

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

September 2010

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 19, Number 9



*Keely ODell*

## Keely ODell Represents ERPPD in Washington, DC

Keely ODell of Clearwater, NE, was among the nearly 1,500 high school students from across the country who participated in the NRECA 2010 Rural Electric Youth to Washington Tour held June 12-18, 2010. Keely was selected by the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District to represent the district at the national level.

As Keely puts it, "Youth Tour has been an irreplaceable experience that I have been very fortunate to participate in. Being in our nation's capitol and Gettysburg, both places so rich in history, has been a fantastic learning experience. The lessons I've learned in my history books about George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, General Lee, and countless others, all became real during the week we all spent in DC. Besides history, I also learned a lot about our government, between talking to our senator's and congressmen and listening to what our fantastic chaperones, James and Kristen, had to say during our tours and when answering our questions. Above all, I learned about the effect that government can have on public power and alternative "green" energy, which is information I took home to Nebraska and have already applied to my lessons in government class. Youth Tour was also a very cultural experience, between the new foods we tried, riding the metro, or even just walking down the street. I will never forget the lessons I've learned, friends I've made, or the memories we shared. Youth Tour is an experience I will carry with me the rest of my life."

Keely truly represented ERPPD very well and we believe she will be a great spokesperson for rural electrics in the years to come.

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
September 2010*



*Cole Freudenburg*

## Cole Freudenburg Selected as 2011 NREA Ambassador to Washington, DC

Cole Freudenburg of rural Madison, was one of three Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) youth camp participants out of 60+ campers to win the competition for 2011 NREA Ambassador. The competition was optional and consisted of writing and delivering a speech on one of three current issues facing the rural electric industry. By winning the competition, Cole will receive an NREA-sponsored all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC in 2011, for the NRECA Youth to Washington Tour. He will also return to the 2011 NREA youth camp as a student counselor.

Congratulations Cole on your having been selected as 2011 Ambassador.



**Labor Day is  
Monday, Sept. 6**

ERPPD offices will be closed for employees and their families to remember the day that's dedicated to the workers of America.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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# Poletop Rescue



Each year, ERPPD linemen participate in Poletop and Bucket Rescue training. All of our personnel are trained in CPR and First Aid, but only the qualified climbers are able to participate in Poletop Rescue. Following is the scenario:

Lineman A climbs the pole to perform assigned maintenance on the high-voltage lines or equipment and is rendered unconscious due to an electrical

contact, heart attack, or any other reason.

Lineman B, A's partner, is faced with rescuing an unconscious victim from the top of the pole. B will perform the following procedure:

1. Call to A to check responsiveness
2. Use the truck radio to broadcast a Mayday call, to alert the office of a serious accident.
3. The office will respond and prepare to take the following information from the caller: a) type of accident, b) exact location of accident.
4. The rescuer will proceed with rescue, using a hand line to lower the victim to the ground to start CPR.
5. The office will call 9-1-1 to dispatch Emergency Medical Services.
6. The victim's designated contact will be contacted in person and transported to the hospital.

We pray that we will never need to use the drill for a real-life situation, but we know that we are ready if the accident does occur.

We are planning to expand the rescue training to the next level and stage a mock Mayday Drill in November. We will include EMS services from a local Volunteer Fire Department and also LifeNet helicopter services. More details on Mock Mayday drill will appear in the October newsletter.

## ENERGYWISE<sup>SM</sup>

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

**EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> Tip:** "Weatherize your home and use less energy."

Properly sealing and insulating your home is a cost-effective way to become more energy efficient.

According to ENERGY STAR®, homeowners can realize a potential savings of up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs (or up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill) by improving the sealing and insulation of a home.

First, help make your house weather tight. Many air leaks and drafts in the home are easy to find because they are easy to feel – like those around windows and doors. Other leaks may take some hunting to find – like holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces. Sealing any of these leaks with caulk, spray foam or weather stripping will have a great impact on improving your comfort and reducing utility bills.

Second, after any home sealing project, have a heating and cooling technician check to make sure your combustion appliances (gas- or oil-fired furnace, water heater and clothes dryer) are venting properly. Improper venting of combustion appliances can pose a health risk.

Third, here's a good EnergyWise<sup>SM</sup> rule of thumb: Don't scrimp on the insulation! Insulation helps keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer. There are several common types of insulation – fiberglass (in both batt and blown forms), cellulose, rigid foam board and spray foam. When correctly installed with air sealing, each type of insulation can deliver comfort and lower energy bills throughout the majority of the year.

To get the biggest savings, the easiest place to add insulation is usually the attic. A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your uncovered attic floor. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation.

For more information on steps homeowners can take to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, contact your local electric public power utility or visit the ENERGY STAR® Home Advisor at <http://www.energystar.gov/homeadvisor>. Lots of useful energy efficiency information is also available at <http://www.nppd.com>.

Your public power electric utility wants you to get the most energy value for your money. It costs far less to save energy than it does to build a new power plant to generate additional power.

## Husker Harvest Days Sept 14-16

ERPPD will share a booth at Husker Harvest Days along with other public power utilities. The theme for the booth will be 'Factors Influencing Future Energy Prices' and what you can do to lessen the impact of the increases through Energy Efficiency measures.

Stop by the booth and learn what you can do to conserve energy and save money!



