

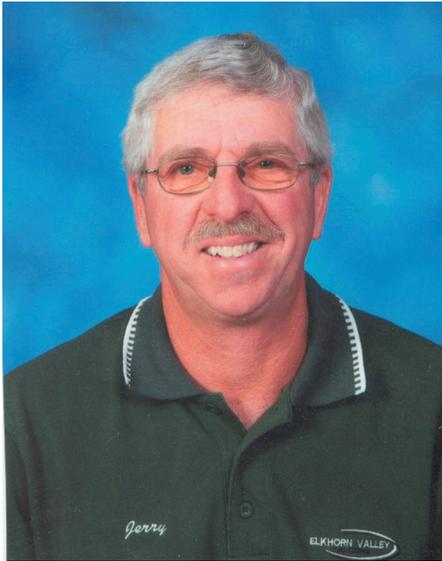
# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2011

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 20, Number 1



*Jerrell Dolesh*

## Jerrell Dolesh To Represent Subdivision II

Jerrell Dolesh of Tilden was elected in November to replace Robert Kee as a director from Subdivision II. Jerrell will be installed as a director at the January 11 regular monthly meeting. Subdivision II includes ERPPD territory in Pierce, Antelope, and Madison counties.

Jerrell and his wife Bonnie live north of Tilden, where they raise corn, soybeans, and alfalfa, and also have a 200-head layer flock of chickens. He has also driven a school bus for the Elkhorn Valley School for over 20 years. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Jerrell stays busy serving the community. He is presently chairman of the Battle Creek Farmers' Pride board, member of Progressive Nutrition board, director of the Nebraska Coop Council, Sec-Treas of Tilden Rural Fire Board, and member of the stewardship board of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Tilden.

He lists polka dancing, travel and sightseeing, bible study, visiting with people, and playing with his grandchildren as some of his favorites things to do.

Congratulations Jerrell, and welcome to the ERPPD family.

## What Is This Customer Charge/Minimum Charge/Horsepower Charge?

### What Does It Cover?

As you may notice in the rate schedules on the following pages, your electric bill is calculated using two separate components: customer (minimum) charge and energy charge (actual electricity used during the month).

The customer charge, also referred to as the horsepower charge for irrigation accounts, is a set amount to cover the fixed costs related to getting the electricity to the meter. It is designed to recover costs for the following:

- Substations, transformers, meters, poles, wire, vehicles, line trucks, aerial devices, trenchers, and other equipment necessary to build and maintain the electric distribution system, offices and warehouses.
- Labor and overhead to build, maintain and repair the system, process meter readings and prepare the bills;
- Costs of insurance, depreciation and interest on long-term debt.

ERPPD has a significant investment in each metering point, and needs to receive a return on this investment in order to maintain system reliability, safety and financial integrity. The concept of recovering these fixed costs with a customer charge provides rate equity among all consumers.

The customer charge could also be referred to as the minimum charge to keep a service in place. This charge is sometimes referred to as the 'access charge', or maintenance of the equipment necessary to provide energy (electricity) to the metering point.

# Updated rate schedules shown in this issue

## Rate increase in January

ERPPD rates have increased an average 6.5% 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

### Farm, Residential, Commercial, Cabins, Seasonal

Rate: 1, 2, 3

Description: Available in rural territory.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$17.00	\$17.00
First 500 kWh per month	\$0.0955/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/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	\$17.00	\$17.00
First 500 kWh per month	\$0.0955/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Next 500 kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Next 4000 kWh per month	\$0.0565/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/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 2011 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 \$0.0955 (9.55¢), the next 500 kWh at \$0.067 (6.7¢), and the remaining 200 kWh at \$0.0565 (5.25¢) for a total energy charge of \$92.55. Combine that with the monthly customer charge of \$17.00 and your total bill is \$109.55 (excluding all applicable taxes, late fees, or penalties.)

