

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2011

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 20, Number 5

ERPPD Bill Payment Options

Consider the following fast and convenient payment options and choose the one that is right for you.

- Bank Draft (ACH). Have your monthly bill deducted directly from your checking or savings account, or your credit card.
- Online. Visit our website at www.erppd.com to pay by credit/debit card or by E-check with a checking or savings account. An email address is required to be on file in our office with both of these options. (See page 3 for associated fees)
- By Mail. Send your check or money order and payment stub to: Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715.
- By Phone. Dial our toll-free automated telephone payment system (1-800-675-2185) with your credit card or checking account information, ERPPD account number, and service address.
- In person. Bring your payment to the Battle Creek office at 206 N. 4th St., or to the Neligh office on east Highway 275, or deposit it in the drop box at either location.

For more details on these options, call 1-800-675-2185 and talk to a customer service representative, or check out our website at www.erppd.com.



Memorial Day Monday, May 30

ERPPD offices **will be closed** on Monday, May 30, to remember the military personnel who've given their lives to preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy every day.

May is National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month and Elkhorn Rural Public Power District wants to use this opportunity to promote this vital initiative.

We challenge you to check your home and workplace for possible electrical hazards. We also encourage you to protect your home and families with the latest safety technology such as ground fault circuit interrupters, arc fault circuit interrupters, and tamper resistant outlets. We urge you to install, test and properly maintain an adequate number of smoke alarms.

Alder to get work experience as intern



Bryon Alder

Bryon Alder, a student in the Utility Line program at Metropolitan Community College, will be working as an intern for ERPPD during 2011.

Bryon is from Plainview and plans to be a utility lineman upon graduation. He is presently working out of ERPPD's outpost in Neligh.

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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

EnergyWiseSM incentives reward energy savings

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and its other wholesale customers, is offering energy efficiency programs to assist customers in becoming more energy efficient. The purpose of programs under the EnergyWiseSM logo is to make electric customers more aware of ways they can use electrical energy more efficiently and the savings that come with these practices.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Incentive

Home owners who install a qualified heat pump (14 SEER or higher cooling ratio and 8.2 HSPF or greater heating ratio) will be eligible for a variable rebate, depending on the SEER of the unit. ERPPD customers who replace a window or central air conditioner with a qualified heat pump will earn a double rebate.

Heat Pump

Qualifying Installation	Basic Rebate	Replace A/C Unit
14 SEER	\$200	add \$200
15 SEER	\$250	add \$250
16 SEER (& up)	\$300	add \$300
Geothermal Unit	\$400	add \$400

The installing HVAC dealer will also receive an incentive payment if the new unit operates within 10% of manufacturer's specifications.

Cooling System Tune-Up

An incentive of \$30 is available to homeowners who have their cooling systems tuned up (Does not include heating systems). Eligible systems include air conditioners, air source heat pumps (regardless of back-up source), and water source heat pumps. Contact your HVAC dealer. Incentives are available only once every three years.

Residential Attic Insulation

The attic insulation program allows a homeowner to install at least six inches

of attic insulation in up to 2,000 sq.ft. of attic space in an existing home. The rebate is \$0.15 per square foot with a maximum rebate for any one dwelling



to be \$300. The home must have electric heat. See ERPPD or a building or remodeling contractor for details.

Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling

Remove inefficient, operating secondary refrigerators or freezers from ERPPD's distribution system and receive \$35 per unit for up to two working units (must be able to make ice). This program is administered through JACO Environmental, which specializes in refrigerator recycling. Customers should call JACO (toll-free 1-866-444-9160) for information or to arrange an appointment for pick-up.

Commercial and Industrial Lighting Efficiency Program

Customers have an opportunity to earn incentives for upgrading to qualified, more efficient lighting. Incentives are available for both indoor and outdoor technologies.

Prescriptive and custom programs are available. Contact Mark Gronau at ERPPD to discuss the one that is right for your business, then contact the lighting contractor of your choice.

Commercial HVAC system

The commercial HVAC program allows rebates to businesses for installing water-cooled or air-cooled air conditioners or air source, water source, or ground source heat pumps. The rebate depends on total tonnage of the unit(s) and/or one of two performance ratings, either SEER or Actual EER. Contact your HVAC dealer for specific details about the program. Some cooling systems do not qualify, so be sure to

contact an HVAC dealer. Brochures are available at ERPPD that define both the type of equipment and the associated equation to figure the rebate.

NEW! An HVAC System Optimization Program is also available.

Premium Efficiency Motors

One way for businesses to reduce the cost of starting and running motors is by upgrading to premium efficiency motors. Incentives are prescriptive and range from \$10 to \$400 based on motor size. Those who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive.

Variable Frequency Drives

Variable frequency drives (VFDs) can be effective at reducing power and energy consumption to centrifugal equipment such as pumps and fans. The incentive is \$30 per horsepower. The equipment must operate at least 2,000 hours per year to qualify for the incentive. Businesses who qualify for irrigation incentives cannot qualify for this incentive. Contact ERPPD to see if a VFD is right for you and if it can be used on your lines.

