

# Energy

Q U A R T E R L Y

## Editor's

**Note:** On August 7, 1996, Governor Nelson spoke to electric utility members of the Nebraska Power Association. A portion of his remarks are excerpted in this issue.

## Governor Nelson Speaks on Issues Facing the State's Electric Utilities

"The nation's electric industry is embarking on a sea of experimentation as some states begin to allow ratepayers to choose who will provide them with electricity.

"The outcome is being debated by many. Only one thing is certain — there will be winners and losers [and we want Nebraska utilities to be winners.]

"Even privatization of the state's electrical system has surfaced. Every decade or so — and sometimes more frequently — someone in Nebraska will propose selling the electric assets in the state for a one-time financial windfall.

"Why should we exchange a short-term, one-time gain for a lifetime of higher electric rates? And sale proponents do admit — rates will be higher.

"I have said it before and I restate it here today: The state's public power systems should not be sold, and I will oppose efforts to do so. Yet looking at ways the system can be improved is both fitting and timely.

"I, like Senator Beutler, [Chairman of the Legislature's Natural Resources Committee] have not seen Nebraskans seeking to replace the state's public power system with one owned by investors."

(The Legislature began a three-year study of the state's electric industry in August. A 41-member advisory group will provide assistance to the legislative committee.)

## Public Power At The Crossroads...

# The Decades of Growth, Conflict and Change

### Editor's Note:

This is the second of a three-part series, "Public Power at the Crossroads." The *Quarterly* will chronicle how Nebraska became the only state in the nation where all electric systems are owned by the public and what the system's future may hold.

The first installment, "Public Power in the Early Years," appeared in the Spring 1996 issue.

for electricity grew dramatically as farms became fully powered and consumer appliances, unavailable during the war years, became plentiful. Between 1948 and 1951, demand for power in Nebraska doubled. It doubled again between 1952 and 1957.

How electricity was used and when it was needed also changed. The growth of air conditioning and irrigation caused the peak demand for electricity to shift from winter to summer.

## Uncivil Wars

Rapid growth in demand and changing demand patterns created strains in the system. Controversies among utilities were frequent and enduring. The period 1952 through 1956 is often described as one of civil war in Nebraska's electrical power industry.

The reaction to increased demand and the need for additional generating capacity permanently changed the roles of the players. The Legislature moved to end the wars and changed the structure of the industry by

Public power's roots sank deep into Nebraska soil and became entrenched from 1933 to 1950. By the late 1940s the electricity surpluses of the earlier decade had been replaced by a burgeoning demand. By the 1950s, demand

applying pressure for reorganization and consolidation, establishing the Power Review Board in 1963 and authorizing the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska in 1981.

The resources used to generate electricity changed as well. Hydropower produced at federal dams in other states was imported to meet growing demand. Coal became the fuel of choice for generating power. In the 1970s, nuclear power was added to the mix of resources. And, for the first time, Nebraska became a net exporter of electricity.

## Growth Reaps Conflict

Consumers Public Power District had only been created in 1939 to purchase the private utilities and to market electricity. Other parts of the system were satisfied with that role for Consumers, and it was generally believed that Consumers would cease to exist when its original debt

Continued on page 2

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Information Resources and Services 8

New Grants Expand Energy Efficiency and Pollution Efforts 6

Nebraskans Find That Weatherized Homes Can Be Money Savers 5

State's National Army Guard Wins With Energy Projects 7

Sustainable Development Center Opens 6

was paid off in 1972. Consumers, however, wanted more. By 1956, Consumers was generating and transmitting as well as retailing electricity.

Although construction of the Kramer steam plant in Bellevue in 1949 added 60 megawatts of capacity, only three years later studies indicated a need for additional generation and transmission capacity.

In 1953, the Nebraska Public Power System wanted to build a new generating plant near Beatrice. However, Consumers also wanted to be in the power production business. Later that year, Consumers proposed revising its contract with the Power System to permit Consumers to construct generating facilities and then use the Power System's transmission lines to deliver electricity to its eastern Nebraska customers. The two opted to fight this battle in court.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled that Consumers' charter empowered it to generate and transmit electricity, and the charter could not be nullified by contractual relationships. Consumers could now legally do it all — generate, transmit and distribute electricity. The proposed Beatrice plant that started the conflict was lost in the shuffle.

