



NETWORK NEWS

A publication for directors and employees of NIPCO and its member systems

Spring 2006

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Spring Storm Takes Out 18 Transmission Poles Southeast of Sergeant Bluff

The early spring storm that hit Siouxland in the late afternoon March 30 downed 18 of NIPCO's high-voltage electric transmission poles southeast of Sergeant Bluff.

The 69,000-volt line went down across 240th Street and near 220th Street, causing outages ranging from 19 to 40 minutes.

Tim Harrison, NIPCO's transmission superintendent, said 18 60-foot wood poles were broken off by what appeared to be straight-line winds. Fourteen consecutive poles were broken on either side of 240th Street, leaving the high-voltage conductor on the gravel road. The road was closed until

the following day when NIPCO crews installed two temporary poles on either side of 240th Street to get the conductor off the road. The Bronson Fire Department, Woodbury County Sheriff's Office and Woodbury County Highway Department all aided in traffic control. The crews set new poles the following



A strong spring storm took out 18 NIPCO transmission poles along 220th and 240th streets southeast of Sergeant Bluff in Woodbury County March 30. While the poles went down, neither the conductor nor the fiber optic cable broke.

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Storm

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week and cleaned up debris left by the storm.

NIPCO's control center at its Le Mars headquarters noted trouble on the lines at 3:52 p.m. as the storm hit the Siouxland area. Electric service to NIPCO's Concord, Lawton and Luton substations went out. Those substations provide electricity to customers of Woodbury County Rural Electric Cooperative.

Service was restored to Luton Substation 19 minutes later. Service to the Concord and Lawton substations was restored after 40 minutes.

The same storm caused outages at two other NIPCO substations. Later that evening, crews secured a cracked pole near Remsen. The outage lasted less than a minute. At Schleswig, a lineman had to manually untangle a power line. Service was restored after one hour, 13 minutes. ❖



A truck delivers one of several loads of rock for a new temporary access road to NIPCO through the Iowa Department of Transportation right of way. The relocation of Highways 75/60 closed NIPCO's driveway off County Road C-38.

Highway Construction Reroutes Access to NIPCO Around South Warehouse

The landscape around NIPCO's headquarters is changing.

Access to the NIPCO headquarters for the next several months will be to the south over the Iowa Department of Transportation right of way to U.S. 75.

The change is due to highway construction. The southernmost segment of the Highway 75/60 bypass project crosses NIPCO's front yard. The Iowa Department of Transportation purchased a portion of NIPCO's property to move the highway to the west. Landscaping and NIPCO's lighted sign have been removed. Construction is expected to last several months. When the project is completed, NIPCO will again have a driveway opening on County Road C-38 to the north. The relocated highway will be closer to NIPCO's building. A retaining wall will separate NIPCO's east parking area and the highway. ❖



Rock pours out of a trailer to create a temporary access road to NIPCO.

New Lines, Expanded Subs Ahead This Summer for NIPCO



A construction crew from Embloms Midwest in Sauk Centre, Minn., sets a pole for the Covey tap line rebuild in O'Brien County during April.

The 2006 construction season is well underway across the NIPCO system. Southern Substation, a new facility, will serve an expanding meat processing plant at Oakland. It is expected to be energized this summer. Construction of the 10 MVA sub started in the summer of 2005. A quarter-mile tap line will be built this summer to provide power to the sub.

NIPCO has contracted with Embloms Midwest of Sauk Centre, Minn., for two projects. A crew is rebuilding 4.9 miles of tap line to Covey Substation in O'Brien County north of Sutherland. That project is expected to be completed by early May. The construction company also is building 3.75 miles of line around the north side of Sioux Center. When this project is completed, NIPCO's existing 69 kV line through the town of Sioux Center will be removed.

Two substation expansion projects also are underway, with NIPCO crews doing the work. The Galva Substation will be expanded with a second 5 MVA transformer. This project, which

provides power to an ethanol plant and a dry ice manufacturer, should be completed in May. The Siouxland Substation in Sioux County also will be expanded with a second 5 MVA transformer. Design work has been completed and construction is expected to begin yet this spring.

NIPCO crews also are rerouting a portion of the WAPA Denison-J6 line that crosses the Amaizing Energy ethanol plant site southeast of Denison. The line move will provide additional clearance for grain storage structures at the ethanol plant.

Another new substation, Pleasant Substation, will be located in Pottawattamie County and will serve a planned warehouse and manufacturing business. Site selection is underway. ❖



NIPCO crews, in foreground, work on relocating a line that crosses the Amaizing Energy property while the ethanol plant's construction crews, in background, build new grain storage bins.

NDC Markets Services, Fiber Optic Capacity to Businesses

NIPCO Development Corporation is stepping up efforts to provide its 10 years of experience in fiber optic communications to a wider audience.

