

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

January 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 1

## Grassroots Take Action Alert

Thank you to all who responded to the Take Action Alert, and submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding a proposed rule that would effectively stop the construction of new coal fired power plants. Nearly 2,500 Nebraska rural electric customers, including 250 from Elkhorn RPPD, responded to the alert and submitted comments to the EPA.

The rule would put such stringent limits on CO2 emissions, that there is no viable technology available today for plants to be able to comply.

President Obama promised to take an 'all of the above' strategy to energy, but this rule is an 'all but one' strategy.

We do not know what the final outcome of the EPA proposed rule will be, but we will do everything in our power to fight for Safe, Reliable, and Cost-Effective electricity for ALL customers.

The comment period is now over, but you can be a part of our Grassroots program and participate in future Take Action Alerts. Follow the following prompts:

- Go to [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)
- Click on the 'GRASSROOTS-JOIN OUR TEAM' button to open the NREA grassroots page
- Click on the 'Join our Grassroots Team' link, located at the top of the list at the right of the screen
- Follow the prompts to enter your contact information

Please consider being a part of our Grassroots action team to help keep our electricity reliable and cost-effective.

Please call our office at 1-800-675-2185 and ask for Wayne McCormick, ERPPD Grassroots Coordinator, if you have any questions about the Grassroots program or about the Take Action Alerts.

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District**  
**January 2014**



*ERPPD Assistant Manager Wayne McCormick (right) receiving the NREA Good Neighbor award from NREA General Manager Troy Bredenkamp*

## Wayne McCormick is Recipient of The NREA Good Neighbor Award

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's Assistant Manager, Wayne McCormick, was honored with the Good Neighbor Award at the Nebraska Rural Electric Association annual meeting on December 5, 2013 in Kearney. The Good Neighbor Award program is designed to recognize individuals for outstanding contributions to their electric system, community, or state.

This award is presented annually by the association to an individual or individuals for the recognition of acts of community service, the saving of a life, disaster relief, or other appropriate acts of heroism, service, or humanitarianism. Wayne was selected by the committee to receive the award in recognition of his many years of service to his community; particularly his work during community crises, youth activities, church activities, and also his steadfast dedication to Elkhorn Rural Public Power District over the years.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Wayne for his many contributions and a congratulations on receiving The Good Neighbor Award.

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# ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

## 2014 Energy Efficiency Incentive Program

### Residential

• LED Light Bulbs	Upgrading to LED	\$5.00 per bulb, up to 10 bulbs
• Cooling System Tune-up	A/C or Heat pump tune-up	\$30
• Dealer Incentive		\$50
• Low Flow Showerheads	Complimentary for electric water heaters	up to \$10/head reimbursed
• Low Interest Loan (NEO)	Loans for residential heat pumps	2.5%
• Attic Insulation	Attic insulation (all-electric homes)	\$0.15/sq. ft. (up to 2,000 sq. ft.)
• Residential Heat Pump	<b><i>(incentive is doubled if the heat pump replaces an air conditioner)</i></b>	
	14 SEER, 8.2 HSPF	\$200
	15 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
	16+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$600
	Ground Source HP-any EER	\$1,200
	Variable Capacity Ground Source HP	\$1,700
	Outdoor HP unit only (14 SEER min)	\$100

### Commercial/Industrial

For commercial and industrial incentive information, contact our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau, at 1-800-675-2185. The incentives for the following categories depend on the size and the efficiencies of the equipment installed:

- Commercial HVAC
- HVAC System Optimization
- Dusk-to-Dawn (LED) Lighting
- Custom Process-Lighting
- Lighting
- Variable Frequency Drives

### Agricultural

- Irrigation Pump Efficiency Program Contracted pump efficiency test Up to \$350
- Irrigation Pump Efficiency Program Calculated on pre and post tests (call Mark Gronau at 1-800-675-2185 for details)



**SET YOUR THERMOSTAT TO SAVE**

You don't have to freeze in the winter or sweat in the summer to save money on your energy bill. Install a programmable thermostat and set temperatures based on your daily routines. This simple switch could lower your energy bill by up to 33 percent.

