

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2011

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 20, Number 3

Keep Your Family Safe Around Electricity!

ERPPD takes safety very seriously and offers many programs and resources aimed at keeping you and your family and friends safe from the dangers of electricity. We believe that knowledge is the best deterrent to electrical accidents.

To that end, we offer the following:

Two levels of High-voltage Safety Demonstrations and online resources.

- Level I-Tabletop model for use in a classroom setting. The target audience is 5th grade and older, but this model is appropriate for all ages, and the presentation covers many types of high-voltage (15,000 volts) and low-voltage (120 volts).
- Level II-High-voltage trailer for use outside and in larger shop areas with high-ceilings and adequate electrical capacity. The target audience for this model is adults, and is very appropriate for junior high and older.
- Web based resources: Check out our website at www.erppd.com under the safety tab for a link to SafeElectricity.org, an interactive web site with features for all ages. This website contains videos, safety activities, current safety articles, resources for teachers, and many other items of interest.

Contact Wayne McCormick at 800-675-2185 to schedule onsite safety demonstrations.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
March 2011

March Board Meeting Rescheduled to March 15

Due to conflicts with the NRECA Annual meeting, the March meeting of the ERPPD Board of Directors will be rescheduled from the regular second Tuesday of the month to the third Tuesday, March 15. The meeting time and location will be the same, 10:00 a.m. at the headquarters of the district in Battle Creek, NE, 206 N 4th St.

We're looking for a few outstanding teens!

Elkhorn RPPD would like to send up to six teens as representatives to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp.

Let us know about a teen in your life who:

- Is currently a high school freshman, sophomore, or junior
- Lives in a home served by Elkhorn RPPD
- Is hard working
- Has a positive attitude
- Wants to improve their leadership skills
- Would like to learn more about utility careers
- Would like an opportunity to represent ERPPD on a trip to Washington, D.C.

Check out the Energy Camp details on page 3 of this issue and complete the application form by May 1.

Automatic Meter Reading Project on Schedule

The installation of the meters to allow automatic reading from our office is complete and testing and troubleshooting is now taking place.

Following is the timeline for making the switch from customer-read meters to district-read:

March 15 through March 25: Customers need to read their meters and submit readings and payment to ERPPD. A bill will be generated based on the reading that is submitted and will be due April 25.

May 1: The district will read all the meters and calculate and generate a bill for the usage period from March 15 through April 30. This will be approximately a 6-week usage period as opposed to the normal 4-week usage period. Payment for this bill will be due May 15.

May was chosen as the transition month because, on the average, April is usually a lower usage month. After May 1, all usage periods will be on a 30-day cycle.

IMPORTANT: For those customers that currently have a payment due date of the 25th of each month, their payment due date will change to the 15th of each month.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Reducing Irrigation Energy Costs

*Another Energy Efficiency Tip from ENERGY WISESM



In the past two years, Nebraska earned another No. 1 ranking. No other state irrigates more farmland than the Cornhuskers. Nebraska producers have grown over 8.5 million acres of corn per year. More than 60 percent of those acres are irrigated. On top of that, over 4.5 million acres of soybeans are grown, and nearly half of those are irrigated acres.

Statewide, irrigated corn yields have averaged above 184 bushels an acre, but

yields of more than 220 bushels an acre are not uncommon. Compare that to the state's non-irrigated corn at an average yield of 113 bushels per acre, and we can begin to appreciate the importance of irrigation to Nebraska. Especially when corn exceeds \$5 per bushel, the difference in revenue per acre is hundreds of dollars!

But for that additional revenue, there is additional cost. By the end of the irrigation season, a lack of efficiency may have taken a large chunk out of the profit margin. Quick fixes or unmatched irrigation system components may have increased energy input costs. More costs translate to less profit. Just because the water flowed all season does not mean that thousands of dollars in energy expense could not have been saved.