## ERPPD, SCPPD to present safety demo at Farm Show on Jan 12-13

Visit the Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show on Jan. 12-13 at Northeast Community College.

Elkhorn Rural and Stanton County public power districts will be teaming up to present several high-voltage safety demonstrations, which deal with the hazards of overhead power lines.

The demonstrations are scheduled throughout the two days of the show. They are real eye-openers, even for the most experienced electrical workers.

The portable model, which is owned by five public power districts in northeast Nebraska, is built on a flatbed trailer, using actual poles, transformers, and electrical equipment. The model uses an actual pole-mount transformer connected in reverse to change 240 volts to 7,200 volts for the demonstrations.

For more information on scheduling high-voltage safety demonstrations in your community, contact Wayne McCormick, Safety Director at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, by phone at 800-675-2185, or by email at [wmccormick@erppd.com](mailto:wmccormick@erppd.com).

## Energy Efficiency

### Month Tip of the

Feel around doors and windows for air flow. Adding weather stripping or caulk around a leaky door or window can lower energy bills by keeping your heating system from working too hard to compensate for air leaving your home.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



## Three Phase Farm and Commercial General Service

Rate: 4, 5, 6, 19, 20

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$23.50	\$23.50
First 200 kWh per month	\$0.1095/kWh	\$0.1095/kWh
Next 900 kWh per month	\$0.0955/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh

## Total Electric Heating Rider

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	\$23.50	\$23.50
First 200 kWh per month	\$0.1095/kWh	\$0.1095/kWh
Next 900 kWh per month	\$0.0955/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Next 4000 kWh per month	\$0.0565/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh

## Single Phase

### 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	\$13.50	\$13.50
First 175 kWh per month	\$0.1055/kWh	\$0.1055/kWh
Next 425 kWh per month	\$0.0755/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0565/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh

## Single & Three Phase

### 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 \$51.00	June-Sept. \$51.00
Monthly Demand Charge	\$9.60/kW	\$13.75/kW
Energy Charge		
First 50,000 kWh per month	\$0.0450/kWh	\$0.0450/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0395/kWh	\$0.0395/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

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

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$13.50	\$13.50
First 175 kWh per month	\$0.1055/kWh	\$0.1055/kWh
Next 425 kWh per month	\$0.0755/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0565/kWh	\$0.0965/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	\$71.75	\$71.75
Three phase	\$82.30	\$82.30
Demand Charge	\$6.35/kW	\$7.70/kW
First 200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0460/kWh	\$0.0730/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0355/kWh	\$0.0440/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
First 500 kWh per month	\$0.0955/kWh	\$0.0965/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0670/kWh	\$0.0965/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	\$17.00	\$17.00
Three phase	\$23.50	\$23.50
Demand Charge	\$4.35/kW	\$6.70/kW
First 200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0505/kWh	\$0.0715/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0390/kWh	\$0.0540/kWh

## Single Phase

### Stockwells

Rate Class: 80

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

Rates	Annual
Minimum Bill/Year	\$169.20
First 3000 kWh	\$0.1160/kWh
Excess kWh	\$0.0790/kWh



# 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	\$4.05	\$3.45
150 watts	\$5.45	\$3.50
250 watts	\$9.45	\$3.65
400 watts	\$14.40	\$4.90
Metal Halide (MH)		
400 watts	\$14.40	\$4.95
Mercury Vapor Light (MVL)		
<b>[No new MVLs can be installed]</b>		
175 watts	\$6.55	\$1.95
250 watts	\$9.45	\$2.20
400 watts	\$14.40	\$3.55

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

Rod Zohner	President.....II
Tim Means	Vice President ..II
Larry Lindahl	Secretary .....III
Dennis Kuchar	Treasurer .....I
Jerrell Dolesh	Director .....II
Mark Miller	Director .....I
Joe Thiele	Director .....III
Greg Weidner	Director .....I
David Hoefler	Director .....III

## 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](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto: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 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**