

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2013

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 22, Number 6

The Summer of 2013

At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, we are dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers. That is our mission statement and we have embraced those words in everything we do. You may look at these words and ask yourself, what happened in the summer of 2012? The summer of 2012 was a combination of factors that contributed to a “perfect storm”. A combination of severe drought and extreme temperatures led to record usage. Combine that with transmission constraints experienced by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), therefore limiting the amount of electricity they could supply to the region, known within the industry as Zone 5, and you have a perfect storm.

We are dedicated to do everything in our power to avoid a repeat of 2012. We have no control over the weather, but we can and have taken some measures to strengthen our system, and NPPD, our power supplier, has also implemented measures to increase the amount of electricity they can supply to Zone 5 for the summer of 2013.

Some of the measures we have taken to strengthen our system have been completed or will be completed for the 2013 summer season. We have upgraded two substations, substantially increasing the capacity east of Elgin and south of Clearwater. We have added capacitors to the 7,200 volt distribution lines, which will make them

more efficient in times of high usage. We will have completed a new 69,000 volt underground by the time you receive this newsletter. These projects are but a few of the work plan projects that were completed in the district. One other measure that has the potential to squeeze more usable electricity out of the electricity distributed also involves our irrigation customers. This measure is the addition of Power Factor Corrective Capacitors on motors greater than 50 horsepower. The more of these capacitors that are installed, the lower the line loss, thereby improving the efficiency of the entire system.

NPPD has also taken measures to be able to supply more electricity into Zone 5 for the summer of 2013. They have upgraded transmission lines with bigger wire, which collectively will add 40 megawatts (mw) of capacity. Another measure they have taken is the siting of 20 mobile diesel generators. The 2 mw generators will be distributed in five different locations within the zone, which can collectively add another 40 mw, if necessary. These two measures are in place to provide 80 mw of added capacity for the summer of 2013. They have also upgraded two major transformers in the zone, expanded capacitor banks, and performed other miscellaneous substation upgrades to handle the increased loading.

Looking long range, the one project that will do the most to solve the capacity issues in Zone 5 for many

years to come, is the Hoskins to Neligh 345,000 volt transmission line project. This project was originally scheduled for completion in 2019, was moved up and is now scheduled for completion by the summer of 2016. This project is presently in the planning stage, and the final route will be announced in July or August. This is a very important project for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District and its customers, along with the other districts in Zone 5.



**Independence
Day
is Thursday,
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.*

OPERATIONS REPORT

S&L To Test Poles

As part of ERPPD's continued commitment to provide the most reliable service possible, S&L Pole Testing, Inc., will inspect about 3,200 distribution poles, many of which were last inspected in 1996 and 1997. The testing process began in May.

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 due to 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 areas south and west of Tilden and Meadow Grove, and also south of Ewing.

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.

Please call 1-800-675-2185 if you have questions.

Notification Requirements for Moving Houses or Other Large Objects

Nebraska state law requires that any individual moving a building or object with a loaded height over 15'6" in height or wider than the roadway on roads or highways notify the local authority and the electric utility responsible for the roadway infrastructure. This notification must be made at least 10 days prior to the move. The notification shall describe the width, height, and weight of the object to be moved; the route to be used; and the time of the planned move.

Contact the operations department at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, and they will be able to advise the mover of the best route to take and provide an approximate cost of de-energizing or moving the lines to keep the mover out of harm's way.

Please call our office at 1-800-675-2185 at least 10 days prior to moving large objects through our district.

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.



SAFETY IS ALWAYS IN SEASON

This season, before work on the farm reaches its peak, spend a little time locating all overhead power lines and electrical facilities. A quick look around could be a life saver.

Your Public Power District: A different kind of company

How many companies consistently encourage and educate their customers to use less of their product? In how many companies do you have a local voice? Did you know that you are an owner of your power company? Where else can you receive consistently friendly customer service?

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is proud to serve you, our customer-owners, with SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers. There is no discrimination in the way we serve, or in the decisions we make.

