

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2011

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 20, Number 8

Five area students represent ERPPD at Youth Camp; two win trips to Washington DC in 2012.



l-r: Maria Ortiz, Megan Steskal, Katie Dusel, China Wiese (camp counselor), Ivy Prater, Briley Wiese

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District sponsored five area students to the 2011 Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Camp. The event is held annually at the State 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest west of Halsey, Neb. This year's camp was held July 11 through July 15.

Those from the area attending were: Katie Dusel of Elkhorn Valley High School; Maria Ortiz of Clearwater High School; Ivy Prater of Elgin Pope John High School; Megan Steskal of Clearwater High School; and Briley Wiese of Lindsay Holy Family High School.

ERPPD also provided an adult counselor for the camp. China Wiese, 7-12 religion instructor at Holy Family High School in Lindsay, served as a counselor for the week. China had attended the camp when she was in high school, and served as a counselor 2 years ago.

Campers were treated to educational sessions on electric safety, energy efficiency, career opportunities, and public power in Nebraska. They visited the Gerald Gentleman coal-fired generating facility near Sutherland, Neb., and the Kingsley hydroelectric station at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala, Neb. The week was intermingled with fun activities, including sports tournaments,

canoeing, dancing, a get-acquainted party, and socializing and making new friends.

These students are eligible, when they return from camp, to apply for the opportunity to represent ERPPD on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C., held in June of 2012. ERPPD will select from the students who make an application.

Campers also had an opportunity to compete for the 2012 National Rural Electric Youth Tour and be sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association. Two of the campers, Briley Wiese and Ivy Prater won two out of three 2012 NREA Youth Tour spots. Congratulations Briley and Ivy.

And, above all, they enjoyed a great time with other high school students from across the state.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

One of the easiest ways to make your home more energy efficient is to add insulation in the attic. To see if you need insulation, look across an uncovered attic floor. If the insulation is level with or below the floor joists, you probably need to add more.

Source: Energy Star



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Tree and Brush Control

Evidence for the need to control growth of trees along power line rights-of-way is easy to see in rural areas. Overgrown rights-of-way can cause problems during severe weather and can make it difficult to reach trouble spots to make repairs.

In a continuing effort to control tree and brush growth, ERPPD has hired Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc. to treat vegetation in power line rights-of-way with governmentally-approved herbicides. They will start the program the first part of September, using the foliage herbicides of Krenite S and Escort, which are foliage absorbed and are non-volatile. The herbicides will be applied with a hand-held nozzle. Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc. will follow up in the fall with a basal treatment, using Tahoe 4E, Stalker, and basal oil to treat the areas they could not foliage spray. Growth in county road ditches will be sprayed, but if the Midwest crew has any questions, they will attempt to contact the landowner before spraying.

This year, Midwest Spray Team crews will be treating power line rights-of-way in our service area west and north of Neligh.

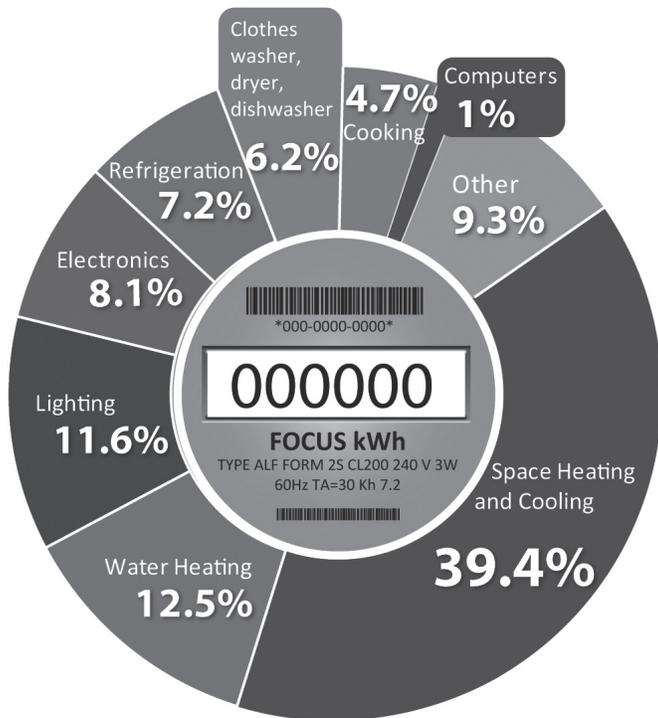
Midwest Spray Team handles all questions concerning types of chemicals to be used. If you have any questions or concerns or requests not to spray, contact Jim Ridder at our Battle Creek office, 1-800-675-2185. You can also contact Midwest Spray Team by mail at:

Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc
PO Box 65668
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Tree and brush control is yet another way that ERPPD can attain our goals of service reliability and cost management.

ENERGY NEWS

How Your Home Uses Electricity



Energy Efficiency Rebates to Change in 2012

The EnergyWise incentive program will change in 2012. Not all of the changes have been finalized, but we do know that the following programs will be impacted, along with other programs yet to be announced: commercial lighting and residential heat pumps.

The incentives paid depends upon when the project or upgrade is completed, for example, 2011-incentives will not change but the project has to be completed and application made in 2011.