## Power Hungry

Additional generating capacity was sorely needed. In 1955 in the midst of the Consumers — Nebraska Public Power System controversy, Governor Anderson called a meeting of public power leaders.

The solution to emerge from the meeting was a proposed 100 megawatt steam plant at Lexington to be built by the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District. Since Central was not involved in the current controversy, its credit standing was better than Consumers or the Power System's.

But, the pact to build the steam plant collapsed when Consumers failed to support the project as agreed, destroying Central's prospects for private financing.

Central then turned to the Rural Electric Administration for financing. When it began operation in 1958, the generating capacity of the Canaday plant was the largest in Nebraska.

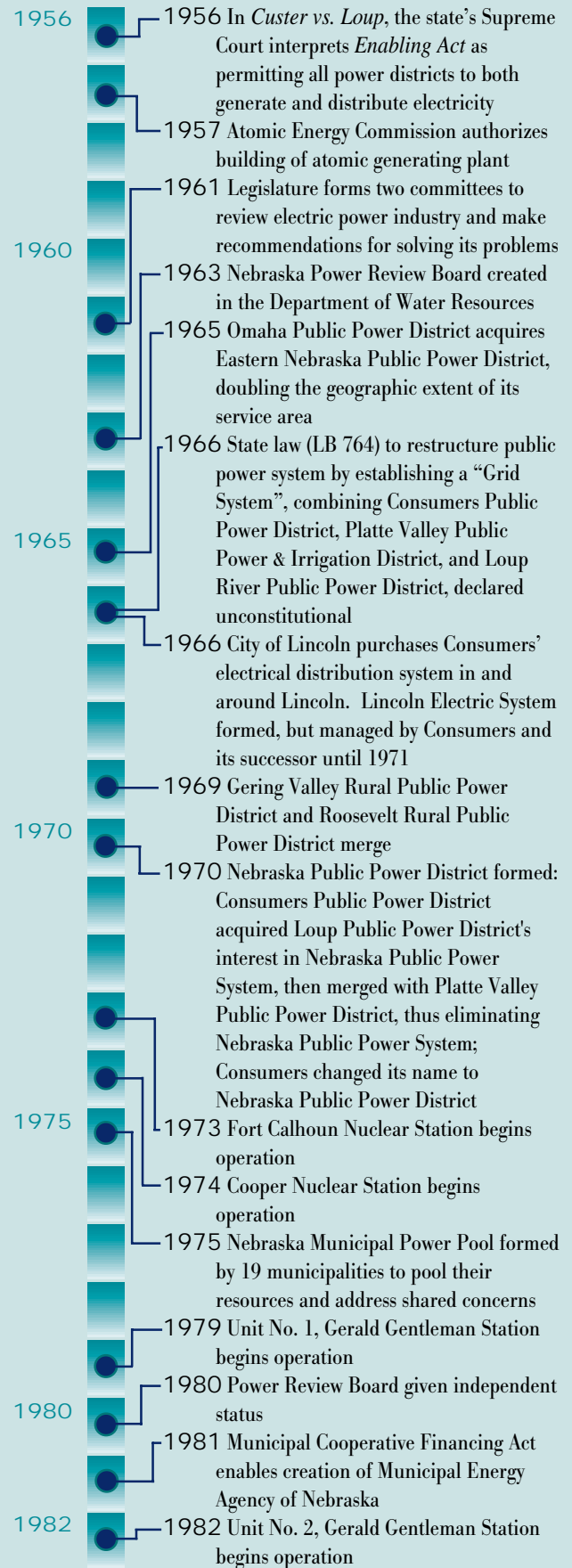
## Powerful Imports

Hydroelectric power from plants constructed by the Corps of Army Engineers along the Missouri River in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota became available in the 1950s and was expanded in the 1960s.

In 1954, the Nebraska Public Power System contracted for 100 megawatts of firm power from the Bureau of Reclamation's hydropower plants. Subsequent contract amendments increased the amount of power sent to Nebraska so that by 1961, an additional 100 megawatts was supplied to meet summer peak demands. But to get the added power, a new 230 kilovolt line was required to bring the electricity from Fort Randall, South Dakota.

