskans paid less for electricity than residential customers in any neighboring state. Nationwide, the average retail price for residential electricity is 12.65 cents per kWh.

In order to better serve Nebraskans, we must continuously gauge how competitive our state is, regionally and nationally. It is another reminder that affordable and reliable electricity is one of Nebraska's most important competitive advantages.



Recently, there have been discussions in Nebraska about electric retail choice. A series of legislative bills were introduced during the 2017 Nebraska Legislative session on behalf of a private for profit energy developer from Texas who is attempting to destabilize the public power industry by forcing retail choice into the state. Retail choice began twenty years ago in the United States. Twenty-three states with high electric rates believed that retail choice was the answer to reducing electric rates. Nearly two decades later, there is little evidence that retail choice has yielded any significant benefits. In fact, eight of these states suspended or repealed legislation regarding all or some portions of retail choice shortly after it was initiated.

Public power has served the state of Nebraska well for over eighty years and continues to provide competitive electric rates. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the 2015 average retail price for residential electricity in Nebraska is the 10th lowest in the nation and average electric rates for all consumers is 15th lowest. Fifteen of the sixteen retail choice states have residential rates that are among the highest states in the country.

Public power utilities are not-for-profit organizations governed by local electric consumers who make local decisions that are in the best interest of consumers over the long term. For more information regarding the retail choice legislative bills, please click on the following link [Retail Choice](#).

Please click this link and [Take Action Now](#). The link will assist you to quickly send an electronic letter to your State Senator opposing these legislative bills.

Look Out for Galloping Lines



High winds and ice can affect power lines in a way that makes them gallop. Strong winter winds can cause ice to build up on one side of a power line. When this disproportionate buildup occurs, it changes the flow of air around the line, which can then cause it to start bouncing, potentially damaging the lines, causing power outages and even making the lines fall to the ground.

Once galloping starts, there is not much Norris Public Power District can do to alleviate it until winds die down. This is why many power lines have objects, like twisted wire or round or angular pieces of metal attached to the line. These devices are placed on power lines to help reduce the galloping of lines and prevent potential danger.

Stay away from galloping lines. If you see downed power lines, contact Norris at 800-858-4707 as soon as possible. It is important to keep your distance from downed power lines, as it is impossible to visually assess if the line is energized.

Be sure to have a storm preparedness kit ready before a storm strikes to help get you and your family through a power outage. This kit should include: bottled water, non-perishable food, blankets, warm clothing, first aid kit, flashlight, radio, extra batteries and toiletries.

Norris offers additional tips on how to stay warm during a winter power outage:

- Stay inside, and dress warm.
- Close off unneeded rooms and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors to minimize cold air entering the house.
- Cover windows at night.
- Be aware of the temperature in your home. Infants and elderly people are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.
- When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on as a quick reminder that the power is restored.

Mini Brownie Treats

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Mini Brownie Treats

Ingredients

1 package fudge brownie mix
48 striped or milk chocolate kisses



Directions

1. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions for fudge-like brownies. Fill paper-lined miniature muffin cups two-thirds full.
2. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 – 21 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean.
3. Immediately top each with a chocolate kiss.
4. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Yield: 4 dozen

Recipe By: Taste of Home