Call Mark Gronau at ERPPD for details about any of these programs.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



ONGOING MAINTENANCE

Irrigation Control Switch Inspections

ERPPD personnel will be performing their annual inspection of irrigation control switches. The inspection was started in April and will finish sometime in May.

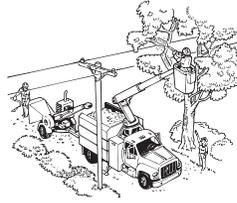
With the switches subject to severe weather such as thunderstorms and lightning, it is very important that we make sure each switch is working properly.

The irrigation load control program is very important for controlling the escalation of electricity rates. Keeping the peak demand down during the hot summer months saves the district hundreds of thousands of dollars in electrical power costs. These savings are reflected in all of our rates.

Homes and other businesses can contribute to controlling the peak demand by using energy conservation, especially during the hot summer months.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in keeping rates as low as possible.

Tree Trimming



ERPPD has contracted with Wilson Tree Service to cut or trim trees in the right-of-way in the Woodland Park area. He plans to

work in this area beginning in mid-May and continuing throughout the summer as needed.

Landowners will be contacted before cutting or trimming is done.

There are two main reasons for trimming and cutting trees. The first is safety. Children love to climb trees and sometimes do not look around first to see if the tree has grown up around the power lines. The power lines carry 7,200 volts of electricity and accidental contact would be fatal.

The second reason to trim trees is for reliability of the electrical system. Trees are a good conductor of electricity and whenever a tree branch touches the power lines, electricity travels through the tree into the ground, causing blinks or outages if the contact is enough to open the breakers on the line.

Please welcome the tree contractor and we appreciate your cooperation in this project.

ABOUT ERPPD ACCOUNTS

Fee Schedule

Meter Deposit \$200.00

Adjusted Deposit * \$300.00

*If customer previously left with a bad debt or was disconnected for non-payment.

Late Pay Penalty** \$10.00,
**or 5%, whichever is greater

Service Call \$50.00

Reconnect Fee (during hours) \$50.00

Reconnect Fee (after hours) \$100.00

Insufficient Funds Check \$20.00

Credit Card Fee 2.45% (convenience fee-% of bill)

E-check Fee 60¢ (per transaction)

National Safe Kids Week April 28-May 6

With warmer days and sunnier skies, children of all ages are taking to the great outdoors. The folks at ERPPD urge all parents and caregivers to make sure children know how to stay safe, to teach them to stay away from electric company equipment and other hazards.

“Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed, or even appear enticing and fun,” says ERPPD Safety Director Wayne McCormick. “Take an opportunity to teach youngsters about the dangers of electricity and inspect your own home and property for potential electrical safety issues.”

Safe Electricity recommends teaching children to follow these rules:

- Kites and model airplanes should only be flown during good weather



conditions in large open areas like a open park or a wide field. They should stay away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near

power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your electric utility for assistance.

- Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal “box”

- transformers on cement pads.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason - even on a dare. Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball or any toy from these areas. Call your electric utility instead.
- Immediately seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present while playing outdoors.
- Never climb trees near power lines.



Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.

For more electrical safety tips,

log in to our website at www.erppd.com and click on the SafeElectricity link under the safety tab.



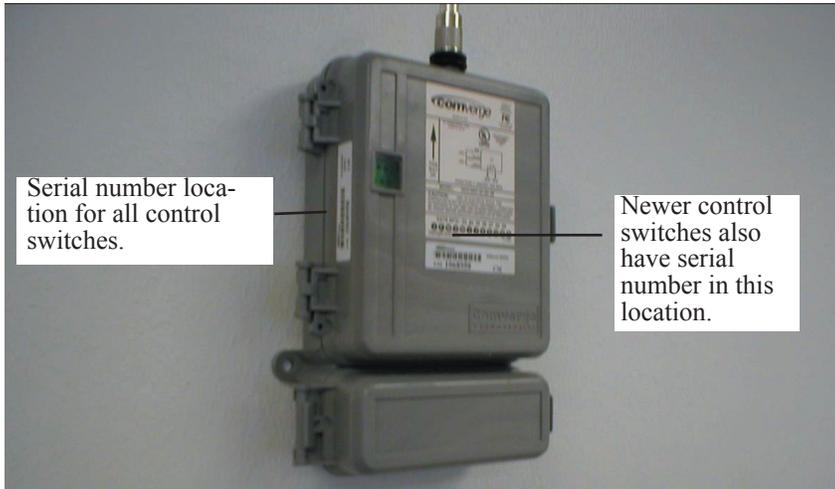
IRRIGATION

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:

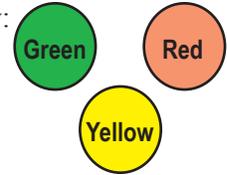


Lights have meaning

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 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