As with other additions to capacity, there was extended controversy over which utility would construct the needed transmission line. The dispute cost the state federal assistance to construct the line. A new player, the Nebraska Generation and

## The Path of Public Power...



Continued on page 3

Transmission Cooperative, made up of 22 rural power districts, financed the line with a Rural Electric Administration loan.

In 1977, federal hydropower was sufficiently developed that federal power marketing agencies were established to transmit and market the electricity. Being a public power state, Nebraska was well positioned to benefit from this source of low cost hydropower.

By 1995, the contract rate of delivery of federal hydropower to Nebraska had grown by more than 4.5 times to 455 megawatts during the winter and 905 megawatts during the summer. Western Area Power Administration is the federal agency that supplies this inexpensive electricity to the state's public power systems. Western, as well as several other power marketing agencies, have been targeted for sale by the federal government. However, as of today, they remain federal assets.

## Atomic Foray and Big Coal

In 1957, arrangements for the construction of one of the first atomic power plants in the United States were completed by Consumers and the Atomic Energy Commission. Planning and negotiating the project with the Atomic Energy Commission and securing Congressional appropriations had taken four years.

Located at Hallam, the plant was to consist of an atomic

reactor and a conventional boiler which would have a combined net output of 175 megawatts. The atomic reactor proved unsuccessful, and the nuclear furnace was shut down in September 1964, just seven years after being hailed by the *Lincoln Sunday Journal and Star* as "one of the historic forward steps in the development of the state."

The radioactive by-products had been considered to be of equal, if not greater, importance than the additional electric power. Utilization of the radioactive by-products for food processing was foreseen as one of the most beneficial uses.

Shutting down the atomic reactor at Hallam was not the end of nuclear power in the state. In 1973, Omaha Public Power District's Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station, with a capacity of 502 megawatts, began operation. A year later, Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville, began operation with a capacity of 836 megawatts.

The state's largest coal plant, the Gerald Gentleman complex near Sutherland, began production in 1979. In 1994, the plant produced 6.75 million megawatthours of electricity.

## Competing for Customers

Squabbles among the power players were not confined to determining which entities would generate and transmit power. They also involved who sold power to whom.

In 1958, Consumers' contract with the City of Beatrice was expiring. Beatrice accepted a lower bid from Norris Public Power District. Not wanting to lose Beatrice as a customer, Consumers again turned to the courts.

The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled the Norris contract with Beatrice invalid. According to Harry Trebing, writing in the *Public Utilities Fortnightly* in 1962, the failure of the Supreme Court to comment on its decision allowed similar situations to occur in the future.

## Credit Woes

As early as 1953, there were efforts to reorganize the state's public power system. A new reorganization proposal only slightly different from the preceding ones appeared almost annually.

Consolidation of generation, transmission and distribution functions into one entity were standard features of each proposal. The plans called for Consumers, Platte and Loup Districts and the Nebraska Public Power System merging and the consolidated district being called the Nebraska Public Power District.

If the state system of public power was to survive, a solid economic footing was needed to reestablish the system's credit worthiness.

The credit standing of Nebraska Public Power System, the wholesale arm of the public power system outside of Omaha, was at a financial disadvantage. Its cumbersome management structure — all the system's decisions had to be approved by the boards of the Platte and Loup Districts — was abhorrent to investment bankers. Secondly, wholesale electricity sales are less profitable than retail sales. Thus, Consumers had the double advantage of more profitable electricity retailing and a more efficient management structure.

continued on page 4

## Atomic Power — An Opportunity Nebraska Will Long Remember

"Completion of final arrangements for a 75,000 kilowatt reactor and a 100,000 kilowatt boiler power generating plant at Hallam, Nebraska, utilizing nuclear fuel only 20 miles southwest of Lincoln is one of the historic forward steps in the development of Nebraska's resources.

"It ranks equally with the breaking of the prairie by the first plow, the coming of the railroads, the first irrigation project, the development of the state's hydroelectric network, and the discovery of oil and natural gas within Nebraska borders.