Consider what efficiency means: A central Nebraska irrigator waters a quarter section (135 total acres irrigated) using a center pivot operating at 45 psi, lifting water 80 feet from underground, while pumping at a rate 800 gallons per minute. Over the course of the irrigation season, the farmer will pump 10 acre-inches or nearly 37 million gallons. If the system is only 52 percent efficient, which is roughly the

statewide average, the farmer can expect to use over 50,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity.

If the irrigator pays an average cost of \$0.13 per kWh, that costs over \$6,500 for the season. Had the irrigation system been optimized for efficiency (approximately 82 percent efficient), the usage would have been less than 32,000 kWh and would have cost about \$4,160. That is a savings of \$2,340! And that is only one field. When you start to consider an entire farming operation, those savings really add up.

Efficiency not only impacts the amount of energy (and charges you have to pay), it also influences how your local electric utility must manage their electric system. Making efficiency improvements to an irrigation system not only saves you money, it helps all Nebraskans manage the precious resource of electrical energy when it is often most in demand.

Are you going to let another irrigation season slip by without considering what irrigation "inefficiency" is costing you?

Call Mark Gronau, our Energy Services Representative, at 800-675-2185, for more information on energy efficiency!

Attention Irrigators:

Irrigation form letters containing billing information, horsepower, and current rate will be mailed to you in early March. Please look them over carefully to verify the accuracy of the information. If any changes are to be made, it will be necessary to fill in the new information on these forms and to return them to ERPPD prior to April 1, 2011.

Energy Efficiency
Month *Tip of the*

By replacing your five most-used lightbulbs with ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs, you could save \$70 a year.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

ERPPD is seeking campers for 2011 camp

The Rural Electric Youth Energy Camp has involved up to 100 high school students (in the ninth, 10th, or 11th grade) each year who have been selected by the rural electric system serving in their areas. The camp, set in the beauty of Nebraska's National Forest at Halsey, offers educational and recreational experiences, leadership training, environmental awareness, character building and social interaction.

Through workshops and guest speakers, campers learn about energy, electric safety, energy management, and careers. One day of the camp is reserved for a tour of the Gerald Gentleman Power Station near North Platte and the Kingsley Hydroelectric plant near Ogallala. The week is interspersed with fun activities, including a get-acquainted party, canoeing, volleyball, a talent contest, dancing, a cook-out, and time to socialize and make new friends.

Leadership is also stressed when interested students compete to win a free trip to Wash., D.C. Three winners will be selected to go as ambassadors from Nebraska next summer. They also are able to return to the next year's camp as a junior counselor.

Those selected by their sponsoring rural electric system will receive the all-expense paid trip to the Nebraska Youth Energy Camp at the State 4-H camp near Halsey. Camp begins around 3:30 p.m. on Monday, July 11, and ends around noon on Friday, July 15. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 30, 2011* to:

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715

2011 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 30, 2011)



Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2011 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 11-15 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

Do you qualify for FREE Home Weatherization Services!

Whether you own your home or rent, these services are available in your area.

To receive free weatherization services for your home, your annual household income must fall within the income ranges listed at the right. Households with persons receiving either ADC (Aid to Dependent Children), TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), or SSI (Supplemental Security Income) are automatically eligible.

Weatherization services may include the following practices:

- Weather stripping
- Caulking
- Attic and wall insulation
- Foundation insulation
- Replacement of broken glass
- Repair/replacement of furnaces



Weatherization Works

Household Size	Maximum Household Income
1	\$21,660
2	\$29,140
3	\$36,620
4	\$44,100
5	\$51,580
6	\$59,060
7	\$66,540
8	\$74,020
For Each Additional Family Member Add	\$7,480



For more information or to apply for home weatherization services contact:
 Goldenrod Hills Community Action
 402-529-3513 or 1-800-445-2505
<http://www.goldenrodhillscommunityaction.org>

GHCA's office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and evenings as needed. GHCA service area includes: Antelope, Burt, Cedar, Cum- ing, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Washington, and Wayne counties.

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.

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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