

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

July 2010

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 19, Number 7

Students to represent ERPPD at Youth Camp



Kami Hackerott



Cole Freudenburg



Katie Dusel



T.J. Rader

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will sponsor four area students to the 2010 Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Camp. The event is held annually at the State 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest west of Halsey, Neb. This year's camp will be July 19 through July 23.

Those from the area attending will be: Kami Hackerott of Humphrey St. Francis High School; Cole Freudenburg of Madison High School; Katie Dusel of Elkhorn Valley High School; and T.J. Rader of Battle Creek High School.

Campers are treated to educational sessions on electric safety, energy efficiency, and public power in Nebraska. They

visit the Gerald Gentleman coal-fired generating facility near Sutherland, Neb., and the Kingsley hydroelectric station at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala, Neb.

Campers also have an opportunity to compete for a trip to Washington, DC, for the 2011 National Rural Electric Youth Tour sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, or to represent ERPPD on the Youth Tour.

And, above all, they enjoy a great time with other high school students from across the state.

Independence Day Observance July 5

ERPPD offices will be closed on Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.

In case of an outage, please call 1-800-675-2185.

Notice to Irrigators: Monday, July 5, will be eligible for control hours.



Did You Know ERPPD Is On The Web?

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's web site is located at www.erppd.com

The web site contains links to valuable information on safety, energy efficiency, irrigation information, safety and energy pages for kids, customer service, submit meter readings, etc.

ELKHORN RIVER FLOOD-2010



South of Neligh on Airport Road



Elkhorn River northeast of Tilden



County road north of Battle Creek



Bridge north of Meadow Grove

2010 Elkhorn River Flood

2010 will be remembered as the year the Elkhorn River flood made its way from the west, cutting through the heart of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's service territory. The flood waters caused tremendous damage to residences, farm land, roads, and ERPPD poles and lines, up and down the river bottom. Many bridges were washed out, making it tough for crews to respond to trouble calls. The river also changed its course in some areas, which may force the relocation of ERPPD power lines.

Heavy rains in the western reaches of the Elkhorn River watershed combined with rains within the district to raise the river levels to record flood levels. Volunteers worked many hours trying to save homes from the floodwaters, some in vain, but others were saved.

ERPPD officials are busy assessing and repairing the damage to their equipment and facilities, and will be ready to submit a summary of damages to the Nebraska and Federal Emergency Management Agencies. ERPPD became eligible for some percentage of repair assistance as soon as Governor Heineman declared several area counties as disaster areas.

ENERGY TIP

Are you wasting your money on

DIRT?

Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.



How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

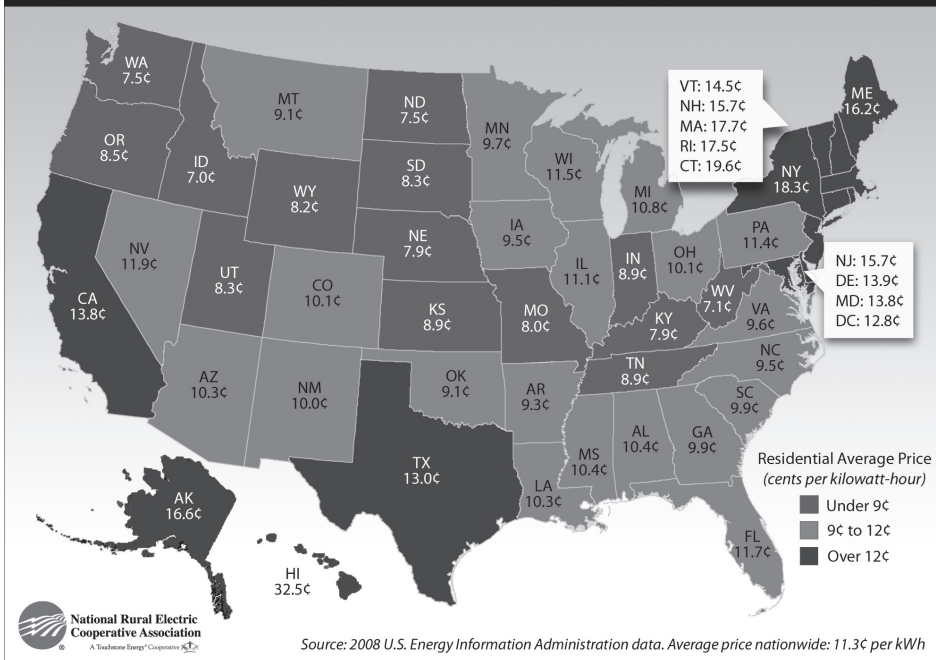
To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy



Average Prices for Residential Electricity (2008 figures, in cents per kWh)



Your Summer Job: Keep Electric Bills Affordable

School's out, vacations are under way, and the heat of summer seems as if it will never end. This is also the time of year when some pretty important folks return home for a visit. Members of Congress, such as Congressmen Jeff Fortenberry and Adrian Smith, and Senators Mike Johanns and Ben Nelson, will be traveling throughout our area and state, asking for your thoughts on various pieces of legislation being considered in our nation's capital.