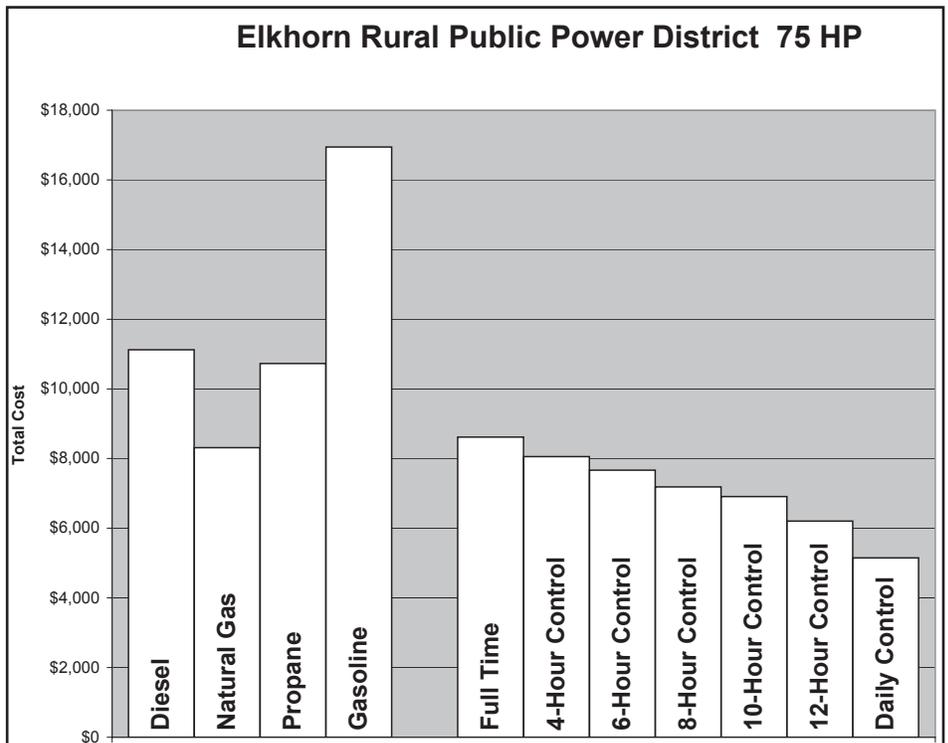
# ENERGY NEWS

## Irrigating with Electricity- Good Value

We all have decisions to make regarding our operations, and many times cost is the deciding factor, although convenience and labor savings rank high in our decision list. When it comes to irrigation, electricity ranks as one of the best values.

As you may notice in the chart on the right, the first four columns include costs for fossil fuels, and the remaining columns are the costs for the various options available for irrigating with electricity. The options for electricity are full-time pumping, various levels of controlled pumping, and a stand-by rate which can be used for crops requiring little or no irrigation water.

This chart was created using the Irrigation Calculator found on the ERPPD website ([www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)) under the irrigation info tab, and is available for anyone to input their own data. We used the assumptions listed below the chart in creating our chart (your inputs may be different).



**Inputs for Irrigation Calculator**

System Specifications		Fuel Costs	
Motor size:	75 hp	Diesel	\$2.51
Pumping hours:	883 hours	Natural Gas	\$8.51/MCF
Volume:	800 gal/min	Propane	\$1.30/gal
Pressure:	30 lbs/sq-in	Gasoline	\$2.71/gal
Lift:	185 feet	Electricity	2010 rates
Surface area:	130 acres		
Amount of water:	12 acre-inches/acre		
Pivot size:	8 towers		

Will we have the affordable electricity we need in the future?



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America

Start the dialogue with your elected officials at:

[www.OurEnergy.coop](http://www.OurEnergy.coop)

or contact our office for a postcard to get signed up.

### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# EMPLOYEE NEWS



## Capler and Schrage Assume New Duties

Ken Capler of Neligh, veteran lineman working out of the Neligh outpost, has taken on the duties of meter technician, working out of the Battle Creek office. His

**Ken Capler**

**Dan Schrage**

duties include meter installations, meter testing, transformer maintenance, AMI, substation maintenance.

Dan Schrage of Neligh, veteran lineman working out of the Neligh outpost will be taking on the following duties. He will be meeting with customers for service needs for the communities of Clearwater, Elgin, and Ewing, as well as the rural areas. He will take care of staking and maintenance needs for the towns, and performing underground wire locates for the west half of the district. Other duties include service and trouble calls, meter reading and collections for both the rural area and the towns, substation inspections, line switching duties for ERPPD and NPPD as needed, and also works with the maintenance and construction crews if needed.

Congratulations Ken and Dan, and best of luck as you work into your new positions.

## Visit us on the Web at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's website is located at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

Following are some of the highlights of the website:

- Energy
- Rebate information
- Energy self-audit
- Kids' educational page
- Calculators for energy costs
- Energy Efficiency info
- Customer service
- Submit meter readings
- Safety
- High voltage demo info
- Kids' safety pages
- SafeElectricity.org link
- Economic Development
- Links to eco-dev websites
- Irrigation
- Control status
- Irrigation cost calculator
- Form for irrig service

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner  
President.....II
- Tim Means  
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl  
Secretary .....III
- Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer ..... I
- Robert Kee  
Director .....II
- Mark Miller  
Director ..... I
- Joe Thiele  
Director .....III
- Greg Weidner  
Director ..... I
- David Hoefler  
Director .....III

### 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](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto: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**