

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2013

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 22, Number 8

Area Student Represents Elkhorn Rural Public Power District in Washington, D.C.

Kaili Hackerott of rural Madison recently was selected to participate in the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour. Kaili was sponsored by Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD) to attend the seven day tour in Washington, D.C. with seventeen other students from across Rural Nebraska.

Each year in June the NREA and Elkhorn Rural Public Power District sponsor high school students from across Nebraska for an all-expense-paid trip to the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. The trip gives participants an opportunity to learn first-hand about our nation's history and the pressing issues facing the energy industry. In addition, the experience fosters student's appreciation for the democratic process, builds leadership skills, and educates the students about the role rural electric systems have in the national economy.

While on the Youth Tour, Kaili visited a number of our nation's capitol historic sites including the Capitol building, the National Mall and Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Museum, Mt. Vernon, and Gettysburg battlefield. Students attended the Nebraska Breakfast with the entire Nebraska congressional delegation



Kaili Hackerott, pictured in front of the White House

and had private meetings with their representatives.

To be selected for Youth Tour, students must first attend the NREA Youth Energy Camp in Halsey, NE, a week-long leadership program for rural youth. Following the camp, Kaili was chosen to represent ERPPD on the Youth Tour.

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, nearly 1,600 students from rural areas across the U.S. convened for National Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world Champion Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares

his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." Students were also given a presentation on the history of rural electrification from the Father of Rural Electrification himself, Senator George Norris, played by former Nebraska state senator Dave Landis.

The NREA Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local rural electric providers, the NREA, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for more than 45 years. Since 1964, more than 50,000 high school juniors and seniors have participated in the program.

Cell Phone as Primary Contact

Is your cell phone now your primary phone contact? It is important that we have your current phone contact on file in the office. We use this phone number to contact you for important notifications.

If you have discontinued your landline phone service and now have only a cell phone as your primary contact, please contact our office at 800-675-2185.

Please rest assured that your cell phone number will not be given to other parties.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you better through better communication.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Highway 45 Line Upgrade Project Completed

The line construction crews have been busy this spring with many new line builds as well as upgrades of existing lines. One project that was recently completed was an upgrade of 1 3/4 miles of three-phase line south of Tilden on Highway 45. This was an older section of three-phase line with smaller wire. Poles were replaced and the wire was replaced with much heavier T-2 wire, which is more resistant to ice problems. The project was identified as a needed upgrade due to added electric needs in the area, and to help with the reliability of the system.

The project was completed in the first part of July. Crews were made up



of linemen and equipment from both the Battle Creek and the Neligh shops.

This is just another example of ERPPD's commitment to our mission statement. "Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is dedicated to providing SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers."



ENERGY NEWS

Elkhorn RPPD Alarmed by President Obama's Proposal to Increase Monthly Electric Bills

DATELINE – In a speech at Georgetown University, President Obama announced a broad new federal mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. The President will instruct federal regulators to apply the Clean Air Act to carbon dioxide issued from power plants.

While the President's scheme will impose a massive new climate tax upon all consumers; we at Elkhorn

Rural Public Power District are especially concerned about this proposal because our members (customers) already spend disproportionately more on energy than other consumers across the country.

"The President's proposal will hit public power served families and businesses here awfully hard," said ERPPD General Manager Tom Rudloff. "These regulations are costly, and they take autonomy from our power district by challenging our ability to make decisions that govern our own infrastructure."

The President's climate tax fails to take into account that public power districts' existing efforts to integrate renewable energy into our power portfolios. Public power districts are at the forefront of energy efficiency initia-

tives working hard to reduce the need to build expensive new power plants.

"Ultimately, public power districts are about keeping electric bills affordable and providing underserved communities the power they need to improve their quality of life," said Rudloff. "The President's proposal will make electric power more expensive, causing families and businesses to sacrifice on top of all the other uncertainty in our national economy. Without question, electric bills will get bigger for the Americans who can least afford to pay them."

"If the President doesn't see the importance of affordable electric power, then the members (customers) of our district will need to help bring it to his attention."

NREA

NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

What is the NREA?

The following is the second of a series of articles describing the organizations that Elkhorn Rural Public Power District belongs to, along with the benefits derived from that membership. Last month we highlighted the Nebraska Power Association (NPA). This month we are highlighting the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA).

