

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2009

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 18, Number 2

Redesigned www.erppd.com on web—

Site offers info options for utility customers

The re-designed website for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (at www.erppd.com) now offers utility customers many more options and links than ever before for gathering information about ERPPD specifically and the electric industry in general.

Six drop-down menus on the Home Page help navigation through the site.

The About ERPPD section includes a map of the district, the names of its directors, its history, and back copies of this newsletter.

Within the Customer Service area, customers can report meter reading online, research various billing options, and print a handy outage checklist.

Under Energy, an Energy Audit header offers a variety of tools customers can use to better understand their personal energy usages. It also offers a kid's page, a variety of electric-use and energy-efficiency brochures, links to many useful energy websites, and a variety of energy calculators.

The Safety section is where the

number for Digger's Hotline is listed; it also has previews of ERPPD's safety demonstrations, a kid's safety page, and information on ground fault circuit interrupters and surge suppressors.

Links to local communities and area economic development groups are under Economic Development.

Irrigators can find information about ERPPD's load management program, in-season control status, and a handy irrigation calculator under the Irrigation Info. header.

Updated rate schedules shown in this issue

Rate increase in January

ERPPD rates have increased an average 7 percent overall. Actual amounts will vary based on customer usage and usage patterns. An outside rate consultant, Utility Financial Solutions, conducted independent cost-of-service and rate-impact studies to fix the proper rates for the various customer classes. He presented his findings and ERPPD's board approved these rates.

Updated rate schedules (for the most common classes) are listed in this newsletter. Rates for city customers *do not include* lease fees and Gross Revenue Tax, which are added to bills and returned to communities and counties as lease payments and GRT. The rates listed here are effective with meter readings submitted after Jan. 1.

Single Phase – Schedule A Farm, Residential, and Commercial

Rate: 1, 2, 3

Description: Available in rural territory.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.087/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
501+ kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Total Electric Heating Rider – Schedule H

Rate: Rider for Schedule A rates

Description: A rate available to customers where permanently installed space heating and water heating equipment is in regular use to supply the entire heating requirements of the normal living areas of the home.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.087/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
501 - 1000 kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
1001 - 5000 kWh per month	\$0.049/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
5001+ kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

About the Rates

- Type of service & schedule name
- Rate number
- Identifying details & characteristics
- Monthly charge
- Usage block
- Cost per kWh

kWh stands for kilowatt-hours in these rate charts. A **kWh** is a unit of energy equal to 1,000 watt-hours.

Example:
A 100-watt light bulb burning for 10 hours uses one kWh.

More rate schedules on pages 2 and 4

ERPPD RATE SCHEDULES

Three Phase – Schedule B Farm and Commercial General Service

Rate: 4, 5, 6, 19, 20

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$21.75	\$21.75
0 - 200 kWh per month	\$0.1025/kWh	\$0.1025/kWh
201 - 1100 kWh per month	\$0.087/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
1101+ kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Total Electric Heating Rider – Schedule H

Rate: Rider for Schedule B rates

Description: A rate available to customers where permanently installed space heating and water heating equipment is in regular use to supply the entire heating requirements of the normal living areas of the home.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$21.75	\$21.75
0 - 200 kWh per month	\$0.1025/kWh	\$0.1025/kWh
201 - 1100 kWh per month	\$0.087/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
1101 - 5100 kWh per month	\$0.049/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
5101+ kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Single Phase – Schedule R Residential (including Electric Heat)

Rate: 21, 22, 23

Description: Residential service within established rural subdivisions or trailer courts with 20 or more services and more than one service per transformer.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$11.50	\$11.50
0 - 175 kWh per month	\$0.096/kWh	\$0.096/kWh
176 - 600 kWh per month	\$0.066/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
601+ kWh per month	\$0.049/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Single & Three Phase – Schedule LP Large Power

Rate Classes: 61

Description: Demand Charge per kilowatt per month of maximum or billing demand. Subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment, if applicable. The minimum bill shall be the billing demand charge or the amount of billing demand contracted.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	Oct.-May \$47.00	June-Sept. \$47.00
Monthly Demand Charge	\$8.75/kW	\$12.90/kW
Energy Charge		
0 - 50,000 kWh per month	\$0.0425/kWh	\$0.0425/kWh
50,001+ kWh per month	\$0.0335/kWh	\$0.0335/kWh

NOTICE: Rates listed in this newsletter are effective with meter reading submitted to ERPPD after Jan. 1.

Not all ERPPD rates are presented in this newsletter.

Village & City Base Rates Residential (Including Electric Heat)

Rate: 50, 51, 52, 53, 91, 92, 93

Description: Does not include lease fees or Gross Revenue Tax.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$11.50	\$11.50
0 - 175 kWh per month	\$0.096/kWh	\$0.096/kWh
176 - 600 kWh per month	\$0.066/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
601+ kWh per month	\$0.049/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Commercial – General Service Demand

Rate: 29, 30, 44, 55

Description: Does not include lease fees or Gross Revenue Tax.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge		
Single phase	\$65.00	\$65.00
Three phase	\$75.00	\$75.00
Demand Charge	\$5.65/kW	\$7.20/kW
200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0405/kWh	\$0.0685/kWh
201+ kWh per kW month	\$0.0317/kWh	\$0.0416/kWh

Commercial – General Service – Single Phase

Rate: 56, 57

Description: Does not include lease fees or Gross Revenue Tax.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$18.50	\$18.50
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.087/kWh	\$0.087/kWh
501 + kWh per month	\$0.058/kWh	\$0.087/kWh

Commercial – Electric Space Heating – Demand

Rate: 24, 25, 58, 59

Description: Does not include lease fees or Gross Revenue Tax.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge		
Single phase	\$15.00	\$15.00
Three phase	\$21.75	\$21.75
Demand Charge	\$3.60/kW	\$5.90/kW
200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0456/kWh	\$0.0685/kWh
201+ kWh per kW month	\$0.033/kWh	\$0.048/kWh

Single Phase – Schedule ANN Stockwells, Cabins, Churches, & Seasonal

Rate Classes: 48, 80

Description: The annual minimum bill shall be paid in January of the year for service and all kWh shall be billed in December, except minimum bill for cabins shall be billed in October and kWh shall be billed in September of each year. Electric heat rider is not available on this schedule.