NDC's capabilities start with leasing space on its 435 miles of fiber optic cable. The cable network stretches from Sioux Falls on the north to Omaha on the south and includes dual fiber rings circling both the north and south ends of the NIPCO electric transmission system. The fiber network, constructed in 1995 with a primary goal of providing communication to monitor and control the electric system, also provides wholesale lit capacity and bandwidth to telecommunications businesses, such as independent telephone companies and long distance carriers.

Now NDC is starting a marketing campaign to sell fiber capacity and other services to businesses in the region bounded by Omaha and Sioux Falls.

Among NDC's services are:

- Design and installation of networks
- Fiber optic cable preparation and splicing
- Fiber optic testing and documentation
- Reel testing new fiber before installation
- Mapping and documentation of systems and splice points
- Emergency restoration work❖



Senior telecommunications technician Keith Schiltz splices fiber optic cable in NDC's fiber trailer.

Medical Missionaries Take NIPCO to Africa

NIPCO's name found its way to Tanzania in January when Keith Schiltz, senior telecommunications technician, was part of a 57-member nondenominational medical mission trip.



A young Masai tribe herdsman displays a NIPCO pen. The mission team members took school supplies for the students, who have few learning tools.

NIPCO donated a dozen logoed extension cords. The cords were left at the Tanzanian hospital where the mission members spent nearly three weeks providing medical and dental care to members of the Masai tribe. The mission team took generators to supply electric service at the hospital.

Schiltz served as a handyman, and his wife, Deb, was cook for the group which included doctors, dentists, nurses and other support persons.

While they were there, the team did surgery, delivered five babies by emergency cesarean section and provided dental care. The need for modern medical care is great, Schiltz said, and the team plans to return to Tanzania in March 2007.❖

Nish's Applegate Holds Senior Rank on Board of Directors

The senior member of NIPCO's board is Don Applegate, who represents Nishnabotna Valley REC.

Applegate has been a member of the cooperative since starting his farm career in 1957. He has been a director of the distribution cooperative since 1966, a director of NIPCO since 1974 and has held a similar position on the board of Basin Electric Power Cooperative since 1997. He also is the senior member of Nishnabotna Valley REC's board.

Applegate's cooperative responsibilities don't end there. He is current chairman of the board of directors for Dakota Gasification, a subsidiary of Basin Electric. Applegate also served two terms on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation. Closer to home, he is a director and treasurer of the Oakland (Iowa) Industrial Foundation, Inc., and a member of the Oakland United Methodist Church.

The Applegate family of Avoca, Iowa, has a three-generation history with electric cooperatives.

Applegate and his wife LaDonna's three sons, Doug, David and Dean, also are members of Nishnabotna Valley REC, as were Applegate's parents before him.

Electricity came to the Applegate farm in 1939. Applegate said before the arrival of REC power, a generator and battery bank provided electricity on the farm.



Applegate said that working at three levels of the electric cooperative world has been a unique experience. "I'm fortunate to have had this experience," he said.

Exposure to the business operations of electric cooperatives has been a benefit both to Applegate and his family. He said he learned to look at the bigger perspective as a cooperative director and he passed that view on to his children. Cooperative business often took Applegate away from the farm and, as his three sons grew up, he handed over more of the farm responsibilities to them.

"The boys really learned to take responsibilities at a young age, and their decisions were just fine," Applegate said.

When he isn't farming or working on electric cooperative business, Applegate can be found with a hammer in his hand. He and one of his sons are building a house for the son and his family. It's the fourth house that Applegate has built. ❖

Unit Keeps Switch Program on Track

NIPCO and its members have been using newer automated load management switches recently and now a special digital receiver has been added to allow better monitoring of control code transmissions.

When NIPCO's dispatch center sends out control codes to new switches in the field, a sampling of the codes is also received at NIPCO's headquarters. The load management computer compares the transmitted switch code to the code received, and logs the result. This new test receiver provides immediate feedback that the load management system is performing correctly and thereby reducing demand for energy during critical control times, benefitting all those who are part of the Switch Makes Cents program. ❖

Graduations

Jaelyn Ver Mulm, daughter of Kathy and **Steve Ver Mulm**, will graduate from Unity Christian High School on May 24 and attend Dordt College in the fall.

Both of Linda and **Chuck Soderberg's** children will graduate. Son Andrew graduates May 21 from Le Mars Community High School. He will attend Kirkwood Community College. Daughter Leah Soderberg graduated May 6 from the University of Northern Iowa with a philosophy/English degree.

Ashley Bowers, daughter of Rhonda and **Larry Bowers**, graduated May 5 from the University of Nebraska with a degree in biology. She will be a graduate student in biology in the animal behaviorism field.

Megan Schiltz, daughter of Deb and **Keith Schiltz**, is a spring graduate of Briar Cliff University with a degree in elementary education, with endorsements in reading and Spanish. She plans to begin teaching in the area.

Layne Britton, son of **Kay Anderson**, is a spring graduate of Northwest Missouri State University with a degree in geology. He will be a graduate student and assistant at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, in the fall.

