

THE WIRE

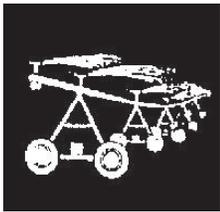
CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2011

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 20, Number 6

AMR Will Verify Irrigation Load Control



The irrigation load control department personnel will be utilizing our newly installed automatic meter reading (AMR) equipment to assist in its load management program.

During periods of high system demand peaks, ERPPD personnel will be controlling irrigation wells to manage the system load. They will then

utilize the AMR system to verify that the control switches operated correctly to shut off the irrigation wells. If the AMR system shows that a well is still running after a control has been issued, ERPPD personnel will be dispatched to that location to check the control switch. Control switches may fail for a number of reasons, including lightning, component failures, etc.

If it is found that the control switch is working properly, but the switch has been bypassed, proper action will be taken to correct the situation per our policy #3230-Violation of Pumping Schedule.

By having the ability to verify the load control switches on a daily basis,

ERPPD has the potential to better handle (deal with) our system load which in turn will allow us to better control rates.

Online Payment Security Measures

Here at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, we take the privacy of your personal information very seriously.



We have implemented several levels of security to insure that your personal account information does not fall into the wrong hands.

Our online payment system is no different, so as an added measure of security, we must have your valid email address and social security number on file in our customer information system in order to set up your online billing and view bill account.

As part of our security measures, once your social security number is entered into the system, our employees will only be able to view the last four digits.

On one hand, we apologize that you must jump through several hoops to set up an online payment account, however, we feel the extra effort to protect your personal information is well worth the time investment.

Visit our website at www.erppd.com, or call our office at 1-800-675-2185 during regular office hours to set up your online account.

NECC Utility Line Interns Help ERPPD During Summer Months



Brad Doffin



Justin Schmidt

A cooperative internship program between Northeast Community College's Utility Line Program and the state's public power districts will allow two students to gain practical, on-the-job training at Elkhorn Rural PPD during the summer.

Brad Doffin of Winside and Justin Schmidt of Norfolk, will spend their summer days working with ERPPD

line crews. They will be doing a variety of utility functions as well as filling in for full-time employees who take their vacations during the summer. Brad and Justin will be assisting crews from the Battle Creek headquarters.

ERPPD usually employs two or three NECC utility line students for summer help. Since 1974 (the first graduating class of the Utility Line Program), 23 current employees have been hired after earning their associates degrees at NECC.

Both of this year's summer interns will begin the second year of the two-year program when classes resume this fall.



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

S&L To Test Poles

As part of ERPPD's continued commitment to provide reliable service, S&L Pole Testing, Inc., will inspect about 3,200 distribution poles, many of which were last inspected in 1996 and 1997. The process will begin sometime in June. For your peace of mind, S&L vehicles working in the area will be marked with the S&L Pole Testing, Inc. emblem.

ERPPD began testing poles in the mid-1970s and completed the first inspection of the district's 2,500 miles of line in 1995. The program helps find weak links in the distribution system which, after completing any needed maintenance work, has resulted in fewer outages because of faulty poles. ERPPD's present goal is to test enough poles each year to cover the entire district every 15 years.

This year, contractors will be testing poles in the following areas: west

and northwest of Elgin up to north of Clearwater, south and southwest of Battle Creek, and east and south of Norfolk.

Testing occurs as follows:

1. Check pole's age; test any older than 15 years.
2. Dig down about 18 inches all around the pole.
3. Pole is "sounded" with a hammer.
4. Pole is drilled in four spots to check the core.
5. Pole is treated at ground level and holes are filled with treatment rod.
6. Each pole is passed/rejected and its condition recorded.
7. A work order is made for ERPPD crews to replace rejected poles.

Call 1-800-675-2185 if you have questions about the pole inspection operation.

ENERGY NEWS

Energy for the Future

The license for Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to operate its Cooper Nuclear Station is extended to the year 2034. The additional 20 years ensures power for the future economic growth of Nebraska.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently renewed the operating license for NPPD's Cooper Nuclear Station, located south of Brownville, Neb.

When operations began at CNS in 1974, the facility was granted a 40-year operating license, which was set to expire on Jan 18, 2014. The license renewal extends the facility's operating life to 2034.

The process for the license extension

took 26 months to complete, following NPPD's formal application to the NRC in September of 2008. Planning for the license renewal application began much earlier with initial work started during the summer of 2005. Overall, the project took approximately five-and-a-half years to complete. The license includes several conditions and requirements that NPPD will perform to ensure the plant continues to operate safely.

Granting of the license renewal by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from 2014 to 2034 provides a clean, reliable source of electricity for Nebraska for years to come.

Congratulations to NPPD and its staff for successfully meeting all the requirements for license renewal.

ABOUT ERPPD ACCOUNTS

ACH Bill

Payment Option

If you are looking for an easy, convenient way to pay your electric bill, we have an option you may want to try. The option is called ACH (automatic clearing house) payment.

You may have used this service before to pay insurance premiums or other monthly bills, but have you considered using the service to pay your electric bill? It is easy to set up, and you would never have to worry about late or missed payments. Our CSR's will assist you in making sure your bill is paid on time every month.

