



## **Nebraska Energy** ASSISTANCE NETWORK

### **NEAN Meeting Notice**

Thursday September 13, 2007  
11 AM – 2:30 PM  
NPPD  
907 West 25th Street  
York, NE  
Cory's Office: 402-362-7390  
Cory's Cell: 402-340-2455

**Please RSVP:** Lunch is provided, courtesy of NPPD. Please **RSVP by Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**; call **(402) 221-2159** (Sheila Nelson) or e-mail **Sheila.nelson@aquila.com**. Meeting minutes from NEAN and Energy Assistance August 10 meetings and the August 27 NEAN Executive Team meeting are attached. The meeting will begin promptly at 11 a. m. and conclude by 2:30 p.m.

#### **MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:**

- New members
- Committee meeting times (before/after NEAN meeting)
- Executive Committee meeting (8/27/07) review
- NEAN website discussion
- NEAN Committee reports

**CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION:** Dial-in number: Call in number: 1- 866-331-0889  
Participant Code – 809420

**NOTE FOR ENERGY EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** Energy Education Committee will **NOT be meeting on this day.**

**NOTE FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE:** Energy Assistance Committee will **NOT be meeting on this day.**

**PARKING:** Free parking available around the building.

Judi Martin, NEAN Chair  
Omaha Public Power District  
444 S. 16th Street  
Omaha, NE 68102  
(402)636-3654

Interested parties are invited to join us and learn how we can work together to meet the mission of the Nebraska Energy Assistance Network: To assist Nebraskans meet energy needs through education, collaboration and advocacy.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGENDA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday September 13, 2007, 11 AM – 2:30 PM York, Nebraska</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sponsor: NPPD</p>	Time Frame	Information	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Call to Order – Judi Martin, Executive Chair</b></p>	11:00			X
<p><b>1. Confirmation of Agenda-Introductions</b></p>	11:00-11:10	X	X	X
<p><b>2. Review and Approval of August Minutes</b></p>	11:10-11:15	X	X	X
<p><b>3. Committee — Reports/Old/NewBusiness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Executive Committee</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Treasurer’s report</li> <li>2) Elected officials presentation</li> <li>3) Heartland Walk for Warmth</li> <li>4) Strategic planning for 2008?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Membership</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) New members</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Energy Assistance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Energy Burden</li> <li>2) Data Collection</li> <li>3) LIHEAP update</li> <li>4) Other business</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Energy Education</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Grants</li> <li>2) Other business</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Resource clearinghouse-website</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Viewing the web site</li> <li>2) What else is needed, look, design, hosting?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Administrative/Communication</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Legal formation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	11:15-2:25	X	X	X
<p><b>4. Lunch — (will break when food is ready) A big thank-you to NPPD for lunch!</b></p>		X	X	
<p><b>5. Next Meeting Location and Adjourn</b></p>	2:30		X	X

**NEAN Meeting  
York, September 13, 2007**

**Attendance:**

Joyce Barlean	North Central Public Power District
Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Jan Davis	Aquila
Pete Davis	Nebraska Energy Office
Linda Eidem	NorthWestern Energy
Cory Fuehrer	Nebraska Public Power District
Krista Heineman	Goldenrod Hills
Rick Hemphill	Elkhorn Rural, Stanton Co. & Cedar-Knox PPD
Ardith Hoins	BVCA Partnership
Cheryl Holcomb	Central Nebraska Community Services
Ronda Jaeschke	SourceGas
Mike Kelly	Department of Health & Human Services
Judi Martin	Omaha Public Power District
Mari Matulka	Metropolitan Utilities District
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of Nebraska – Lincoln Extension
Roger Reikofski	Nebraska Department of Education
Char Reiman	SourceGas
Tom Schik	Catholic Social Services
Julie Thacker (Call-in)	Metropolitan Utilities District

**Next NEAN Committee Meeting:** Thursday, October 11, 2007 – 11 am to 2:30 pm

**AQUILA**

501 W. Sixth St.

Papillion, NE

Papillion Office: 402-935-4874

Sheila's Office: 402-221-2159

- I.** Meeting called to order by Judi Martin
- II.** Introductions
- III.** Minutes accepted from September 13 meeting
- IV.** Executive Committee Report
  - A. Treasurer's Report
    - i. Received one payment from SourceGas, \$300
    - ii. Awaiting updated report from American Red Cross accounting department
  - B. Membership

- i. Nebraska Head Start Association
  - ii. Last month: Catholic Social Services and Central Nebraska Community Services
- C. Judi Martin met with Congressman Lee Terry regarding NEAN
  - i. NEAN presentation
  - ii. Congressman would like to see more volunteers for weatherization
- D. Walk for Warmth
  - i. Developing website
  - ii. Planning on press blitz
  - iii. Sponsors: NEAN, Northern Natural Gas, OPPD, M.U.D., Aquila, Inc.
- E. NEAN Strategic Plan
  - i. Suggest we schedule in place of usual NEAN meeting on November 8 (Kearney – hosted by SourceGas).
  - ii. Jan Davis will check to see if she has staff who could facilitate (will discuss further during Executive Team conference call).

