



# TWIN VALLEYS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Cambridge, NE

January 2012

*“Electricity” — your least expensive energy source, keeping your life running, delivered with reliability by people who care about you*

## Helping Create New Jobs

Twin Valleys Public Power District has been committed to our customers and the area we serve from the very beginning 65 plus years ago. Once in awhile an opportunity comes along where this commitment can be shown again. Such an opportunity presented itself a couple of years ago through a USDA Rural Development program called Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG). This program is only available for electric and telephone RUS borrowers and allows for a revolving loan fund to be established.

is for 10 years and the first payment of \$36,000 was received this fall, officially funding the Twin Valleys Public Power District Revolving Loan Fund.



The minimum loan amount is \$5,000 and the maximum loan amount is \$240,000, with a maximum term of 10 years. The interest rate will not exceed the prevailing prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal. There must be at least 20% of funding from other sources before a loan will be considered.

Twin Valleys Public Power District is very excited about the possibilities this revolving loan fund may provide for the people we serve. Creating new jobs is critical for the survival of the communities we all call home.

**The intent of the Revolving Loan Fund is to create new jobs or help with needed community services**

The intent of the Revolving Loan Fund is to create new jobs or help with needed community services by partnering with local financial institutions to create a complete financing package to bring a project to reality. This includes any business venture and community or economic development project. The emphasis will be on creating jobs, helping our service territory grow.

A \$300,000 grant could be applied for with a 20% match (\$60,000) needed from the company applying for the grant. The original grant and match had to be loaned to a project meeting certain requirements. The first project that met these requirements was the new Tri Valley Health System hospital in Cambridge. This original \$360,000 loan

The project has to be located in Twin Valleys Public Power District’s service territory boundary. This includes the towns of Alma, Arapahoe, Bartley, Beaver City, Cambridge, Danbury, Edison, Hendley, Holbrook, Huntley, Lebanon, Orleans, Oxford, Ragan, Republican City, Stamford and Wilsonville.



If you have questions regarding this new revolving loan fund you can contact your local bank or call Bill Minnick at Twin Valleys Public Power District, 800-658-4266.

# Final Payment Received!!

Twin Valleys Public Power District has just received the final payment from FEMA for damage caused by the 2006 ice storms. The final payment of \$760,735.04 was received on Nov. 14, 2011. The payment had been held up for some time and Twin Valleys recently contacted all members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation for assistance. All three were very helpful in getting the funds released.



Total payment received from FEMA for these storms was \$6,118,083.48. FEMA paid about 76% of the damage costs. At the time, the cost of these storms exceeded Twin Valleys' annual revenue. Some other utilities in Nebraska had more dollar damage from these storms but no other Nebraska utility had damage that was even close to their annual revenue. It has been by far the most devastating storm in Twin Valleys' sixty seven year history.

These storms have caused Twin Valleys financial challenges ever since. Several temporary loans were arranged and in 2011, a bond issue was completed to pay for several new projects as well as

\$2,000,000 of long term financing to pay part of the cost of lines that were actually rebuilt from these storms. The receipt of this money from FEMA brings an official end to this storm and an end to the financial challenges for Twin Valleys, however FEMA will undoubtedly require that a detailed audit be performed.

Here is a recap of the storms. There were actually two storms. The first storm hit on Dec. 20, 2006 in the western part of the District's service area. With an all out effort, residential and commercial customers were back in service by Christmas, but permanent repairs had not been made and some seasonal and irrigation customers remained without power.

A subtransmission line was damaged north of Arapahoe and it was repaired the week after Christmas. This turned out to be very helpful when the big storm hit the eastern part of the District's service area on Friday Dec. 29, 2006 as this line was needed because three major segments of the District's eastern subtransmission system were completely wiped out.

Customers that had lived in the eastern part of the District's service area for 80 years said they had never seen this much ice accumulation. Nearly every east-west distribution line in Harlan and southern Phelps CO was on the ground and about 3000 poles had failed in Harlan, southern Phelps, southern Gosper and eastern Furnas CO. A well maintained electrical system had been destroyed in one night and all six counties that Twin Valleys serves in were declared federal disaster areas.

Efforts of Twin Valley crews were nearly heroic to get the residential and com-

mmercial customers back in service after 14 days without power. Crews worked long hours during some of the shorter days of the year in some very poor conditions. Twin Valleys had two trucks "totaled" during the restoration and rebuilding process as they went off the road and rolled. Fortunately, no employees were injured during restoration efforts.

Crews from 13 different electric utilities helped restore power to the residential and commercial customers during both storms, including local crews from the City of Cambridge and the City of Arapahoe. The Frenchman-Cambridge Irrigation District also provided valuable assistance. Many lines had to be rebuilt for miles from the source substation out and contractors were used for most of this work.



Another major problem occurred in the early morning of Jan. 23, 2007 when a fire caused extensive damage to the District's Alma Service Center. Besides the building, trucks that were being used for important service restoration work were damaged.

Twin Valleys' crews worked overtime almost continuously until all customers' Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2  
 seasonal and irrigation services, received power on May 8, 2007, however not all repairs were complete. It would take until April 2010 before the last poles had been straightened and all lightning arrestors had been reinstalled on the lines that had been rebuilt.

Part of the reason for the delay was, besides some more minor storms, two major storms hit during this restoration period where at least half of the counties that Twin Valleys serves were declared federal disaster areas. Normally, FEMA expects permanent repairs to be completed in 18 months. Twin Valleys requested several time extensions and

these were granted.  
 Lines that were rebuilt were constructed more substantially, using modern construction techniques and some with T2 type conductor which is less likely to be damaged by icing. In addition, the conversion to electric irrigation pumping, mostly in the eastern part of the District, has allowed the District to build one new substation and several distribution tie lines to provide better back up service in some areas.

