

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2010

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 19, Number 1

Updated rate schedules shown in this issue

Rate increase in January

ERPPD rates have increased an average 4.9% overall. Actual amounts will vary based on customer usage and usage patterns. An outside rate consultant, Mark Beauchamp of 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. Rate charts 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. These rates are effective on meter readings after Jan. 1 and will be seen on statements in February.

Single Phase – Schedule A Farm, Residential, and Commercial

Rate: 1, 2, 3
Description: Available in rural territory.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$16.00	\$16.00
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.090/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
501+ kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/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	\$16.00	\$16.00
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.090/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
501 - 1000 kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
1001 - 5000 kWh per month	\$0.0525/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
5001+ kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/kWh

About the Rates
Type of service & schedule name
Rate number
Identifying details & characteristics
Monthly charge
Usage rate blocks
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

How to use the enclosed information: The enclosed rate schedules should make it easy to compare your 2009 bill with what it could look like this year (depending on weather and usage patterns). If you kept last year's statement, find how much energy you used and how much it cost. When you figure your bill with these new rates, take your kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage from last year and figure it within the various new rate blocks. For example: If you used 1,200 kWh in a winter month, using 'Schedule H' above, take 500 kWh at \$0.09 (9 cents), the next 500 kWh at \$0.062 (6.2 cents), and the remaining 200 kWh at \$0.0525 (5.25 cents) for a total energy charge of \$86.50. Combine that with the monthly customer charge of \$16.00 and your total bill is \$102.50 (excluding all applicable taxes, late fees, or penalties.)

Tree trimming is preventive maintenance

ERPPD crews will be trimming trees this winter. Crews will be working in areas between Battle Creek and Norfolk, from just north of Enola to just south of Pierce, and areas north and south of Neligh to the borders of the service area.

Tree trimming helps reduce maintenance costs and can help reduce

the number and length of weather-related outages. If an ERPPD tree-trimming crew member knocks on your door, say "Yes" to maintaining reliable, dependable electric service.

ERPPD has had a tree trimming program in place since the 1980s.



ERPPD offers rebate to replace H₂O heater

A water-heater replacement incentive is being offered to residential customers who replace a gas or propane water heater with an electric water heater (no tankless) that has a 94 rating or better, the district will reimburse the customer up to \$50 of the purchase price.



ERPPD RATE SCHEDULES

Three Phase – Schedule B Farm and Commercial General Service

Rate: 4, 5, 6, 19, 20

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$22.50	\$22.50
0 - 200 kWh per month	\$0.103/kWh	\$0.103/kWh
201 - 1100 kWh per month	\$0.090/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
1101+ kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/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	\$22.50	\$22.50
0 - 200 kWh per month	\$0.103/kWh	\$0.103/kWh
201 - 1100 kWh per month	\$0.090/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
1101 - 5100 kWh per month	\$0.0525/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
5101+ kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/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	\$12.50	\$12.50
0 - 175 kWh per month	\$0.099/kWh	\$0.099/kWh
176 - 600 kWh per month	\$0.069/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
601+ kWh per month	\$0.0525/kWh	\$0.092/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 \$48.50	June-Sept. \$48.50
Monthly Demand Charge	\$9.05/kW	\$13.45/kW
Energy Charge		
0 - 50,000 kWh per month	\$0.0425/kWh	\$0.0425/kWh
50,001+ kWh per month	\$0.037/kWh	\$0.037/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	\$12.50	\$12.50
0 - 175 kWh per month	\$0.099/kWh	\$0.099/kWh
176 - 600 kWh per month	\$0.069/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
601+ kWh per month	\$0.0525/kWh	\$0.092/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	\$68.00	\$68.00
Three phase	\$78.00	\$78.00
Demand Charge	\$5.90/kW	\$7.50/kW
200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0425/kWh	\$0.071/kWh
201+ kWh per kW month	\$0.033/kWh	\$0.043/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	\$19.00	\$19.00
0 - 500 kWh per month	\$0.090/kWh	\$0.092/kWh
501 + kWh per month	\$0.062/kWh	\$0.092/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	\$16.00	\$16.00
Three phase	\$22.50	\$22.50
Demand Charge	\$4.00/kW	\$6.50/kW
200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.046/kWh	\$0.069/kWh
201+ kWh per kW month	\$0.036/kWh	\$0.052/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	\$158.40
0 - 3000 kWh	\$0.109/kWh
3001+ kWh	\$0.073/kWh



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%) gives the homeowner a choice of incentive OR loan (but not both). Contact ERPPD, then work with a local lender of your choice. This program works in conjunction with the local lender, the Nebraska Energy Office, and NPPD. *This program may be changing in 2010.*

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.



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 light fails, contact ERPPD, and ERPPD will continue to maintain it until parts are no longer available, OR the district can convert the fixture to accommodate a high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamp. ERPPD can provide information about converting to 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	\$3.85	\$3.25
150 watts	\$5.15	\$3.30
250 watts	\$8.95	\$3.45
400 watts	\$13.65	\$4.65
Metal Halide (MH)		
400 watts	\$13.65	\$4.70
Mercury Vapor Light (MVL)		
[No Longer Available for Installation]		
175 watts	\$6.20	\$1.85
250 watts	\$8.95	\$2.10
400 watts	\$13.65	\$3.35

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**