Nebraska has the distinction of being the only state in the U.S. where every single home and business receives electric service from publicly-owned utilities such as municipal utilities, electric cooperatives, and public power districts. Why is this an advantage? Publicly-owned utilities, like ERPPD, exist to serve customers. Period. There are no stockholders, and therefore no profit motive. That means Nebraska's utilities can focus exclusively on keeping electric rates low and customer service high. Our customers, not big investors in New York and Chicago, own Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

You can see the difference every month, in your electric bill. Our costs to deliver electricity to you do not include a profit markup. As a result, electricity costs in Nebraska are well below the national average. Public power revenues are reinvested into the system--the power plants, substations, and transmission lines, and the distribution lines--to safely generate and deliver low-cost reliable electricity and provide

outstanding customer service to all of our customers.

Best of all, if you want to voice your opinion or share a concern, you are welcome to attend one of our monthly board meetings. You can also contact board members. We want to hear from our customer-owners--both what works and what could be improved.

Public power boards consider the current and future needs of their customers. They approve operating and capital budgets to operate the utilities and increase electric reliability. They set rates for various types of customers--residential, commercial, industrial, and irrigation.

In Nebraska, the customer still rules! Customer service is our main job. It's not something we do "when we get around to it." We believe in doing business the way you want to do business. And because our boards and leaders live in the area we serve, they carefully consider the implications of the decisions they make. When Nebraska utilities consider making an investment or changing a procedure, they always want to know how it will affect the price of electricity and the quality of service.

This is how Nebraskans benefit from local control of their electric utilities--the main differences between publicly-owned and shareholder-owned utilities. These crucial differences have helped contribute to higher customer satisfaction and a better overall customer experience compared to utilities located outside Nebraska. Public Power has served Nebraskans well for nearly 125 years, and Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has served its customers well for nearly 75 years!



IT'S YOUR POWER.

Internship in Progress

Alicia Dietz, a student from the Business Administration-Human Resources program at Wayne State College, will be working as an intern for ERPPD this summer.



Alicia Dietz

Alicia is from Norfolk, and will be working in the Battle Creek office, assisting in the Human Resources department. She will also help with internal and external communications.

Alicia will graduate in August from WSC. She began her internship duties part-time on April 22, and full-time on May 6.

This is a great real-world learning opportunity for the student, and the district benefits from the program by having an extra person in the office to assist during a time when employees traditionally schedule vacations with their families.

Energy Efficiency

Month Tip of the

Consider using solar lights for outdoor lighting. Solar cells convert sunlight into electricity that can be stored in a battery and tapped at night to make light. Check manufacturers' instructions to make sure your solar lights are situated to receive sufficient sunlight to recharge each day.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

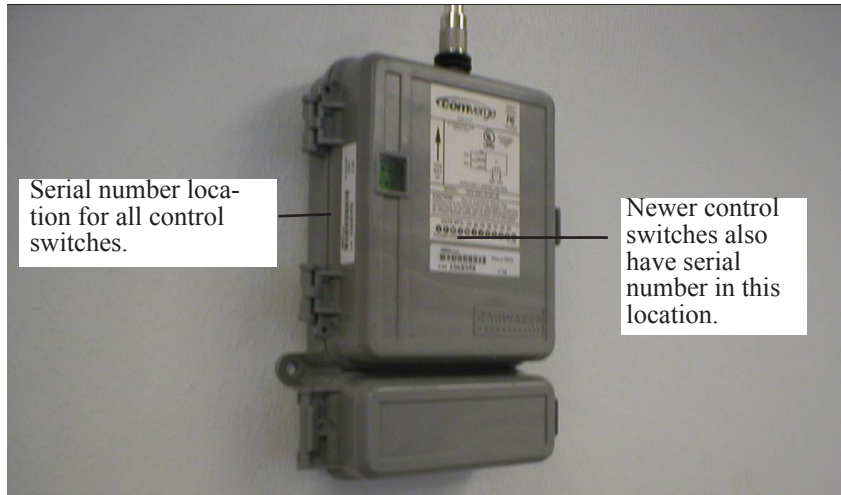
IRRIGATION

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

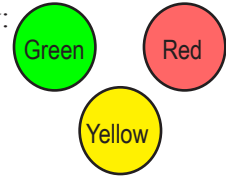
Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

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
President.....II
- 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.

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**