One major concern for public power districts—energy and climate change policy—has returned to the front burner. Legislation on this subject was introduced in the U.S. Senate in April, and co-ops across the country are studying it to see what it might mean for your electric bill.

At the same time, unelected bureaucrats at the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency (EPA) are moving ahead with efforts to regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from power plants using the federal Clean Air Act—something the law was never designed to do. One of the main authors of the Clean Air Act, U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), has warned that applying the measure to establish federal oversight of carbon dioxide—which goes against the original intent of Congress—will result in a “glorious mess.”

It's too early to know for certain if Congress will take up this issue—very few legislative days are still scheduled for this session. But know this: those of us at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, along with more than 900 electric co-ops and public power districts across the country, are reminding lawmakers that whatever they do, we will judge their action or inaction on whether or not your electric bills remain affordable.

The bottom line is that any decision made by Congress—even the decision of taking no action and allowing EPA to proceed on its regulatory path—will have some impact on your electric bills.

And this impact comes on top of other pressures—including increased fuel and material costs—that are forcing electric bills higher. Rest assured that your local public power leadership—directors and staff—are doing what we can keep these cost increases constrained.

But we need your help. During the congressional break this summer, I urge you to talk to your U.S. representative and senators about your electric bill. Make sure they understand what higher bills will do to your family's budget. I don't know about you, but for my family every penny counts, especially at a time when our economy has been hit so hard.

More than 526,000 folks across rural America have already let their members of Congress know where they stand on energy and climate change legislation through the Our Energy, Our Future® grassroots campaign. These voices have formed a powerful chorus on the need for keeping electric bills affordable as debate on the issue unfolds.

If you haven't done so, please consider adding your voice to this national dialogue at www.ourenergy.coop, or contact our office and we will send you a postcard to help you get signed up for the dialogue with your elected representatives.

The message to Congress needs to stress that any action on energy issues should satisfy three criteria:

- Fair
- Affordable
- Achievable

Will we have the affordable electricity we need in the future?



Our Energy, Our Future

A Dialogue With America

Start the dialogue with your

elected officials at:

www.OurEnergy.coop

or contact our office for a postcard to get signed up.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

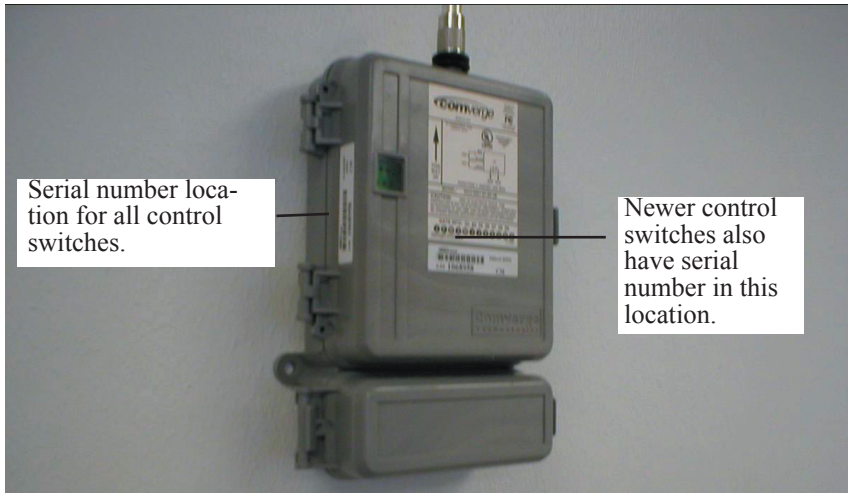
IRRIGATION

Irrigator's switch number is important

This irrigation season, an ERPPD irrigator who has occasion to call the utility should reference the system's switch number when giving information.

While account number and location are necessary components, it is the switch number that will best help district personnel to provide the irrigator with the fastest resolution to his or her situation.

See illustration below for location examples:



ERPPD Employee Honored

Garland Goracke of Meadow Grove, warehouse clerk for ERPPD, was recently presented an award for outstanding

Garland Goracke community service.

Garland received the Firemanship Award during the opening ceremony at the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association Fire School, which was held May 21 in Grand island.

Garland is the Fire Chief of the Meadow Grove Volunteer Fire Department and is also a member of the Battle Creek Fire and Rescue.

Congratulations Garland, and thank you for your dedicated service.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
with Board position and subdivision

Rod Zohner
President.....II

Tim Means
Vice President ..II

Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII

Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I

Robert Kee
DirectorII

Mark Miller
Director I

Joe Thiele
DirectorIII

Greg Weidner
Director I

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. 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