Nicole Rae Nielsen, granddaughter of **Elvira** and **Norm Nielsen**, will graduate May 28 from Blooming Prairie (Minn.) High School, and attend St. Cloud State University in the fall. ❖

Comings and Goings



Steve Harringa joined the NIPCO family in January as a crew foreman. Harringa took the position vacated by longtime NIPCO employee Bernie Wiederholt who retired in December 2005. Harringa is a graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College lineman school.

Steve and his wife, Eileen, are parents to three children: Jessica, a radiology technology student at Allen College in Cedar Falls; John, a mechanics student at Des Moines Area Community College in Ankeny, and Chris, a junior at Le Mars Community High School. ❖

In mid-April, **Ken Argo** retired from his duties as Utility Services Director. Ken has been with NIPCO for almost 8 years. Even though he's leaving NIPCO, Argo plans to be self-employed on a part-time basis as a consultant.

We wish him the best in his new endeavors. ❖



Five Scholarships Granted to Offspring

The children of three NIPCO employees and two distribution cooperative employees all were awarded scholarships this year.

The winner of the \$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship is Theresa Stevenson, who will be a sophomore at the University of South Dakota this fall. She is the daughter of Celia and **Brad Stevenson**.

Jaelyn Ver Mulm, who will be a freshman at Dordt College in the fall, won the \$750 NIPCO scholarship. She is the daughter of Kathy and **Steve Ver Mulm**.

The \$500 NIPCO scholarship goes to Layne Britton, who will be a graduate student at Southern Illinois University in the fall. He is the son of **Kay Anderson**.

The two \$500 NIPCO scholarships for NIPCO member employee children went to:

- Jeremy Kippley, son of Suzanne and Jerome Kippley (WIPCO), a student at Central College.
- Ashton Miller, daughter of Elaine and Darl Miller (City of Onawa), who will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. ❖

IADG Recognizes Economic Development Projects

Iowa Area Development Group presented four awards at NIPCO's annual meeting April 4 in Sioux City, at which NIPCO celebrated 15 years of economic development.

Rand Fisher, president of the IADG, headquartered in West Des Moines, presented the awards. Recipients of the awards were:

◆ Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative for helping secure the successful sale of a 10,000-square-foot speculative building in the Woodbine Industrial Park to a trailer assembly and modification firm from South Dakota.

◆ North West Rural Electric Cooperative for outstanding leadership and financial support of the Wells' Dairy headquarters and corporate campus, and for helping sustain, market and grow dairy production in northwest Iowa.

◆ Western Iowa Power Cooperative for outstanding leadership and support of establishing a new county-wide development organization for Monona County. IADG also recognized Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative for policy development for outstand-



Rand Fisher, left, president of Iowa Area Development Group, presents the IADG System Award for Policy Development to Alan Lucken, NIPCO board president; Kent Pauling, executive vice president and general manager, and Kay Anderson, economic development director.

ing leadership and support of economic development initiatives for western Iowa for 15 years.

The Iowa Area Development Group is the marketing and economic development agency for Iowa's member-

owned electric cooperatives and select municipal

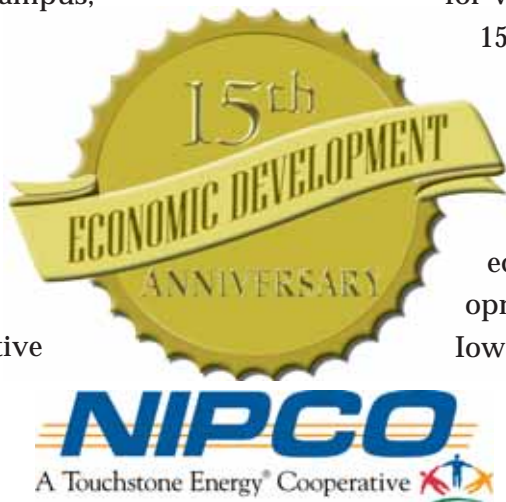
electric utilities. Established in 1985, IADG and its member systems have assisted with more than 950 successful business expansions and start-up compa-

nies. This growth represents capital investment of more than \$3.5 billion and more than 35,000 jobs for Iowa. ❖

Board Re-elects All Officers

NIPCO's board of directors re-elected all officers at NIPCO's April 4 annual meeting.

The officers for the coming year are: Alan Lucken of Akron, president; Charles Widman of Bronson, vice president; Gilbert Phillips of Panora, secretary, and Louis Reed of Castana, treasurer. ❖



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Employees celebrating 5-year multiples of anniversaries included, from left, Bill Wolf, 5 years; Bruce Christensen, 15 years; Rick Harpenau, 5 years; Dave Rolfes, 15 years; Jeff Zettel, 10 years; Terry Madsen, 10 years; Tim Hansen, 20 years; Jerry Lubben, 40 years; Keith Schiltz, 30 years, and Ken Klaver, 20 years. Inset: Roger Armstrong, 15 years.