For more energy-saving tips, contact Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative, at our office at 1-800-675-2185

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Fighting winter chills? A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill. To cool energy costs, keep the fireplace damper closed when not in use. Caulk around the fireplace hearth. Double up on wood-earned warmth by lowering the thermostat setting to between 50 degrees and 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at [www.energysaver.gov](http://www.energysaver.gov).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# SAFETY NEWS

## ERPPD, SCPPD to present safety demo at Farm Show on January 15-16, 2013



*Photo showing high-voltage demonstration for Madison County employees.*

Visit the Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show on January 15-16 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).

# OPERATIONS NEWS

## Major Construction Projects Budgeted for 2014

Following are the major construction projects planned for 2014. The projects are part of our 5-year system improvement plan, and are included in the 2014 budget, which was approved in December, 2013.

- Install automatic meters on the pasture pump services. This will complete the automatic meter reading project, which was started in 2009 to improve customer service and reduce the expenses of the district.
- Rebuild aging distribution line. This is part of an ongoing plan to improve the reliability of the system.
- Upgrade aging underground primary in Woodland Park. This is a continuation of a project started in 2013. The underground wire scheduled for replacement was installed nearly 40 years ago and is starting to fail in random spots.
- Convert Village of Clearwater electrical system from 2,400 volts to 7,200 volts. This will match the rural electric system and will allow ERPPD personnel to interconnect the two systems for emergency backup.
- Convert Clearwater Substation to 69,000/7,200 volts. This is a part of the Clearwater electrical system conversion.
- Construct a new substation, sub 28, southeast of Orchard. This will cover the expanded growth of irrigation services in that area.
- Construct seven miles of 69kv transmission line for new substation, including three miles of 3-phase underbuild
- Construct one mile of 3-phase line east out of sub 7, which is located southeast of Tilden
- Add electronic breakers in three of our substations to take care of additional load in the areas north of Clearwater, south of Norfolk, and north of Tilden.
- Another major project over the next two years will be relocating our distribution lines as necessary to make way for the NPPD 345kv (345,000 volt) transmission line from Hoskins to Neligh. ERPPD will be reimbursed for all the costs of this project. This project is very important to ERPPD and its customers as it will provide the necessary increase in electric capacity for us to resume adding electric irrigation services.

# IRRIGATION NEWS

## Power Factor Corrective Capacitor FAQs

We have fielded numerous calls about power factor corrective capacitors (PFCCs), and decided to address the most commonly asked questions in the following list of frequently asked questions (FAQs)

- What size PFCC do I need? Your electrician should be able to answer this question, but we have included a generic chart at the right for approximation purposes. The actual size needed depends on the efficiency of the motor, the voltage, and the amperage.
- What do they look like? Figure 1 at the right is a picture of a PFCC, Figure 2 is a picture of one of the capacitors in the unit.
- Where can I buy them? Most electricians carry them, or they can order them for you if they do not have any on hand.
- Who can install them? It is recommended that they should be installed by a licensed electrician.
- What is the deadline for installation to avoid the \$3.00 per horsepower fee? PFCCs must be installed and operating by June 1, 2014, to avoid the fees for 2014 and beyond.

If you have any other questions regarding the power factor corrective capacitors, please call our office at 1-800-675-2185.



**Figure 2:**  
*Typical  
Capacitor*

**Figure 1:** *Typical Power Factor Corrective Capacitor unit, which contains a bank of 3 or 6 capacitors*

<u>Motor Size</u>	<u>PFCC Size</u>
50 hp	17.5 kvar
60 hp	20 kvar
75 hp	25 kvar
100 hp	33 kvar
101 hp & above	Soft Start or VFD's

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

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Director ..... I  
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Director .....III  
Greg Weidner  
Director ..... I  
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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**