Rates	Annual
Minimum Bill/Year	\$144.00
0 - 3000 kWh	\$0.102/kWh
3001+ kWh	\$0.0677/kWh



ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES

Earn a rebate for installing an electric heat pump

How does a customer become eligible for a heat pump rebate?

Three possibilities exist. A residential customer can:

- 1.A. Convert to a qualified air source heat pump or
- 1.B. Convert to a water source/geothermal heat pump;
2. Build new and install a qualified heat pump; or
3. Upgrade from a lower-SEER heat pump to a qualified higher-SEER heat pump.

How does the residential customer get the rebate?

The heat pump installer must complete a verification form for a heat pump that meets the minimum equipment standards (see below). The verification ensures that the new unit is operating within 10% of manufacturer specifications. The dealer must sign the form; the customer must sign it; then it must be submitted to Mark Gronau at ERPPD.

Air Source Heat Pump Rebates

Energy Star, 14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200
Energy Star, 15 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$250
Energy Star, 16 SEER or higher, 8.2 HSPF	\$300

Water Source or Geothermal Heat Pump Rebate

Energy Star-qualified	\$400
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Commercial, industrial lighting get efficiency rebates

4-Step To-Do List

1. Discuss potential C&I Lighting projects and guidelines (at right) with ERPPD's Mark Gronau and get an application form. Call ERPPD at 800-675-2185.
2. Select a contractor; install any of the systems identified in the listing below.
3. After installation, complete the application form.
4. Within 90 days of installation, submit the signed application (along with copies of the proof-of-purchase identified in the application's terms & conditions) to Elkhorn Rural Public Power.

Guidelines

- All replaced/retrofitted lighting equipment must be permanently installed.
- Only commercial and industrial customers qualify for the energy-efficient fluorescent fixture incentives.
- All incentives sought that are \$5,000 or greater require a pre- and post-installation inspection to be conducted by Elkhorn Rural PPD.
- An equal number of lighting fixtures will be impacted when compared to the number of fixtures considered for retrofit or replacement. Only existing lighting systems qualify for upgrade. New construction or addition of more light fixtures in a facility or facility addition do not qualify.
- Area lighting may be metered or unmetered.
- Area lighting may be customer-owned or utility-owned via a rental/lease agreement.
- *A custom program is available if the prescriptive measures don't apply. Call ERPPD for specific details.*

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL LIGHTING REBATES		Per fixture
What does the customer have now?	What is the customer changing to?	Rebate
• High Bay Lighting Replace Metal Halide fixture	with Fluorescent High Bay fixture	\$50-\$75
• Exit Signs Replace or retrofit Incandescent Exit Sign	with LED Exit Sign	\$20
• 4-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting Replace or retrofit T12 fixture (w/ 2,3,4 lamps)	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$10-\$20
• 8-ft Fluorescent Tube Lighting Replace or retrofit any T12 fixture	with T8 and electronic ballast fixture	\$15
• Area Security Lighting Replace Mercury Vapor lamp	with comparable High Pressure Sodium	\$20-\$40

ABOUT ERPPD ACCOUNTS

Fee Schedule

Meter Deposit	\$150.00
Adjusted Deposit *	\$200.00
* \$200 or highest monthly electric charge, adjusted to nearest higher even dollar amount, during the past 12 months (whichever is greater)	
Late Read Penalty	\$2.00
Late Pay Penalty	\$5.00
Service Call	\$30.00
Reconnect Fee (during hours)	\$50.00
Reconnect Fee (after hours)	\$100.00
Insufficient Funds Check	\$20.00

ERPPD RATE SCHEDULES

Metal Halide, HPS, MV lights

Due to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and effective Jan. 1, 2008, mercury vapor (MV) lights and ballasts are no longer being manufactured in the U.S. As of Oct. 1, 2006, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has not installed MV security lights. Some states are mandating a removal date for all MV lights; Nebraska has not yet done so.

Energy charges OR rental fees for mercury vapor lights, which continue to operate, will be billed at the rate on the schedule at right. Rates for other types of bulbs are also listed.

If an existing MV security light fails, contact ERPPD, and ERPPD will convert the fixture to accommodate a high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp. ERPPD can provide information about converting to the new HPS prior to replacing it.

In brief, the monthly rental fee for HPS lamps will be higher than the MV lights, but they use fewer kWh than MV lights. For example, a 175-watt MV light averages 72 kWh/month, while the 100-watt HPS lamp averages 40 kWh/month, and the HPS lamp provides more lumens per fixture. *Therefore, the savings in kWh offset the increased rental fee.*

Security and Directional Lighting Rate and Fee Schedule

Rates	Energy Charges for Unmetered Lights	Rental Fees for Lights (Energy Included)
High-Pressure Sodium (HPS)		
100 watts	\$3.70	\$3.15
150 watts	\$4.95	\$3.20
250 watts	\$8.60	\$3.30
400 watts	\$13.15	\$4.45
Metal Halide (MH)		
400 watts	\$13.15	\$4.50
Mercury Vapor Light (MVL) <i>[No Longer Available for Installation]</i>		
175 watts	\$6.00	\$1.75
250 watts	\$8.60	\$2.00
400 watts	\$13.15	\$3.20

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 that 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 Battle Creek office, 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**