

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2009

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 18, Number 12

Rate increase seen on January usage, February bills

For electric customers of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, new residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural rates will go into effect with usage that is recorded in January. The average overall rate increase will be 4.9%, plus-or-minus 2% within any one individual rate class.

“Our people continue to work hard at managing costs and keeping any increase as low as possible,” said General Manager Tom Rudloff.

Customers will see the increase on their energy statements in February.

The primary reason for the increase is that Nebraska Public Power District is raising its wholesale rates for the power purchased by its customers. For ERPPD, that cost represents between 60% and 65% of the utility’s total annual expenditures.

At the time this article is being written, NPPD has announced that it is raising its overall wholesale power rates by 5.9% across the board, but each NPPD customer will experience a slightly different increase based on the amount of kilowatt-hours(kWh) sold compared to the kilowatt(kW) demand experienced by that individual utility. In ERPPD’s case, NPPD’s 5.9% increase will result in ERPPD’s wholesale power cost increasing by about 6.2%.

ERPPD has contracted with an independent rate consultant, Utility Financial Solutions, who is designing cost-based rates that are fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory, as required by Nebraska State Statutes.

Just as NPPD’s rate increase affects

ERPPD differently than other NPPD wholesale customers, so will ERPPD customers be affected differently by ERPPD’s rate increase.

For most residential customers, the rate is applied to the kWh usage to determine how much the energy costs are. Customer charges and other fees, such as those for late payments or estimated readings, are not included in the usage charges, but are added to them to create the amount on the final bill.

Many commercial and industrial

customers are also charged based on kW demand—that is the amount of electricity drawn from an electric system at a given time. This is added to kWh-usage, customer charge, and other fees for the final bill amount.

The reality, simply put, for all ERPPD electric customers is this: the less you use the less you pay for.

See **WIRE-Page 2** for Energy Efficiency Programs that can help your home or business use less energy and, therefore, save you money.

Thiele first director to earn BLC

Joe Thiele is the first director from ERPPD to achieve the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), a national continuing education program for directors who want to increase their knowledge of how a distribution utility should best function. The classes required for the BLC provide additional in-depth courses as a follow-up to those offered within the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program. All ERPPD directors who have served more than two years are CCDs.



Director Joe Thiele (left) receives his Board Leadership Certificate from ERPPD Board President Rod Zohner.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed

Friday, Dec. 25,
for Christmas Day

and

Friday, Jan. 1
for New Year’s Day.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

EnergyWiseSM incentives reward energy savings

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and its other wholesale customers, is offering energy efficiency programs to assist customers in becoming more energy efficient. The purpose of programs under the EnergyWiseSM logo is to make electric customers more aware of ways they can use electrical energy more efficiently and the savings that come with these practices.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Incentive

Homeowners who install a qualified heat pump (14 SEER or higher cooling ratio and 8.2 HSPF or greater heating ratio) will be eligible for a variable rebate, depending on the SEER of the unit. ERPPD customers who replace a window or central air conditioner with a qualified heat pump will earn a double rebate.

Heat Pump Qualifying Installation	Basic Rebate	Replace A/C Unit
14 SEER	\$200	add \$200
15 SEER	\$250	add \$250
16 SEER (& up)	\$300	add \$300
Geothermal Unit	\$400	add \$400

The installing HVAC dealer will also receive an incentive payment if the new unit operates within 10% of manufacturer's specifications.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Low-Interest Loan

A low-interest loan (2.5%) is an option that gives the homeowner a choice of the incentive or the loan (but not both). Contact ERPPD, then work through the local lender of your choice.

This program works in conjunction with the local lender, the Nebraska Energy Office, and NPPD.

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Cooling System Tune-Up

An incentive of \$30 is available to homeowners who have their cooling systems tuned up (Does not include heating systems). Eligible systems include air conditioners, air source heat pumps (regardless of back-up source), and water source heat pumps. Contact your HVAC dealer.

Residential Attic Insulation

The attic insulation program allows a homeowner to install at least six inches of attic insulation in up to 2,000 sq. ft. of attic space in an existing home. The rebate is \$0.15 per square foot with a maximum rebate for any one dwelling to be \$300. See ERPPD or a building or remodeling contractor for details.

Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling

This program will resume in March.

Commercial and Industrial Lighting Efficiency Program

Customers have an opportunity to earn incentives for upgrading to qualified, more efficient lighting. Incentives are available for both indoor and outdoor technologies.

Prescriptive and custom programs are available. Contact Mark Gronau at ERPPD to discuss the one that is right for your business, then contact the lighting contractor of your choice.

Commercial HVAC system

The commercial HVAC program allows rebates to businesses for installing water-cooled or air-cooled air conditioners or air source, water source, or

ground source heat pumps. The rebate is dependent on total tonnage of the unit(s) and/or one of two performance ratings, either the SEER or the Actual EER. Please contact your HVAC dealer for specific details about the program. Some cooling systems do not qualify, so be sure to contact an HVAC dealer. Brochures are available at ERPPD that define both the type of equipment and the associated equation to figure the rebate.

Premium Efficiency Motors

One way for businesses to reduce the cost of starting and running motors is by upgrading to premium efficiency motors. Incentives are prescriptive and range from \$20 to \$400 based on motor size. Those who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive.

Variable Frequency Drives

Variable frequency drives (VFDs) can be effective at reducing power and energy consumption to centrifugal equipment such as pumps and fans. Incentive is \$30 per horsepower. Those who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive. Contact ERPPD to see if a VFD is right for you and if it can be used on your lines.

Irrigation Efficiency

This program seeks to help irrigators utilize water and electric energy in the most energy efficient and cost-effective manner. It is designed to provide customers with financial incentives to help assess irrigation system performance and improve areas of inefficiency. The incentive is \$0.20 per kWh saved per year for the first year.

Ask a tax preparer if your efficiency improvements can qualify for tax deductions or credits.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

28 years old
7200 volts
27 exit wounds
31 surgeries & skin grafts

1 LIFE CHANGED FOREVER

Shawn Miller is a typical hardworking, family man. He is a father of three, husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend to many. A few years ago Shawn was helping his mother put up her outdoor Christmas lights when somehow contact was made with the overhead power lines. Miraculously he survived the tragic accident. His life and the lives of many others have been changed forever. He wants you to learn from his experience.



TLC

Teach what you know.
Learn what you need to.
Care enough to share it.

Learn more about
Shawn's story at

Safe
Electricity.org[®]

Go to www.erppd.com and click
on Safety to access the link.



HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Outside lighting is a tradition of spirited sharing



If you've decided that this is the year to share the Christmas spirit of your home with neighbors and passersby, plan your outdoor lighting carefully.

- DETERMINE where you want lights: one tree? Or more? Around porches or roof? Or both? Be prepared to ask a salesperson for advice and assistance.
- VERIFY that you are buying lights, extension cords, and sockets that are rated for outdoor use and built for the rigors of winter weather.
- SAVE money, too. LED Christmas Lights are the most energy-efficient on the market today. LEDs use a fraction of the energy of traditional bulbs.
- BUY lights wired in parallel so that all of them won't go out when one bulb burns out.
- ASK your friends at ERPPD for additional tips that can help you save money through the efficient use of electricity when lighting for the holidays.

Remember, electricity is too good a value to waste!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
TreasurerI
- Robert Kee
DirectorII
- Mark Miller
DirectorI
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
DirectorI
- 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., 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 and current meter reading. 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**