"The \$66 million expenditure for steam and atomic power generating facilities at Hallam is more than the cost of the entire Lincoln Air Force Base.

"But it is not this expenditure with its employment of 200 to 400 construction workers that makes this a event significant.

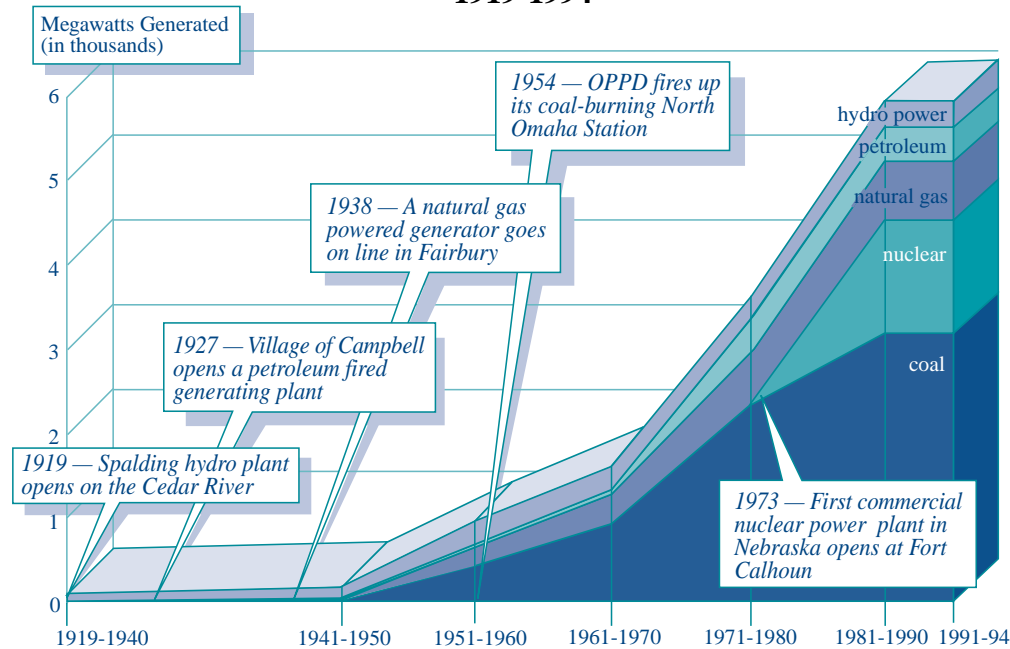
"As a pioneer in atomic power, Nebraska in truth assumes a role of leadership among the 48 states.

"Nebraska is one of only six atomic power states and should be third or fourth in the nation finishing construction.

"Welcome as is the additional electric power, the radioactive by-products are all-important with many agricultural uses in pest elimination, contamination control, breeding and commodity preservation; many medical uses in diagnosis, sterilization, and therapeutic radiation; many industrial uses, especially in the fields of control and testing."

*Lincoln Journal Star*  
Editorial  
September 22, 1957

## Electric Generating Capacity in Nebraska 1919-1994



Source: Inventory of Power Plants in the United States, 1994. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. Washington D.C. Annual.

### Reorganization Versus Local Control

Although public power leaders recognized the problems and considered reorganization, none of the many proposals were tried. Objections arose because many feared the concentration of economic power and loss of local control.

The rural districts objected to the combination of the generation, transmission and distribution functions because they did not want their wholesale supplier to compete with them for retail customers. Districts which also provided irrigation services feared that irrigation would lose out to power generation.

### Legislative Referees

In 1961, the Legislature decided that the public power system's problems warranted action and authorized in-depth studies. The competition that had developed between the public power districts over additions to capacity and for customers was costly and unproductive and the factions seemed unable to solve their problems. Establishing interim study committees to examine public power issues became a perennial activity of the Legislature in the 1960s.

Two committees were appointed by the Legislature in 1961 — a Nebraska Public Power Committee, composed of public power leaders and a Legislative Council Study Committee consisting of state senators.

The Power Committee was to seek to ways to improve public power services in the state through voluntary consolidations, purchases or exchanges of facilities and definition of service areas. After considering several restructuring options, the Power Committee failed to agree on a plan.

