

FEBRUARY 2007

Energy UPDATE

Go Bird Watching Without Leaving Your Home

Log on to xcelenergy.com this spring to catch a glimpse of raptors raising their young through our Bird Cams. It's a unique opportunity to go bird watching without leaving home and provides a convenient learning tool for teachers, students, families and all levels of bird enthusiasts.

Since 1989, Xcel Energy has taken an active role in protecting habitat important to the livelihood of these birds, and in 1997, we set up our first Bird Cam to raise awareness for their preservation. Visit xcelenergy.com, **Environment** and **Bird Cam** for a close-up look at the nesting sites of five different birds of prey. This year our Owl Cam will feature both Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls.

Teachers interested in using the Bird Cams as an educational tool can find detailed curriculum online at www.hawkquest.org, **Learning Center** and **Teaching Aides**. The curriculum was developed through a partnership between HawkQuest — an environmental raptor education group — and the Xcel Energy Foundation.



Eagle Cam

Active: February-May
Fort St. Vrain Station
Platteville, CO



Owl Cam

Active: February-June
Valmont Station
Boulder, CO



Falcon Cam

Active: March-May
Many MN power plant
locations



Kestrel Cam

Active: March-June
Pawnee Station
Brush, CO



Osprey Cam

Active: April-June
Allen S. King Plant
Bayport, MN

PAY ON TIME TO AVOID A LATE PAYMENT FEE

As part of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approval of our 2006 electric rate case, we received permission to initiate a late payment fee to residential customers in January. The monthly late payment fee is one percent (1%) of the total past due amount on electric and/or gas energy bills exceeding fifty dollars (\$50). We hope that by telling you now, you will be able to take advantage of our special services to help you pay your bill on time and avoid paying late fees.

We decided to begin collecting late payment fees to encourage all customers to pay their bills on time. These late fees are not a new revenue source for us, but a method to reduce operating costs incurred from late paying customers. Initially, all proceeds will be donated to Energy Outreach Colorado, an energy assistance organization.

The monthly late payment fee only will be assessed should your payment fail to post by the date your next month's bill is issued. An exemption to the late fee will be granted once per 12-month period, but only upon your request. In the event you receive a late

fee and want to apply the exemption, you should contact us at **1-800-895-4999**.

Call **1-800-895-4999** or visit us online at xcelenergy.com for information about payment options to help you pay your bills on time.



ENERGY MYTHS: FURNACES

Misconception: When I replace my old furnace or boiler, I should get a new one that has the same rating as the old one.

Facts: Even if your old furnace was adequate for the job, it is important to have your contractor analyze heat losses for your home to determine the right size for the new unit. That's because old systems were typically oversized and because the thermal characteristics of your house may have changed — for example, you might have added insulation or expanded the house since the last furnace was installed. In fact, if you haven't already added insulation, it's a good idea to do so before adding the new furnace. A properly sized system operates most efficiently.