

As the manager of hydro license compliance, Andy Welch leads the group of NorthWestern Energy employees that are responsible for environmental compliance of all our hydro facilities.

"That can be anything from water management to fish habitat to water quality to recreation access," Andy explained.

NorthWestern Energy manages 11 hydroelectric facilities in Montana. How NorthWestern operates each facility is governed by a federal operating license that includes requirements to make sure the project operates in a way to minimize any negative environmental impact.

One of Andy's favorite things about his job is the beautiful places he gets to work, whether that's Mystic Dam, high in the Beartooth Mountains, or Madison Dam, on one of the best fly fishing rivers in the country.

"We get to work on an incredible resource," Andy said. "The places we work are pretty amazing."

Andy also gets to work with an amazing network of people who have a stake in the state's waterways.

"We get an opportunity to work with a lot of talented resource managers across the state," he said.

The crews at each hydro facility are also excellent coworkers.

"Our hydro folks are pretty amazing to work with," Andy said.

Another favorite aspect of Andy's job is working on rehabilitation projects to restore creeks or rivers, many of which take four or five years to complete.

"It's pretty rewarding to work through those projects and to get to see the final result," he said.



Andy Welch's Kale Soup

This slightly smoky and spicy soup is perfect for a cool fall day or wintertime meal. The ingredients can be cut into large or small pieces based on your preference, (Andy likes it chunky) but cooking time should be adjusted accordingly. It can be made the day before and reheated. Serve with crusty sourdough bread.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 teaspoons crushed red pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1-2 cans kidney beans
- 1 ½ pounds linguica or chourico sausage

- 2 bunches of kale, chopped
- 6 large red potatoes, peeled and diced
- ½ head of cabbage, shredded
- Chicken stock
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil

DIRECTIONS

- → Put olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for a few minutes.
- Add linguica or chourico and continue to sauté until onions are translucent. Add red pepper, bay leaves and salt.
- Cover with chicken stock. Bring to boil and simmer for O10 minutes.
- $4^{\rm Add}$ kale, cabbage and kidney beans to simmering broth.
- When kale is about half-cooked, add potatoes and cook an Oadditional 20 minutes.

Makes servings for 8.

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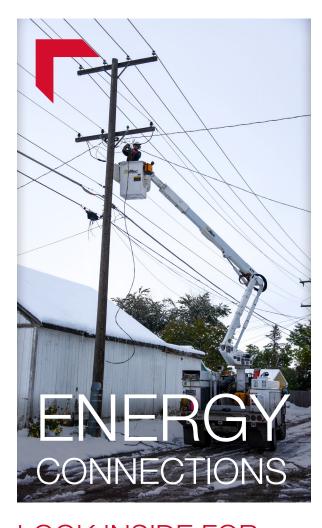
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We are proud of the diversity in the communities we serve. To better serve the needs of some of our customers, we translate important customer information into two languages: Spanish and Karen.

Estamos orgullosos de la diversidad en las comunidades que servimos. Para satisfacer mejor las necesidades de algunos de nuestros clientes, traducimos información importante del cliente a dos idiomas: español y

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LOOK INSIDE FOR **INFORMATION ON:**

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SOUTH DAKOTA/NEBRASKA

JANUARY 2020



Resolve to save time in the new year

Take paying your power bill off your "to-do" list by signing up for eBill. Our eBill program is a fast, free and paperless way to view and pay your bill online. To use eBill you will need to set up your 'My Energy Account' and then you will be ready to pay your bill anytime from anywhere.

Why sign-up for eBill?

FREE Electronic Paperless Billing: Access your bill at your convenience by logging into your online account. You'll receive an email notification when your bill is available to review online. It's fast, convenient and completely secure.

FREE Online Payments: Once you enroll in the eBill program and receive email notification that your bill is available, you can use your checking or savings account to pay your bill.

Add EZ Pay for free: Sign up for EZ Pay and ensure that your utility bill gets paid on time! Through EZ Pay, you can have your payment automatically withdrawn and applied to your NorthWestern Energy account when it's due.



Tips for staying safe during a power outage

Winter storms, ice and wind can cause unexpected outages. Here are some important tips to help you and your family during an outage:

- Check fuses or circuit breakers to rule out problems with electricity inside your home. If a fuse is blown, replace it with the appropriate fuse. If a breaker has tripped, reset it from off to on. If you are unsure about fixing a fuse or circuit breaker, call an electrician.
- Check the media and social media. If the outage is widespread, you can usually monitor the outage restoration process by checking your local media outlets. You can also get up-to-date outage information from our online outage map at northwesternenergy.com/outage.
- Turn off all but one of the lights that were on, so you will notice when we have restored your electricity.
- Unplug computers, chargers, TVs, VCRs and other sensitive appliances to avoid possible damage when electricity is restored.
- When power resumes, reset clocks and check automatic alarms and timers. Plug in only essential items. Wait 10 minutes before connecting the

remainder of your items to let the electrical system stabilize.

• Use a flashlight. Avoid candles because of the fire risk. For more information about safety during outages, please visit northwesternenergy.com/safety/outagesafety



Get the most up-to-date outage information online

Our crews respond quickly to power outages. You can track outages – and report them, too – with our online outage map. See this powerful tool and stay out of the dark. northwesternenergy.com/outage



Protect your family from carbon monoxide

Did you know?

More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine, such as a furnace, heater or generator, is not working or vented properly. Breathing CO at high levels can be fatal.

Here are some tips to protect your family from the dangers of CO:

- Install and maintain CO alarms inside your home to provide early warning of carbon monoxide.
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow and other debris.