After comprehensive study, the Legislative Committee recommended establishing the Nebraska Power Review Board in 1963 as part of the Department of Water Resources with members appointed by the governor. In order to end duplication, this Board would approve and enforce service area agreements and construction of transmission lines and related facilities. The Power Review Board was subsequently given independent status in 1980.

However, the consolidation of certain facilities suggested by the Legislative Committee failed to become law. In 1965, the Legislature passed a law forcing consolidation of Loup and Consumers Public Power Districts with Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District into a generation and transmission agency with no retail activities. The law was challenged by the utilities and was

found unconstitutional by the state's Supreme Court.

In 1967, the Legislature did define the operating area of a district. The effect of this legislation required the Loup and Platte Districts to elect their governing boards from the entire operating area of the Nebraska Public Power System. This weakened the position of local control proponents and sent a clear signal to public power leaders that reorganization of the system was the ultimate goal of the Legislature.

### At Long Last...Consolidations

While previous negotiations between the districts to reorganize and consolidate had failed, this time the outcome was different.

The birth of Nebraska Public Power District, first envisioned in 1953, became a reality. Lengthy negotiations in 1969 culminated in agreement to voluntarily merge the properties of Consumers, the Platte District, the portion of the Nebraska Public Power System owned by the Loup District and the balance of the Nebraska Public Power System. The merged system, known as NPPD, began operations January 1970.

Consolidation proved easier with other power districts. In 1965, Omaha Public Power District had merged with Eastern Nebraska Public Power District, doubling the size of Omaha's service area and extending its service area to all or part of thirteen counties in southeast Nebraska.

In 1969, Gering Valley Rural Public Power District, the smallest of the rural districts and the first to have supplied power in the 1930s, merged with Roosevelt Rural Public Power District.

No other rural districts consolidated until 1991, when Southern Public Power District and Franklin Rural Public Power District merged.

continued on page 5

## Annual Energy Savings For Some Soar More Than 22%...

# Nebraskans Find Weatherized Homes Can Be Money Savers

Homes of lower income Nebraskans weatherized by the state's Energy Office reduced energy use an average of 18.2 percent annually, saving \$130 on their energy bills, according to a state study.

The energy saved varied considerably based on the type of heating source and whether the improvements were made in a frame or a mobile home.

## Savings Year After Year

Single family frame homes heated by natural gas, propane or heating oil achieved the greatest energy savings. Of the 37 frame homes analyzed, fuel use declined by 22.7 percent, saving an average of \$141 per home each year.

Improvements made in single family frame homes where electricity was the heating source, demonstrated less dramatic energy savings, but nearly identical dollar savings. The group of homes studied showed energy savings of 10.5 percent, but an average of \$142 per home every year. Despite smaller reductions, the dollar savings are about the same because these homes cost more to heat initially.

Mobile homes heated by natural gas, propane or electricity also garnered savings after the improvements had been made. On average, the homes studied had an 11.1 percent reduction in energy use and saved \$89 per home annually.

Since the improvements are expected to last 20 years, average savings should total \$2,600 at today's energy prices. If the cost of the fuel rises, the savings would also increase. On average, \$1,865 was spent for materials and labor to weatherize each home.

## Up, Up and Up from 1989

The study was conducted by the Energy Office. A national study, based on 1989 data, compiled in 1993 showed average energy savings of 13.5 percent and \$116 in each dwelling.

The 1996 Nebraska results range from 50 to nearly 100 percent higher than the 1989 national average for energy savings. Because the cost of energy in Nebraska is cheaper than many other areas of the country, average dollar savings are only 15 percent above the national average.

By making one-time, energy-saving home improvements, weatherization provides a way for the neediest Nebraskans to control their energy use and, in turn, their energy bills.

The federally-funded Weatherization Assistance Program has been operating since 1979. In Nebraska, nearly 90 percent of the funds are spent on providing services to the needy including the cost of home weatherization labor and materials.

## A Costly Alternative Continues

Congress also funds a program to pay the utility bills of needy Americans that is called the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Congress has failed to significantly alter this nearly \$1 billion program despite the efforts of some.

