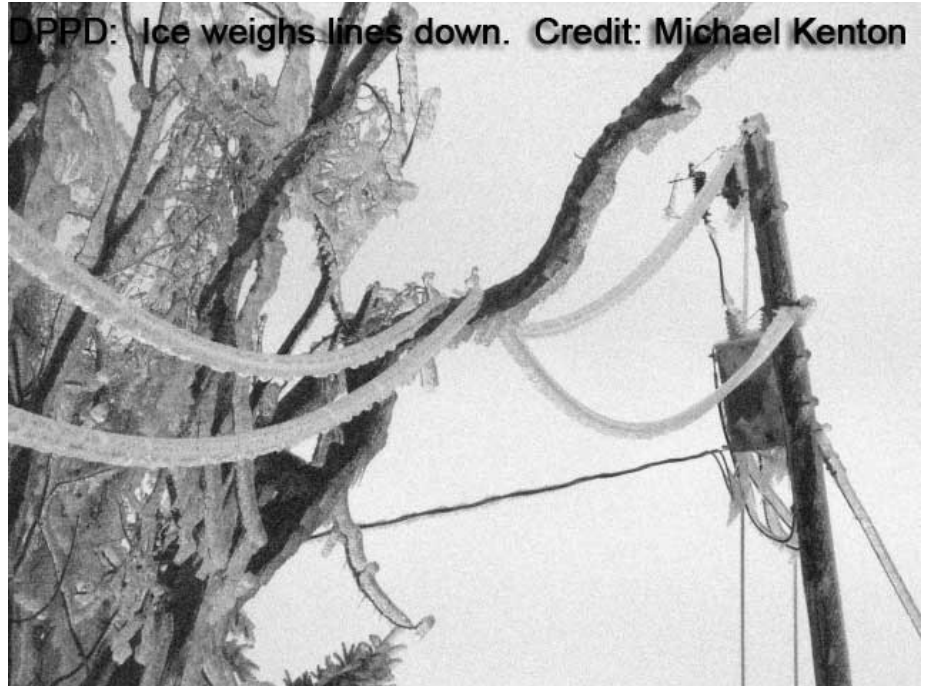


CME Sends Four to Ice-Covered Nebraska

More than 320 linemen from 12 South Dakota rural electric cooperatives and three other states answered the call for help from Nebraska public power districts after year-end ice storms snapped poles like twigs and left thousands in the dark. CME linemen Chad Loeffler and Tyson Brooks were dispatched on January 5th, and headed towards Dawson Public Power District in Lexington, Nebraska, with a digger truck and pole trailer. They spent a week assisting Dawson in their effort to replace over 2,300 poles, 1,600 crossarms, and 600 transformers. Chad and Tyson were then relieved by Jon Finney and Jared VanDerWerff, who remained until all power was restored.

Dawson Public Power serves over 22,000 meters using over 5,600 miles of line. At one time, Dawson reported at least 16 substations that had limited or no power. In addition, Elkhorn Public Power District of Battle Creek, Nebraska reported about 4100 customers without power, and North Central Public Power of Creighton sustained extensive damages as well. Dawson estimated storm damages to be in excess of \$10 million. Power was expected to be restored to all residential services by January 17th, with crews then turning their efforts to pasture wells, irrigation, and other services.



DPPD: Ice weighs lines down. Credit: Michael Kenton

Photo courtesy of Dawson Public Power District. View more photos at www.dawsonpower.com.



DPPD 1/4/07: East River Cooperative crews from South Dakota set transmission poles near Kearney.

Photo courtesy of Dawson Public Power District. Dawson estimates that over 2,300 poles were replaced. View more at www.dawsonpower.com.

Thank You!

I wanted to express my sincere thanks to you and the men you sent to help Dawson Public Power District during the recent ice storm. Without your assistance, we know it would have taken much longer to get service back to our customers.

The men you sent were professionals and responded to our requests with a clear understanding of the mission. They worked with diligence and commitment, and to that I am deeply grateful.

Again, my thanks and please tell your linemen "Well Done" on our behalf. Never hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance to you!

Kerry Teetor, Operations Manager
Dawson Public Power District

Charles Mix Electric Cooperative Connections

Co-op **News**

(USPS 018-877)

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So, Kids, What Are You Doing This Summer?

How would you like to answer that question by saying, "I'm going to Washington DC, and I'm letting my rural electric co-op pay for it"? It's true. Charles Mix Electric will pay the way for two lucky individuals to attend the 2007 National Rural Electric Youth Tour this June. If you're a high school sophomore or junior residing in Charles Mix county, you could be packing your bags for a free trip to our nation's capital.

The Youth Tour is an annual event, sponsored by rural electric co-ops across the country. It provides high school students a chance to gain first-hand experience in learning how our country is governed, to visit several of the national symbols and icons of our country, and to polish their leadership skills while learning about the cooperative way of doing business.

Winners will tour various sites including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, the White House and U.S. Capitol Building, Arlington National Cemetery, the Vietnam Wall, the Smithsonian Museum, and more. A cruise down the Potomac River and social activities are planned. Also, tourists will spend time with their state's legislators in a unique opportunity to "shadow" their

representatives and senators for a day in Congress.

Winners will be selected according to scores on a written test covering the history of rural electric co-ops. Packets containing the study material will be provided. Interested students can pick up their study packets from their school counselors. Tests will be administered in the local schools in mid-March.

Previous participants have called the Youth Tour "the trip of a lifetime," and "an amazing experience," while telling us they can't believe "all the awesome people they met."

So, when you write that report on "What I Did This Summer", what will you write about? That same old summer job? Baby-sitting kid brothers or sisters? Lying around the house? Or, will you be able to say, "I spent a week having fun, learning a lot, meeting kids from South Dakota and across the United States, and having a great time in Washington, DC"? It's an experience you will never forget.



Another Great Opportunity from Charles Mix Electric

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Office Hours
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open over noon hour
Closed Saturday, Sunday
& Holidays

Read meter 1st of each month. Bills due by 6th of month. Add \$2 to any bill paid after the 6th of the month.