



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2012

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 21, Number 1

# Updated rate schedules shown in this issue

## Rate increase in January

ERPPD rates have increased an average 4.4% overall. The rate increase is due to a 6.5% increase in our wholesale power costs from NPPD, our power supplier.

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. His findings indicated a need for a 5.3% rate increase to cover the 6.5% increase in power costs.

However, ERPPD management and staff worked to trim the 2012 budget to lessen the impact on their customers, without impacting the reliability of the electrical system. Through this process, Mr. Beauchamp was able to recommend lowering the rate increase to the 4.4%.

Mr. Beauchamp presented his findings in December and ERPPD's board approved the average 4.4% rate increase, effective January 1, 2012. Actual individual customer percentages will vary based on total usage and usage patterns.

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 January 1<sup>st</sup> and will be reflected on the February 1<sup>st</sup> statement.

Rate schedules not presented in this newsletter can be viewed on our website at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com), under the Customer Service tab.

### Single Phase

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

Rate: 1, 2, 3

Description: Available in rural territory.

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$19.00	\$19.00
First 500 kWh per month	\$0.0980/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/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	\$19.00	\$19.00
First 500 kWh per month	\$0.0980/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Next 500 kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Next 4000 kWh per month	\$0.0600/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/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 3**

**How to use the enclosed information:** The enclosed rate schedules should make it easy to compare your 2012 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 \$0.0980 (9.80¢), the next 500 kWh at \$0.069 (6.9¢), and the remaining 200 kWh at \$0.0600 (6.0¢) for a total energy charge of \$92.55. Combine that with the monthly customer charge of \$19.00 and your total bill is \$114.50 (excluding all applicable taxes, late fees, or penalties.)

## Notice to Irrigators

We are planning to host two informational meetings, one at the Battle Creek office on February 21, and another in Clearwater at the Legion Club on February 22. The meetings will begin at 9:30 am and will conclude before noon.

Topics to be discussed include load management, irrigation pumping list, advantages of power factor corrective capacitors, and a demonstration of the irrigation cost comparison calculator.

Watch your mail for an invitation giving the exact details and a full agenda.

# ABOUT ERPPD ACCOUNTS

## Fee Schedule

Meter Deposit	\$200.00
Adjusted Deposit *	\$300.00
*If customer previously left with a bad debt or was disconnected for non-payment.	
Late Pay Penalty**	\$10.00,
**or 5%, whichever is greater	
Service Call	\$50.00
Reconnect Fee (during hours)	\$50.00
Reconnect Fee (after hours)	\$100.00
Insufficient Funds	
Check Fee	\$20.00
Credit Card Fee	2.45%
(convenience fee-% of bill)	
E-check Fee	60¢
(per transaction)	
Idle Service Annual Fees	
Single-phase	\$7.00/pole
Three-phase	\$8.00/pole
Minimum	\$24.00/year

# 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	\$4.15	\$3.55
150 watts	\$5.60	\$3.60
250 watts	\$9.70	\$3.75
400 watts	\$14.75	\$5.00
Metal Halide (MH)		
400 watts	\$14.75	\$5.05
Mercury Vapor Light (MVL)		
<b>[No Longer Available for Installation]</b>		
175 watts	\$6.70	\$2.00
250 watts	\$9.70	\$2.25
400 watts	\$14.75	\$3.65

## 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.

# ERPPD RATE SCHEDULES

## Three Phase

### Farm and Commercial General Service

Rate: 4, 5, 6, 19, 20

Rates	Winter	Summer
Monthly Customer Charge	\$25.50	\$25.50
First 200 kWh per month	\$0.1175/kWh	\$0.1175/kWh
Next 900 kWh per month	\$0.0980/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/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	\$25.50	\$25.50
First 200 kWh per month	\$0.1175/kWh	\$0.1175/kWh
Next 900 kWh per month	\$0.0980/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Next 4000 kWh per month	\$0.0600/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/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	\$14.25	\$14.25
First 175 kWh per month	\$0.1125/kWh	\$0.1125/kWh
Next 425 kWh per month	\$0.0805/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0600/kWh	\$0.0990/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 \$54.00	June-Sept. \$54.00
Monthly Demand Charge	\$10.40/kW	\$13.95/kW
Energy Charge		
First 50,000 kWh per month	\$0.0470/kWh	\$0.0470/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0420/kWh	\$0.0420/kWh

## 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	\$14.25	\$14.25
First 175 kWh per month	\$0.1125/kWh	\$0.1125/kWh
Next 425 kWh per month	\$0.0805/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0600/kWh	\$0.0990/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	\$6.75/kW	\$7.80/kW
First 200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0490/kWh	\$0.0740/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0380/kWh	\$0.0450/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	\$0.0980/kWh	\$0.0990/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0690/kWh	\$0.0990/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	\$19.00	\$19.00
Three phase	\$25.50	\$25.50
Demand Charge	\$4.75/kW	\$6.80/kW
First 200 kWh per kW per month	\$0.0550/kWh	\$0.0725/kWh
Excess kWh per month	\$0.0425/kWh	\$0.0550/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	\$180.00
First 3000 kWh	\$0.1210/kWh
Excess kWh	\$0.0810/kWh

# ERPPD, SCPPD to present safety demo at Farm Show on January 12-13, 2012



Photo showing high-voltage demonstration for Madison County employees.

## 12-13, 2012

Visit the Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show on January 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*

Switch to energy-saving halogen incandescent lightbulbs to cut lighting energy use by 25 percent. These bulbs last three times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs and can easily be dimmed. Want to save more? Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) cut lighting energy use by at least 75 percent. Learn more at [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

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Vice President ..II
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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. 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**