I am sure you have seen references in various articles in the WIRE newsletter over the years to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA). But just what is the NREA and how does it help us achieve our mission, which is “to provide SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers”.

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association is the private non-profit trade association for 34 rural electric systems, including Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, that provide electric service

electricity. The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was created by executive order of President Roosevelt on May 11, 1935, and NREA was formed in October of that year to help those early leaders deal with problems of standardizing line construction and obtaining wholesale power supplies.

Over the years, NREA’s mission has evolved to include a broad range of activities to assist its member-systems as they face the many challenges of providing low-cost, reliable electric service to the rural regions of Nebraska.

Today, the quality of electric service in the most remote areas of the state equals or exceeds the electric service available in the largest cities. This achievement continues to be a source of pride for the directors, managers, and other employees of the member-systems.

Nebraska’s rural electric leaders will continue to be guided by their customer’s desire for reliable, high-quality electric service at affordable rates.

The NREA Mission Statement pretty

much sums it up: “The Nebraska Rural Electric Association supports its public power district and electric cooperative members in the accomplishment of their missions by providing essential services

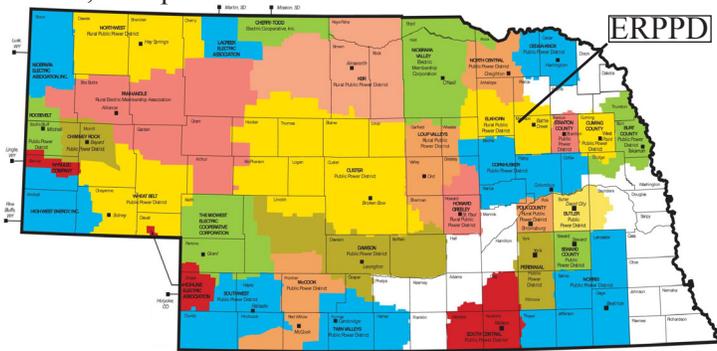
which can be performed more effectively, efficiently, and economically at a statewide level.”

Following are some of the services provided by the NREA:

- **Director and Employee Development**-coordinates programs to improve the skills and abilities of directors and employees
- **Electric Power Utilization**-promote the efficient use of electric

energy

- **Job Training and Safety**-provides a comprehensive job training and safety education program for the employees of the member systems to help them work safely and productively
- **Legal Advice**-to provide legal advice when a legal issue affects more than one member system or represents an interpretation of the state laws that govern public power
- **Legislative Activity**-provides a strong voice in the Nebraska legislature and the United States Congress so that the interests of rural electric customers and of all the people of Nebraska may be protected
- **Magazine**-provides a statewide publication, The Rural Electric Nebraskan, to enhance the understanding of rural electrification and public power and support for good legislation in the interests of their customers
- **Member Information and Services**-special services that can be provided through the cooperation of all the members
- **Power Supply**-to assist member systems in securing reliable and adequate supply of low-cost electric energy
- **Public Information**-assists member systems in their information and education programs
- **Regulatory Compliance Services**-to provide assistance in complying with state and federal regulations
- **Territorial Integrity**-to provide assistance in the protection of member system service areas from annexation by other electric suppliers
- **Youth Programs**-to assist the young people growing up in the member system service areas in becoming future leaders in their rural communities



Map showing the 34 NREA member systems

to consumers in most of the rural areas and many of the small towns in the great State of Nebraska. Together, the more than 950 dedicated employees of its member systems serve nearly 231,000 customers and maintain over 97,000 miles of line.

In the 1930s, rural leaders took on the enormous task of building the electric utility infrastructure in Nebraska that would provide themselves and their neighbors with reliable and affordable

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
August 2013*

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

▶ **NOTHING IS GREENER THAN ENERGY NOT USED**



The demand for electricity in Nebraska continues to grow. Responsible energy use can help offset the need to build new power generating facilities. Install LED lights. Select ENERGY STAR® appliances. The greenest power is power not used.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
For more information, please call 800.675.2185, and ask for Mark Gronau, our Energy Services Representative.

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

Energy Efficiency *Month Tip of the*

When shopping for a new appliance, consider lifetime operation costs as well as the up-front purchase price. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11, and dishwashers about 10. Check the Energy Guide label for the appliance's estimated yearly operating cost, and look for ENERGY STAR units, which usually exceed minimum federal standards for efficiency and quality. To learn more, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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**