2012- for projects and upgrades completed after January 1, 2012 the status of the incentives will not be known for sure until September 1, 2011.

The refrigerator recycling program is in its third and final year. Through the month of June, the program has collected and recycled 4,221 units.

If you have any questions, contact our office at 1-800-675-2185, and ask for Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative..

Source: 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book, U.S. Department of Energy, Table 21.5. Represents an all-electric home.



CUSTOMER SERVICE INFORMATION

Alerts and Reminders Option

ERPPD now has the option to send you an alert or reminder via email or text for the following scenarios:

1. **Due Date Reminder** (Notification up to 10 days prior to actual due date; the email notice will also show the amount due but the text will not)
2. **Past Due Date Reminder** (Will be sent the day following the past due date)
3. **Account Profile Change** (You will be notified each time the information in your profile is changed)
4. **Returned Check Alert** (Message will be sent if the check payment was returned for insufficient funds)
5. **Payment Confirmation** (Message will be sent anytime a payment is posted to your account, whether the payment was mailed, paid in person in the office, or paid using our online payment options.)

You have the option to have the alerts and reminders delivered via email or text, or both if you wish. When you call to sign up for the service, we will ask you for the following required information:

1. Account Number
2. Email address (if using email notifications)
3. Cell phone number and service provider (if using text notifications)

Please call our office at 1-800-675-2185, and one of our Customer Service Representatives (CSR's) will get your alerts and reminders option set up for you.

IRRIGATION

Tips for Irrigators

- **Auto-Restart:** This would help maximize your actual run-time by allowing your system to start as soon as control is released and power is restored.
- **Three Phase Motor Saver:** This would protect your motor by shutting it down if one or more of the phases is out due to an outage or a fuse has blown.
- **Power Factor Corrective Capacitor:** This would help your motor run more efficiently, which in turn saves you money; and will also extend the life of your motor and related equipment.

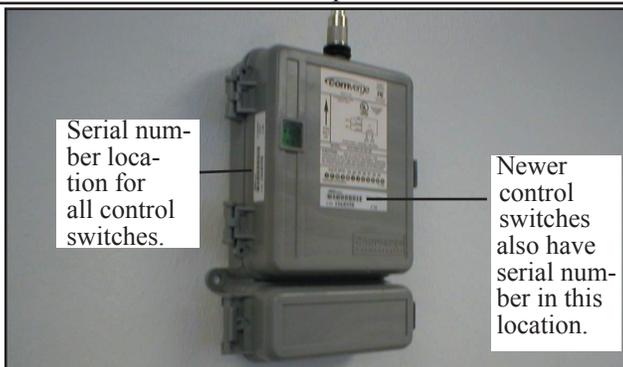
If you are interested in any of the items mentioned above, contact your electrician or serviceman for more information and pricing.

Irrigator's switch number is important

This irrigation season, an ERPPD irrigator who has occasion to call the utility should reference the system's switch number when giving information.

While account number and location are necessary components, it is the switch number that will best help district personnel to provide the irrigator with the fastest resolution to his or her situation.

See illustration below for location examples:



Lights have meaning

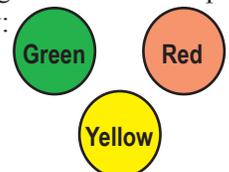
Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

Red - No Control

Red and Green - Control

Yellow - Signal Test (has no effect)

The light configuration on the display appears this way:



If the lights are not working, please check the fuses before calling ERPPD's outage number at **800-675-2185**.



What Can I Do To Help Keep My Electric Costs Affordable? By Getting Involved With The “Our Energy Our Future” Campaign.

Elkhorn RPPD has joined with other power districts and rural electric cooperatives to provide our customers with a unified voice to our elected officials. You can get involved through the “Our Energy Our Future” grassroots campaign, hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, of which ERPPD is a member.

The “Our Energy Our Future” campaign works to ensure that Americans have an affordable and reliable source of electricity for years to come. The campaign works like this: if there is legislation being debated in Congress that has a direct bearing on the rural electric industry, either favorable or detrimental, you will receive a ‘Take Action Alert’ via email. This email will provide instructions on how you can voice your concerns to your Congressmen.

Simply complete the form below and return it to our office. We will get you signed up for the campaign on your behalf. Then when the need arises, you will be ready to act. We want to make it as easy as possible for our customers to contact their representatives in Congress. Please contact Wayne McCormick at ERPPD, 800-675-2185, if you have any questions.

Remember, it truly is “Our Energy and Our Future” that is at stake, and we have a voice in Washington, DC.

Start the Dialogue With Your Elected Officials

Name _____ Account # _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Home telephone _____ Cell Phone _____ Is this your primary phone? ____ Yes ____ No
 Email address _____
 Signature _____

You can mail this form in with your bill payment or drop it off at our office. You can also email your information to us at erppd@erppd.com or call in the information during business hours at 1-800-675-2185.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
DirectorII
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefler
DirectorIII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting 1-800-675-2185

After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed,
even for a local call.

Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**It's the law!
Call 811 Before
You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666
Diggers Hotline
of Nebraska

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural
Public Power
District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715**