**V. LIHEAP**

- i. Approximately 25% of assistance payments go directly to the household so that you cannot determine who receives the funds
- ii. LIHEAP Funding still unknown for next year — \$150 MM allocated per presidential decision.
- iii. Questions regarding procedure of sending shut-off notices to LIHEAP's eligible customers
  - a. What are the statutory requirements?**  
Response: State statutes – Section 16 (70-1601 through 70-1615).
  - b. How long are the customers eligible?**  
Response: Household eligibility is only determined once in a fiscal year. Eligibility ends if household moves out of state or into a situation like a nursing home.
  - c. How does utility know what utility will receive payment?**  
Response: A utility company will receive notification of the households for any particular payment that is received by the utility company. Utility companies do not receive notification of all LIHEAP households.
  - d. Need clarification. It also is a legal question.**  
Response: I believe this was based on what is the utilities obligation for notification to LIHEAP households for shutoffs.
  - e. Can the customer apply for LIHEAP throughout the year?**  
Response: Yes, but applications for heating must be made no later than March 30 of the current year and applications for cooling must be made no later than August 31 of the current year. Crisis applications can be made at anytime during the year.

**f. When the customer signs up to receive LIHEAP, can they direct which utility the payment will go to?**

Response: DHHS would prefer that the payment go to the basic heating provider. Some offices like to split the heating payment to go to both the heat provider and the electric provider. DHHS would prefer that the heat payment to the heat provider and the electric provider receive a crisis payment. In most instances that a payment is split, there will be a request for heating crisis during the year.

**g. Are crisis payments available throughout Nebraska, throughout the year?**

Response: Yes.

**h. Is there a maximum for crisis payments per year?**

Response: A local office can approve up to \$500 (crisis total for the year) without receiving approval from the central office. To exceed \$500, an approval from the central office is required.

**Lunch Thank you NPPD District for hosting and providing lunch!**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. Energy Assistance Committee – Ardi Hoins**

- i. Referred to Judi Martin to discuss results of Data Collection meeting on September 10.
- ii. Data Collection
  - a. Agreed to start in Jan. 2008 – will provide compiled data for entire year of 2007
  - b. Software to be designed by OPPD that United Way will use to house the data
  - c. Still need to determine if data turned in for 2007 will be monthly or quarterly
  - d. Concern as to whether information will accurately reflect season trends – if done quarterly
  - e. Others felt trends would balance out

**B. Energy Education Committee**

- i. Lincoln Action Program (Diane Vesely-Robb) received \$335,000 grant for REACH program
- ii. Shirley Niemeyer (UNL Extension) received \$2,412 grant to purchase 150 kits – some to be modified for Hispanic recipients.
- iii. \$18,000 grant provided by NPPD for 1,000 kits and training
- iv. Chose to stay with one boxed kit rather than order two different kits (renters & homeowners) — \$15.15 per kit; \$800 shipping
  - a. 2 CFL
  - b. Night light
  - c. Showerhead

- d. Refrigerator/freezer temperature card
- e. Hot water temperature card
- f. 30 ft. energy weather stripping
- g. Rope Caulk
- v. 1,250 books will be ordered separately at .43 cents ea. For English; .78 cents for Spanish; ordering 250 in Spanish (Energy Savers Book – (downloadable in PDF)
- vi. Energy efficiency kit descriptions and instructions available in Spanish and English for an additional \$500; may want to have English and Spanish together and put them all with the kits.
- vii. Question came up regarding percentage of Spanish-speaking-only families in our communities.
- viii. Aquila pledges \$500 to provide for additional materials.
- ix. NorthWestern will pledge \$500.
- x. SourceGas will pledge \$500.
- xi. Kits committed to Nebraska Head Start for November 8-9 so they can be distributed at their annual conference in Grand Island.
- xii. Presenters may be needed for 1 to 1 ½ hour workshop to be given to a room capacity of 50 people
- xiii. Early Head Start will partner with NEAN to distribute; awaiting count.
- xiv. Do we want a name for the Head Start NEAN partnership activity (i.e. for the forums they were referred to as NEAN “Using Energy Wisely” Forums)? Subcommittee will come up with a recommendation.
- xv. Subcommittee is developing a curriculum to train people and instruct customers (meeting Friday, September 14, Lincoln Action Program)
- xvi. NPPD will assist with surveys.
- xvii. Discussed including “10 to 15 Most Useful Energy Tips” with materials (possibly instead of Energy booklet?)
- xviii. Booklet lends credibility with graphs, charts, etc.
- C. Resource Clearing House Committee — Website
  - i. Energy Star is already on our website as a link, do we want to have Energy Star as a partner? – Cory will talk to them.
  - ii. We can now “Google” Nebraska Energy Assistance Network.
  - iii. Cory will share updated lists of members with Mari and Sheila when he receives them from American Red Cross.
  - iv. Sheila will send new NEAN Contact list to Mari, whenever she has an update.
  - v. NOTE:
    - a. nebraskaenergyassistance.com --- **not** ORG
    - b. Not a secured site for members; cannot post sensitive materials
    - c. Need to look at possibility of a new host for server. Mari suggested Bass Associates. She will find out what they charge to host the site and provide monthly hit reports.
    - d. Sheila will continue to send minutes of meeting to Mari; but will send links of where to find information when e-mailing meeting

notice – instead of sending out additional attachments with the meeting notice.

vi. COMMENTS

- a. Send appropriate items to Mari Matulka to post and tell her where you want it: [mari\\_matulka@mudnebr.com](mailto:mari_matulka@mudnebr.com)
- b. Website should be multi-purpose
- c. Should include Weatherization Programs & Loan Program from NE Energy Office – Pete Davis will send to Mari.

**VII.** Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.