

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2010

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 19, Number 12

ERPPD Takes Rate Increase to Cover Increased Wholesale Power Costs

Effective January 1, 2011, ERPPD will be receiving a 9.2% wholesale power rate increase from Nebraska Public Power District, our power supplier. This power cost makes up over two thirds of the expense to deliver the power to the end use customer.

The 9.2% wholesale power increase equates to an overall average of 6.5% rate increase across all rate classes within ERPPD's service territory. Rate classes are analyzed on an individual basis to determine appropriate cost allocation to serve that class. Therefore, individual rates classes may vary from approximately 4.5-8.5%, based upon the actual cost to serve that rate class.

In order to allocate the wholesale increase equitably to our customers, we contract the services of an independent rate consultant. The management and Board of Directors will review the recommendations at the December board meeting and the Board will set the rates that will go into effect on January 1, 2011. The 2011 rates will be published in the January issue of the WIRE newsletter.

ERPPD directors, management, and employees have been and will continue to monitor our internal expenses and work to contain costs to effectively provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity for all customers.

Some of the measures already implemented include:

- Analyzing and improving efficient use of staff and equipment
- Reduction of our work force through attrition
- Using more energy efficient transformers

- Requiring power factor correcting capacitors on large motor loads
- Minimizing the use of contractors
- Utilizing automatic meter reading equipment to:
 - » Reduce meter reading costs
 - » Collect customer usage data for proper electrical system sizing
 - » Improve outage management and reliability
 - » Collect data to enhance engineering capabilities
 - » Assist in monitoring load management

These are just a few of the examples of measures that we have already taken to ensure that your costs are contained. Please rest assured that we are focused on you, our customers, and that we will continue our diligence in managing costs to keep electrical rates affordable.

Even though we would prefer no rate increase, electricity is still an exceptional value when one considers the time savings, work we are able to accomplish, and the convenience that this product brings into our lives.



Robert Kee

Robert Kee Retires from ERPPD Board

Bob Kee, long time director of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has announced his retirement, effective January 11, 2011. Jerrell Dolesh, newly elected director, will replace Bob at that time.

Bob was appointed to the board in March of 1994 to fill the vacancy created when Director Cleo Deuel retired from farming and moved out of the district. He was then re-elected to the board in 1998 and 2004. Bob did not file for re-election in 2010, opting to retire at the end of his term.

We thank Bob for his dedicated service and wish Bob and his wife, Sherlene, all the best in the future.

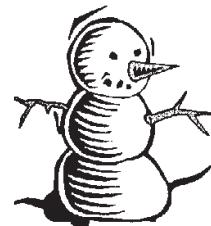
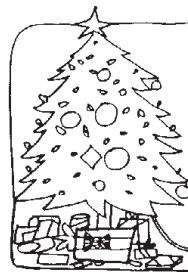
Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed

**Friday, Dec. 24,
for Christmas Holiday**

and

**Friday, Dec. 31
for New Year's Holiday.**



Mayday Drill Conducted

ERPPD personnel participated in a Mock Mayday on the morning of Wednesday, November 3. A Mock Mayday is a drill designed to check our procedures to handle a true life-threatening emergency. "We train hard hoping never to need to use it."

A Mayday call would be transmitted by radio whenever a person's life is in danger. Our office personnel are monitoring radio traffic at all times during office hours, and the dispatch center at Nebraska Public Power District is monitoring radio traffic after hours.

ERPPD safety personnel involved the Madison County Sheriff's office, the Madison County 911 dispatcher, the Battle Creek Fire and Rescue Department, and LifeNet medical rescue helicopter.

Our drill simulated an electrical contact and loss of consciousness suffered by one of our linemen. His partner makes



"Victim" Jason Lyon positioning to start the exercise.



Battle Creek ambulance arrives.

a Mayday call to the office where the Mayday call is acknowledged and all office personnel are poised to take down the information including location, type of injury, and number of victims. The caller then proceeds to perform necessary rescue operations, including bucket or poletop rescue, while someone in the office calls 911 to dispatch an ambulance to the scene.

The drill was held about 3 miles southeast of Battle Creek, and was very successful overall. Safety personnel identified and corrected some minor details. Kudos to all involved, since the ambulance was on the scene within 12 minutes of the initial Mayday call and the LifeNet helicopter was on the scene within 25 minutes of the initial call.

ERPPD wishes to thank the Madison County Sheriff's department, the Madison County 911 dispatcher, the Battle Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue, the LifeNet medical helicopter team, and especially the ERPPD personnel, for their participation and input in the drill.



Rescue team transporting victim to ambulance.



Rescue team transferring victim to LifeNet helicopter.



Holiday Lighting Safety-The Shawn Miller Story

For millions of people every year, the holiday season comes with traditions of festive lights and decorations, extraordinary foods and lavish parties. Unfortunately, time-honored traditions can easily end in tragedy if precautions are not taken. A few years ago, Shawn Miller was one of these people.

His mother, Maria Worth, found her son on the ground with wisps of smoke coming from his body. Miller was unconscious and badly burned. He had been hanging holiday lights in the trees that lined her yard. As he tossed the lights up into the trees, 7200 volts of electricity entered his body, traveling from the overhead power lines through his strand of lights.

"Power lines were the last thing on my mind that day," says Miller. "I was just hanging Christmas lights at my Mom's house like I do every year, only this time, I was decorating a new area, the trees that lined the front of the yard."

Although Miller suffered 27 exit wounds, the loss of his left hand and a finger on his right hand, his survival was miraculous. He urges everyone to use caution this holiday season. Miller's experience is the centerpiece of this year's Safe Electricity's Teach Learn Care TLC campaign, spreading awareness about the importance of electrical safety.

"Shawn Miller has a lot to teach us about electrical safety and we are grateful he is sharing his story through our Teach Learn Care TLC campaign," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity. "We want people to learn from his tragic experience and care enough to share it with those they love."

"I'm lucky to be alive," Miller adds. "I want everyone to be careful, be aware of power lines."

Check out www.safeelectricity.org for more TLC campaign stories.

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

Home owners 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.

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. Incentives are available only once every three years.

Residential Attic Insulation

The attic insulation program allows a homeowner to install at least six inches

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

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. Dwelling must have electric heat or a heat pump to be eligible. See ERPPD or a building or remodeling contractor for details.

Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling

Remove inefficient, operating (must be able to freeze ice) secondary refrigerators or freezers from ERPPD's distribution system and receive \$35 per unit for up to two working units. This program is administered through JACO Environmental, which specializes in refrigerator recycling. Customers should call JACO (toll-free 1-866-444-9160) for information or to arrange an appointment for pick-up.

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 depends on total tonnage of the unit(s) and/or one of two performance ratings, either SEER or Actual EER. 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.

NEW! An HVAC System Optimization Program is also available.

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. The incentive is \$30 per horsepower. Businesses 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. Application must be made prior to the start of the season and incentive is paid after the season is completed.

Call Mark Gronau at ERPPD for details about any of these programs.



