

Letter to the Editor

The merger of CNPPID and Dawson PPD is a slow, but steady, transfer of wealth from Kearney, Gosper, and Phelps Counties to Dawson County. This merger will ensure the focus of CNPPID from a provider of water for irrigation to a company focused on providing cheaper electrical rates for Dawson PPD customers, but not Southern PPD customers. Southern PPD provides electricity to many customers in the tri-county region. In exchange for subsidizing the customers in Dawson PPD, we will lose majority representation on the new board.

From the start, this whole process was never transparent. The proponents of this merger want to turn Central into a retail electrical giant. They have permanently changed their focus into being an electric utility company, serving Dawson PPD users and giving away any optionality that a flexible power purchase agreement would provide. Instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on legal fees to fight the will of the people, Central should hire an electrical marketing expert who is able to capitalize on other opportunities.

The wholesale electric market is going through major changes with different means of production and storage. In the next 5-10 years, the electrical market will be much different than it is today. In deciding to partner with Dawson PPD, Central severely limits its options in the future.

This could have potentially been a reasonable deal that would have benefited both Dawson PPD and Southern PPD customers. Instead, they chose Dawson PPD customers over Southern PPD customers. In addition, they are giving up Southern PPD customers' majority representation. Call your Central directors, Dudley Nelson, Scott Olson, Dave Nelson and Brent Soneson and ask them to negotiate the same deal for you and Southern PPD.

Why was this done in the first place? Pretty simple. Just follow the money and the influence on Central's board. Who will really benefit in the long run and who will end up with less influence over our valuable water reservoirs?

It makes you wonder why a company with over \$145 million in reserve and \$19.1 million from NRD and the state of Nebraska would want to merge with a power company for potential savings of \$1 million a year. At that rate, it would take 150 years to accumulate the next \$150 million in reserve. Does this make sense to anyone? Remember, just follow the money. The true value of Central is its water. Billions of dollars of water!

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