In Nebraska in 1995, more than 32,500 households received a total of more than \$7.1 million for heating assistance. The average payment per household was \$219.20.

However, under an agreement with the state's Department of Social Services, ten percent of the funds are used to weatherize the homes of low-income Nebraskans. ☺

---

ELECTRICITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

## The Birth of City Systems

Consumers had been created in 1939 to purchase the private utilities. In 1943, an amendment to the *Public Power District Act* was passed requiring any district acquiring the power distribution system of any municipality to transfer its urban distribution facilities to the municipality requesting them for one dollar.

Later the Legislature required each municipality to vote on whether it wanted to accept the property. Since municipalities could not spend public funds to influence elections, Consumers was provided an electoral advantage.

Rather than wait until 1972 when Consumers' bonds were retired, the City of Lincoln purchased Consumers Lincoln facilities in 1966 and combined them with the city-owned facilities to form Lincoln Electric System. The new utility was operated by Consumers and its successor, NPPD, until 1971.

Then, Lincoln Electric System assumed management.

Facing escalating fuel prices during the energy crises of the 1970s, utilities were concerned over how they would meet their fuel needs for generation of power.

In 1974 and 1975, the League of Nebraska Municipalities helped organize several meetings to discuss joint participation in power plants with the utilities by municipalities.

Nineteen utilities decided to pool their resources to address energy problems and eventually formed the Nebraska Municipal Power Pool. The Power Pool provided a collection of energy related services and electric power.

In 1981, Nebraska's *Municipal Cooperative Financing Act* was passed and the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, a political subdivision of the state, was created to provide power and joint financing to its members. ☺

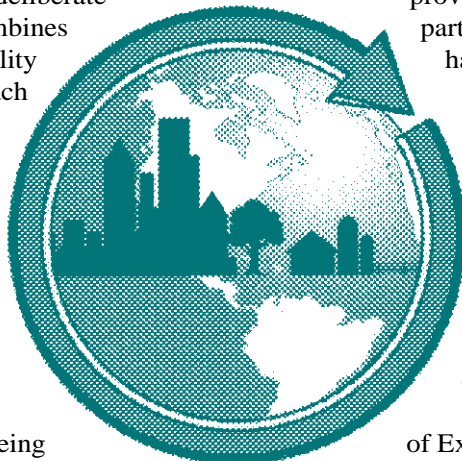
## A New Service for Communities and Others...

# Sustainable Development Center Opens

Communities across the United States are showing interest in a new strategy for economic well-being. It's called "sustainable development." It is a deliberate effort where community development combines local economic with environment and quality of life issues. This comprehensive approach links energy, environment, economy and community livability.

To help communities design and implement this vibrant new approach to planning, the U.S. Department of Energy has created a Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development in the agency's regional Denver office. Together with other federal, state and local agencies, the Center will:

- show how sustainable development is being practiced by other urban and rural communities across the nation;
- provide access to a "tool kit," including manuals, workbooks, data bases, case studies and model codes and ordinances;
- help community leaders identify public and private sources



of technical and financial assistance to carry out local activities;

- provide information about the public participation processes other communities have found work best in planning and implementing sustainable development; and
- develop a menu of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that fit the unique needs of a community.

The Center's goal is to provide communities with world-class consultation on sustainable development, and to help them link to other public and private efforts that can help the town succeed.

For more information, contact the Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development at the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Denver Regional Support Office, 1617 Cole Boulevard, Golden, Colorado 80401; phone 303-275-4826 and 800-357-7732; fax 303-275-4830; e-mail [sustainable.development@hq.doe.gov](mailto:sustainable.development@hq.doe.gov) world wide web <http://www.sustainable.doe.gov> ☺

## More than \$600,000...

# New Grants Expand Energy Efficiency and Pollution Efforts

In August, the Energy Office received \$370,000 in competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Energy for multi-year efforts to expand the agency's work with commercial and industrial businesses as well as multi-family housing groups and public building operators to increase energy efficiency and reduce pollution.

Nebraska ranked as the fourth largest recipient out of the 48 states that applied for competitive grants. Only New York, Nevada and Massachusetts exceeded the \$370,000 Nebraska received. Nationally, a total of \$11 million in grants was awarded to 48 states.

"Energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies prevent pollution on a grand scale and increase labor and economic productivity," said Christine Ervin, assistant secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Energy Office received grants in three areas:

- \$250,000 for *Rebuild America*. This three-year effort will increase the use of energy efficient technologies in existing commercial and multi-family buildings in the state. The agency's partners are the Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Development Network, U.S. Small

Business Administration, lenders, brokerage firms, utilities and community officials.

- \$70,000 for *Energy Guard*. This two-year effort brings the agency and the state's Military Department together to identify and make energy efficient improvements in the Military Department's facilities.
- \$50,000 for *Climate Wise*. This two-year program builds on a previous \$50,000 grant to enlist the state's manufacturers in a voluntary energy efficiency and pollution prevention partnership. In 1995, Nebraska was one of seven states selected to field test *Climate Wise*. Currently, Nebraska has more *Climate Wise* partners than any of the other pilot states.

## \$250,000 For Waste Reduction

In June, the Energy Office received a \$250,000 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant from the Department of Environmental Quality for low-interest financing to identify and implement waste reduction in businesses and industries in the state.

The Energy Office was one of 35 recipients receiving \$1.7 million in grants from the state environmental agency. The grants are funded by a \$25 fee on retail businesses. ☺

## Back-to-Back Awards...

# State's National Army Guard Wins With Energy Projects

For the second year in a row, the Nebraska Army National Guard has won the Secretary of the Army's Energy Conservation Award. Nebraska's energy-saving efforts were judged the best in 54 states and territories.

The state's guard registered an overall 1995 energy use reduction of 17.3 percent from 1985 levels. Vehicle and aircraft energy usage plummeted 22.2 percent, while building energy use declined 2.2 percent for the same period.

There are many reasons for the guard's success. "We have replaced windows with energy efficient windows, replaced lighting with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs, lowered ceilings, installed ceiling fans and replaced an air cooling system," said Chief Warrant Officer Steven Weber, a member of the guard's energy team. Other members of the team include Brigadier General Francis Laden and Engineering Branch Chief Samuel Truax.

Weber said the Guard has worked hard on conserving energy for several years and that effort is paying off. "We're building awareness and everybody's getting on board. It's a stewardship thing, we take it very seriously," Weber said.

The dramatic reduction in vehicle and aircraft energy use was due to several changes from past practices. Training on computer simulators has replaced training on board some vehicles and planes. Also, "lanes" training where crews rotate through stations using the same equipment have been substituted for larger-scale exercises with all the unit's equipment.

The national competition recognizes development and execution of sound energy management programs that significantly reduce energy consumption without adversely affecting readiness. ☺

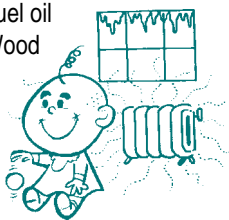
## Test Your Energy Knowledge

1. Which country produced the most crude oil in 1995?

- a. Saudi Arabia
- b. Iran
- c. United States
- d. Nigeria

2. What fuel is most commonly used for space heating in single family households?

- a. Electricity
- b. Natural gas
- c. Fuel oil
- d. Wood



3. Which country is not a member of OPEC?

- a. Nigeria
- b. Indonesia
- c. Venezuela
- d. Ecuador

6. Approximately how much of U.S. petroleum consumption is used for transportation?

- a. 10%
- b. 33%
- c. 66%
- d. 90%

5. In U.S. commercial buildings, what is electricity used for most?

- a. Heating
- b. Cooling
- c. Lighting
- d. Office equipment (computers, copiers etc.)



4. Which country consumed the most refined oil in 1995?

- a. Iran
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. United States
- d. Nigeria



7. At the end of 1995, how many nuclear power plants were licensed to produce and sell electricity (i.e., had full-power licenses) in the U.S.?

- a. 78
- b. 109
- c. 112
- d. 128

8. The largest crude oil exporter after Saudi Arabia is:

- a. Russia
- b. Venezuela
- c. Iran
- d. Norway

9. Gasoline prices in real terms (that is, adjusted for inflation) are how many times more expensive today as they were in 1970?