You will receive a monthly statement so you will know exactly how much is going to be automatically withdrawn from you checking or savings account with no transaction fees. We also have an ACH option that charges your monthly bill to your credit/debit card. There is a 2.45% convenience for credit/debit card transactions.

Call one of our customer service representatives and they will help you get set up with a convenient ACH payment.

Energy Efficiency

Month Tip of the

Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped, and clean the filter monthly. Keep "fresh air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives



SAFETY NEWS

Plant Seeds of Safety around Irrigation Equipment

Aluminum irrigation pipes are perfect conduits for delivering water to dry crops, but they also are capable of conducting electricity with deadly results. Safe Electricity advises owners and operators of irrigation equipment to beware of potential hazards:

- Avoid moving irrigation equipment on windy days when pipes could be blown into nearby power lines. Keep pipes horizontal with the ground rather than vertical to minimize the risk of contact with power lines.
- Lengthy aluminum pipe should not be stored near overhead power lines. Handling and assembling them can jeopardize the safety of anyone at that location.
- If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away from the pipe, and call your local electric utility for help.
- Keep vertical or horizontal sprays of water from irrigation systems away from overhead power lines. Because water is an excellent conductor of electricity, a stream of water reaching non-insulated wires will become the path for the deadly voltage and can energize the entire irrigation system.
- Make sure that irrigation system wiring is properly grounded. Before the start of each irrigation season, have a qualified electrician check the pump and wiring.
- Stay away from the piping during any lightning activity. Install lightning arresters to protect your equipment.

Learn more about irrigation system safety at www.SafeElectricity.org



ERPPD Personnel Assist In Vehicle Accident Rescue



Rescue personnel assessing scene safety

Elkhorn RPPD personnel assisted rescue personnel to help avoid a serious accident from turning into something much worse. Two members of the Battle Creek Rescue Squad dispatched to the accident were also ERPPD linemen. When they arrived at the scene, they found that a pickup had broken a pole. The pickup was lying on its top and was in contact with three of the four wires. The passengers were trapped inside the vehicle, which

probably saved their lives, because the fourth wire, which was still energized at 7,200 volts, was still attached to the crossarm and was hanging within a few feet of the pickup.

The linemen/rescue workers called our outage personnel to get them enroute. They were able to direct the outage crew to open the breakers to deenergize the lines before driving to the accident scene. After arriving at the



Rescue personnel waiting for ERPPD crew to de-energize line

accident the outage personnel installed grounds on the lines which allowed rescue personnel to begin extraction of the driver and passengers.

If you are ever involved in an accident



Line de-energized and grounded for the safety of rescue personnel

involving high-voltage power lines, you should stay in your vehicle. If it catches on fire, you can exit by jumping clear of the vehicle and landing with both feet together and then bunny-hop or shuffle away from the vehicle.

When help arrives, warn any rescuers about the danger and have them call 911. The 911 operator will call the power company to shut off the power.

Thank you to our personnel who volunteer their time to the local fire and rescue teams. Their knowledge of the electrical system can and has saved precious minutes on both fire and rescue calls. Our personnel volunteer in Battle Creek, Meadow Grove, and Neligh.



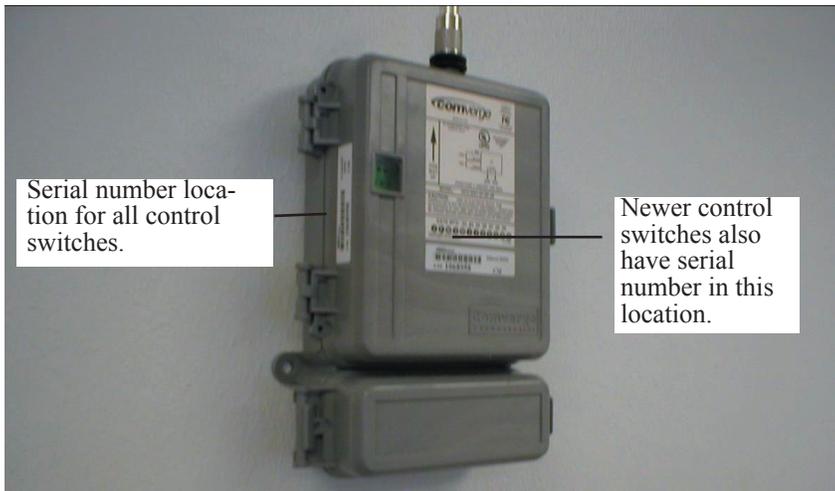
IRRIGATION

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:



Serial number location for all control switches.

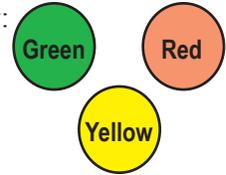
Newer control switches also have serial number in this location.

Lights have meaning

Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

- Red - No Control
- Red and Green - Control
- Yellow - Signal Test (has no effect)

The light configuration on the display appears this way:



If the lights are not working, please check the fuses before calling ERPPD's outage number at 800-675-2185.

Check on Irrigation Control Status

—
June 1-Sept. 15
—

Phone: 1-800-238-0185
OR

Internet: www.erppd.com
(click on "Irrigation Control")

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
TreasurerI
- Jerrell Dolesh
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. 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