

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2012

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 21, Number 3



Manager Tom Rudloff gives one of the presentations at the Battle Creek irrigator meeting.

Irrigator Meetings Well Attended

ERPPD personnel hosted two meetings for irrigators in February. The first meeting was held in Battle Creek and the second meeting was held in Clearwater. A total of 60 customers attended the meetings to hear ERPPD personnel present information on a variety of topics related to electricity and irrigation.

Topics presented were irrigation growth within the district, status of the irrigation service waiting list, benefits of load management, 2012 irrigation rates, power factor corrective capacitors, new load control status notification options for 2012, and a demonstration of the irrigation expense calculator.

If you have any questions about any of the topics presented or were unable to attend the meetings, please call the office at 1-800-675-2185, or stop in the Battle Creek office, we will be glad to summarize the topics for you and answer your questions.

We want to thank all those who took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the meetings. We also want to thank you for your feedback and questions during the sessions.

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, July 9-13.

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 April 27.



Substation Upgrades

Due to increased customer demand for usage, the operations department has performed capacity upgrades in three substations in the northwest part of the district.

The first upgrade involved replacing a 7,500 kva transformer in sub 9 with a new 10,000 kva transformer. Sub 9 is located three miles north of Clearwater.

The second upgrade was to put the 7,500 kva transformer from sub 9 into sub 20, upgrading that substation from 5,000 kva. Sub 20 is located north of Tilden.

The third upgrade involves sub 25, located four miles east of Ewing. Sub 25 was originally built as a temporary substation and has worked very well for 10 years. Later engineering studies have confirmed that its location is optimal to serve the growth in the area, so sub 25 is being converted to a permanent structure, and its capacity is being increased from 5,000 kva to 7,500 kva. In addition to the substation construction, three miles of line will be upgraded to accommodate the added load growth in the area.

IRRIGATION

Email/Text Notification Option for Irrigators

We are offering a new notification option for irrigators to check on the status of load control for the 2012 irrigation season. This notification is more selective and will notify the irrigator that his pump has been controlled or that his pump has been restored. The notification will be sent as an email that can be sent to a phone or a computer, or as a text message sent to a phone. The message will be sent at the same time as the control or restore signal is sent to the control switch on the pump.

This notification option is in addition to the present methods of notification, which are: 1. calling 1-800-238-0185 for a recorded message, or 2. using the link located on the ERPPD website (www.erppd.com).

A designated section to sign up for the email/text notification will be included in the letter that all irrigators will receive in March.



Have you considered e-billing or e-pay? How about auto-pay? Call our office at 1-800-675-2185 for details.

SAFETY NEWS

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.

ENERGY NEWS

Energy Efficiency

Month Tip of the

Air is drawn into your home from low areas, so inspect your foundation for potential air-infiltration points. Fixing these leaks makes a bigger impact on your electric bill than sealing doors and windows! Caulk all cracks and gaps around your home including spaces around wires for telephone, electrical, cable, and gas lines, water spigots, and dryer vents.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Energy Efficiency Incentives

Call Mark Gronau, our Energy Services Representative for information on the 2012 energy efficiency incentives we offer through the EnergyWise program. These include rebates for installing a heat pump, installing attic insulation in your all-electric home, using low flow showerheads, or having air conditioner or heat pump tune-up.

Call Mark at 1-800-675-2185 for details on how to qualify for incentives.

Email Addresses and Cell Phone Numbers Needed

In an attempt to provide you with better customer service through better communication, we are requesting that you provide us with your email address and your home phone number (land line or cell phone). In the future, your email address can allow us to keep you informed about projects in your area, planned outage information, etc. It will also allow you to log in to our online bill payment screens for easy and convenient bill payment. Rest assured that we will not share your contact information with any other companies.

YOUTH ENERGY CAMP

ERPPD is seeking campers for 2012 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 9, and ends around noon on Friday, July 13. ERPPD provides its camper representatives with transportation to and from the camp.

To enter, complete the form below and mail *by April 27, 2012* to:

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

2012 ERPPD ENERGY CAMP APPLICATION FORM

(Entry Deadline April 27, 2012)



Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

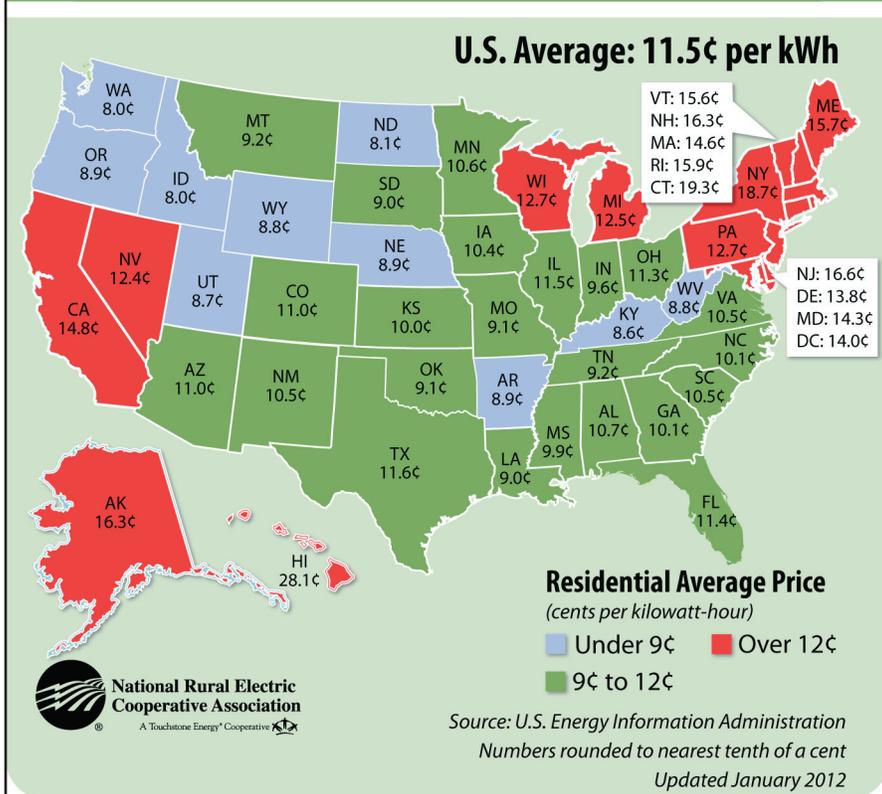
School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2012 Youth Energy Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 9-13 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2010 figures, in cents per kWh



Attention Irrigators:

Irrigation information sheets 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, 2012.

A section of this information sheet is designated for signing up for email or text notification of the load control status, if you are interested. All you need to do for this option is complete this section and return the letter to our office.

You will receive a separate information sheet for each irrigation service. Be watching your mail in early March for the letters and be sure to let us know if you do not receive one, or if you get a letter that does not contain an information sheet for each and every one of your irrigation services.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

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- 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