The District completed a new ten year subtransmission plan in 2009 and it has been executing the plan. Four new subtransmission lines have been construct-

ed or rebuilt since the 2006 storms, bolstering the system. In 2013, the last phase of a multi-phase subtransmission project will be complete, increasing backup capability in the hardest hit areas from these storms.

"We really appreciate the efforts of Senator Johanns, Senator Nelson, and Congressman Smith and their work with FEMA to release these final funds", said James Dietz, General Manager of Twin Valleys PPD. "Our Board of Directors and employees are grateful to finally have these storms behind us", concluded Dietz.

# Heat Pump Incentive Changes

2012 will see a change to the EnergyWise residential heat pump program incentives. The change only affects air source heat pumps, geothermal heat pumps stay the same.

The incentive structure will now provide a better incentive for higher efficiency units. 14 SEER units will be reduced by \$100 and 15 SEER or higher units will be increased by \$100. There is now a \$300 difference in the incentive amount between a 14 SEER and 15 SEER air source heat pump. The higher efficiency units provide greater benefits to you in the form of reduced energy costs. Better cooling efficiency allows

Twin Valleys Public Power District to keep our summer peak lower. This will help in our efforts to keep future rates increases at a manageable level.

Another change is the requirement of an AHRI certificate with the installation of a 15 SEER or higher unit. This helps assure you are getting the right combination of equipment to meet the SEER rating the dealer has said you were getting. An HVAC dealer does have options when matching the indoor coil and outdoor units and not all combinations will provide the stated efficiency when working together. There have also been times that the indoor coil has

not been replaced when installing a new outdoor unit. This does keep the cost down but the efficiency of the new equipment will not match the rated efficiency.

If this AHRI certificate is not received with the application and verification form, the incentive will be at the 14 SEER or lower amount. This is worth \$300 to you so be sure your dealer provides the AHRI certificate to you .

If you have any questions contact your HVAC dealer or Bill Minnick at Twin Valleys Public Power District, 800-658-4266.

<u>System Type</u>	<u>SEER Rating</u>	<u>TVPPD Rebate</u>	<u>EnergyWise Rebate</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Air Source Heat Pump—add on</b> (natural gas or propane backup)	14	\$300	\$100	\$400
	15+	\$400	\$300	\$700
<b>Air Source Heat Pump</b> (electric furnace backup)	14	\$500	\$100	\$600
	15+	\$600	\$300	\$900
<b>Geothermal Heat Pump</b>	Any EER	\$600	\$400	\$1000

<p><b>Board of Directors</b>                  Bruce Lans, President                  Larry Kubik, Vice President                  Brent Ballou, Secretary                  K. Dale Fults, Treasurer                  Gerald Meyerle                  David Black</p>	<p><b>Staff</b>                  James P. Dietz, General Manager                  Sandra Stagemeyer, Director of Administrative Services                  David Custer, Director of Operations                  Bill Minnick, Director of Communications &amp; Marketing</p>
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**Website: [www.twINVALLEYSPPD.COM](http://www.twINVALLEYSPPD.COM)**

**Notice of Board Meeting**  
 The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Twin Valleys Public Power District is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. the third Monday of each month at the District Office in Cambridge, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the principal office of Twin Valleys Public Power District in Cambridge during normal business hours.

**Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**Service Calls After Hours**  
 Please call 800-658-4266 or 697-3315 at all times to report outages or service calls after normal business hours. A Twin Valleys' dispatcher will take down the necessary information.

**Twin Valleys' Employees**  
 David Benson, Line Superintendent  
 Bob Bergquist, Lease Town Meter Reader  
 Terence Dake, Apprentice Lineman, Alma  
 Todd Eitzmann, Apprentice Lineman  
 Derek Galusha, Apprentice Lineman  
 David Garcia, Load Mgmt & Info Technology Specialist  
 Gary Groshong, Construction Layout Tech  
 Doug Huxoll, Warehouseman  
 Marcie Houghtelling, Secretary/Receptionist  
 Kim Miller, Cambridge Crew Chief  
 Jim Mollhoff, Journeyman Lineman  
 Brock Mowry, Journeyman Lineman  
 Cole Nickerson, Apparatus Tech  
 Janet Rasmussen, Accountant  
 Adam Stottler, Apprentice Lineman, Alma  
 Jim Teter, Journeyman Lineman  
 Carol Voss, Billing Supervisor  
 Karen Werkmeister, Billing Clerk  
 Nick Woetzel, Apprentice Lineman, Alma  
 Brandon Wright, Alma Crew Chief  
 Philip Young, Area Serviceman

**Twin Valleys Public Power District's Board of Directors will meet at 1pm on the third Monday in January and February. This is a change from the normal 2pm start time.**



**Energy Efficiency**  
*Tip of the Month*

Check your filter every month, especially during heavy use months (winter and summer). At a minimum, change the filter every three months. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder – wasting energy. A clean filter also prevents dust and dirt from building up in the system.

Source: Energy Star

**Did I Read That Sign Right??**

**In an office:**

- Toilet out of order...Please use floor below

**On a repair shop door:**

- We can repair anything (Please knock hard on the door—the bell doesn't work)

**In a London department store:**

- Bargain basement upstairs

**Outside a secondhand shop:**

- We exchange anything—bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

**Spotted in a safari park:**

- Elephants please stay in your car

**Notice in health food shop window:**

- Closed due to illness

*"This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"*