- a. The same
- b. Twice
- c. Three times
- d. Five times



Source: Energy Information Administration

Answers: 1-a, 2-b, 3-d, 4-c, 5-c, 6-c, 6-c, 6-c, 7-b, 8-d, 9-a.

## Information Services and Resources

Energy Office staff have become acquainted with and increasingly frequent users of the Internet. Generally, we have found the value of the information at a website is based on the frequency that information located there is updated.

We thought we'd share some of the sites we value or visit regularly:

### Alternative Fuels Data Center

<http://www.afdc.doe.gov>

### Center for Analysis and Dissemination of Demonstrated Technologies

<http://www.orl.gov.CADDET/caddet.html>

### Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development

<http://www.sustainable.doe.gov>

### Economic Statistics Briefing Room (An up-to-date resource for crude oil prices)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/prices.html>

### Energy Ideas Clearinghouse

<http://eicbbs.wseo.wa.gov>

### Energy Information Administration

<http://www.eia.doe.gov>

### Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission

<http://www.ioGCC.oklaosf.state.ok.us/>

### National Renewable Energy Laboratory

<http://www.nrel.gov>

### Nebraska Legislature

<http://unicaml.lcs.state.ne.us>

### Nebraska Public Power District

<http://www.nppd.com/>

### Solstice (for energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable technology)

<http://www.solstice.crest.org>

### U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratories and Programs

<http://www.esd.ornl.gov/doe-labs/doe-labs.html>

### The White House Briefing Room

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/wh/html/briefroom.html#fsbr>

The Energy Office has an e-mail address!  
[energy@neo.state.ne.us](mailto:energy@neo.state.ne.us)



Mailing Address Telephone Computer Access

**The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse** provides fact sheets, brochures, videos and publications on energy efficiency and renewable energy.



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse,  
P.O. Box 3048,  
Merrifield, VA 22116



Phone between 7am-4pm CT,  
Monday-Friday. **1-800-363-3732**  
or for the hearing impaired call  
**1-800-273-2957** 8am-6pm.



Internet address:  
**ENERGYINFO@delphi.com**  
Modem access at **1-800-273-2955**

**The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network** or EREN is a world wide web site on Internet and a gateway to energy efficiency and renewable energy information sources.



Internet address:  
**http://www.eren.doe.gov**  
(SLIP connection required).

*"The mission of the Nebraska Energy Office is to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy."*

In accordance with the American Disabilities Act, the state will provide reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any program or activity listed in this publication, please contact the Energy Office at 402-471-2867 to coordinate arrangements. Upon request, this publication may be available in alternative formats.

This material was prepared with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Grant No. DE-FG47-92CE60410. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of DOE.

Printed on recycled paper.



Nebraska Energy Office  
Box 95085  
1200 N Street, Suite 110  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5085  
Phone 402-471-2867

## Wayne Gets A Piece of History

The City of Wayne became the owner of a piece of energy history in July. The city acquired three generators from the Shoreham Nuclear Power Plant on Long Island, New York.

Shoreham is unique in energy history in that it was the first nuclear power plant in the United States to be dismantled without ever becoming operational.

The city plans to install two of the generators in the city plant and sell the third. ☺

## What They Are Saying

"The spread of populist ideals such as smaller government and greater individual responsibility has helped send the 55 mile per hour national highway speed limit into near obscurity in all but a few parts of the country. But in voting to raise state speed limits, state legislators apparently forgot that the national 55 mph limit was established 20 years ago because cars traveling at that speed generally burn fuel more efficiently (using less gasoline while emitting less pollution) than those traveling at 65 mph, 75 mph or more. The 55 mph speed limit was one of the few widely acceptable tools the government had to both lower fuel consumption — thus lessening reliance on foreign oil — and cut pollution, without putting a considerable crimp in American travel habits. Did legislators who voted for higher speed limits simply forget the rationale for a national 55 mph speed limit, or were they casting their vote in support of increasing U.S. dependence on imported oil and raising pollution levels?"

David Port, Managing Editor  
*Natural Gas Fuels*  
June, 1996