

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2012

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 21, Number 6

NECC and Omaha Metro CC Utility Line Interns At ERPPD During Summer Months



Derek Hamik



Dexter Kalin



Garrett Rockey

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

Dexter Kalin and Garrett Rockey, both of Norfolk, students at MCC, and Derek Hamik of O'Neill, a student at NECC will spend their summer days working with ERPPD line crews. They will be doing a variety of utility func-

tions, gaining valuable experience in the utility line industry.

Dexter and Garrett will be assisting crews from the Battle Creek headquarters, and Derek will be assisting crews from our Neligh outpost.

ERPPD usually employs two or three utility line students for summer help.

The internship program is a Win-Win program. It gives the students experience, and they provide added labor force during our peak construction season at minimum cost. The program is part of the curriculum of both schools, and a requirement for graduation.



Jim Ridder (left) receiving his Management Essentials certificate from board president Rod Zohner

Jim Ridder Earns Management Essentials Certificate

Jim Ridder, Operations Manager for Elkhorn RPPD, recently earned the Management Essentials certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Education and Training program. The Management Essentials program develops people skills that managers and supervisors need to improve employee performance. Jim successfully completed classes equivalent to seven credit hours.

The certificate was presented to Jim by Rod Zohner, ERPPD board president, at the regular April board meeting.

We congratulate Jim on his completion of the Management Essentials program, and thank him for his hard work and dedication.



**Independence Day
is Wednesday, July 4.**

ERPPD Offices *will be closed* as our employees and their families remember the day our American forefathers first made their Declaration of Independence.

ENERGYWISE
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Contact us for more information.

Contact: Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative
Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
1-800-675-2185

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

Tree and Brush Control

Evidence for the need to control growth of trees along power line rights-of-way is easy to see in rural areas. Overgrown rights-of-way can cause problems during severe weather and can make it difficult to reach trouble spots to make repairs.

In a continuing effort to control tree and brush growth, ERPPD has contracted with Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc. to treat vegetation in power line rights-of-way with governmentally-approved herbicides. They will start the program in July, using the foliage herbicides of Krenite S and Escort, which are foliage absorbed and are non-volatile. The herbicides will be applied with a hand-held nozzle. Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc, will follow up in the fall with a basal treatment, using Tahoe 4E, Stalker, and basal oil to treat the areas they could not foliage spray. Growth in county road ditches will be sprayed, but if the Midwest crew has any questions, they will attempt to contact the landowner before spraying.

Starting in mid-July, Midwest Spray Team crews will be treating power line rights-of-way in our service area from southwest to southeast of Clearwater.

If you have any questions or concerns or requests not to spray, contact ERPPD Operations Manager Jim Ridder at our Battle Creek office, 1-800-675-2185.

You can also contact Midwest Spray Team by mail at:
Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc
PO Box 65668
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Tree and brush control is yet another way that ERPPD can attain our goals of service reliability and cost management.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dish washers and dryers late in the evening to keep the heat from affecting your comfort. Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, televisions, and any appliances when you are not using them. Learn more ways to save at erppd.com.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

OPERATIONS REPORT



Temporary Miller Substation, built in 2004 and retired in 2012



Permanent Miller Substation, built in 2012 and ready to serve the future needs of the area.

Miller Substation Online

ERPPD is proud to announce that the new Miller Substation (Sub 71-25), located 3 miles east of Ewing on the Summerland Road, has been completed and is ready for the summer load to pick up. There has been a substation at the location since 2004, but it was a temporary wooden substation, built to meet all safety and operational specifications, but did not have the life expectancy of a steel and concrete substation.

In 2002-2004, it was determined that a substation was necessary in the area due to load growth. However, it was unclear how much and exactly where the load was going to be concentrated. Several locations were proposed and studied. The present location was deemed to require the least amount of line build for connectivity. The owner of the property, Walter Miller, was contacted and was very gracious and allowed ERPPD to construct the temporary substation, with only a short-term lease, until the area was developed more fully and the optimum load center could be determined.

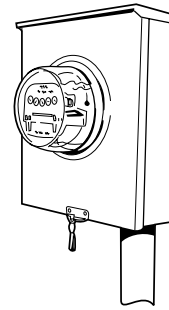
After the engineering studies were completed in 2010, the original location turned out to be the actual load center for the area. The land was purchased, and the substation was included in the 2012 budget. Construction bids were solicited in the fall of 2011 and Watts Electric Co of Waverly, Nebraska was chosen as the contractor for the project.

ERPPD crews switched customers to other area substations and proceeded to de-energize and dismantle the temporary sub in January of 2012. Construction on the sub began in February and the sub was completed in mid-May. The sub was energized on May 17 and customers were switched back on May 18.

The new substation includes a larger transformer to accommodate additional electrical needs of the area, along with new and improved voltage regulators, electronic breakers, and more sophisticated diagnostic capabilities. A new, heavier distribution line was also constructed out of the sub to handle the peak usage.

This project is another example that fits our mission statement: "ERPPD is dedicated to providing SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers.

AMI-One Year Later



One year ago, ERPPD rural customers were able to enjoy the benefits of automatic meter reading that customers in our communities have enjoyed for 10 years or so. That is, not having to go outside in all kinds of weather to

read their meter and then submit the meter reading to our office.

The system installed in the rural areas is referred to as an AMI (automatic meter infrastructure) system. The system offers extra benefits not available to simple AMR (automatic meter reading) systems, which are limited to just reading the meter.

Besides meter reading, an AMI system allows the utility to check the voltage at an individual services to determine the extent of an outage, or to check for power at an individual service following a outage. These checks can be done within a matter of minutes, and has already saved many miles of driving and numerous phone calls.

An AMI system also records the maximum usage and when it occurs, so that customers may get a better understanding of their usage patterns. This knowledge can help customers become more energy-efficient and save money in the process.

There are still a few meters, stockwells in particular, that do not have automatic meters, but those are in the budget to be installed in 2014.

Please call the office at 800-675-2185 if you have any questions about our AMI system.

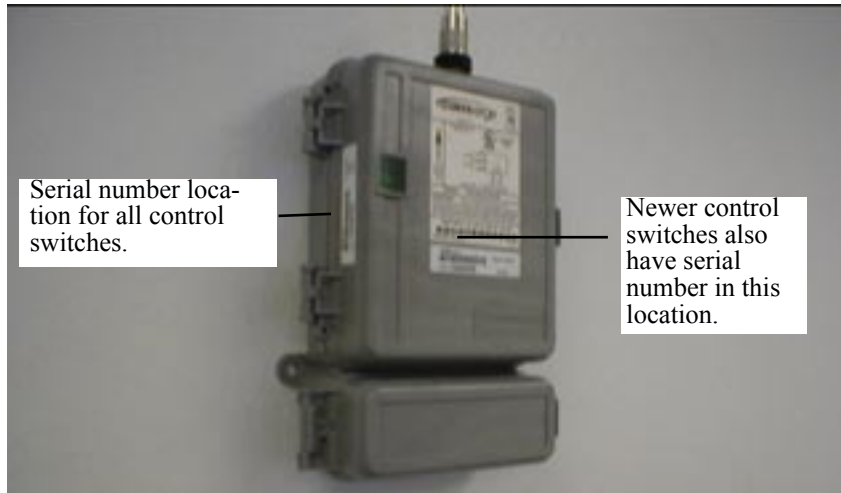
IRRIGATION

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:

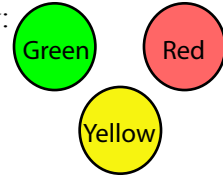


Lights have meaning

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
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- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
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.

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Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com

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**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**