

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

September 2013

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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Six area students represent ERPPD at the NREA Youth Energy Camp



back (l-r): Dylan Widger, Ashley Walz, Cody Young
front (l-r): Kaitlyn Hoffman, Ivy Prater (junior counselor), Hayley Stamp

Six area students represented the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District at the 2013 Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Energy Camp. The event is held annually at the State 4-H Camp in the Nebraska National Forest west of Halsey. This year's camp was held July 15 through July 19.

Those from the area attending as campers were: Dylan Widger of Elgin (Elgin Public School), Ashley Walz of Battle Creek (Battle Creek Public School), Cody Young of Battle Creek (Battle Creek Public School), Kaitlyn Hoffman of Clearwater (Clearwater-Orchard Public School), Hayley Stamp from Elgin (Elgin Public School).

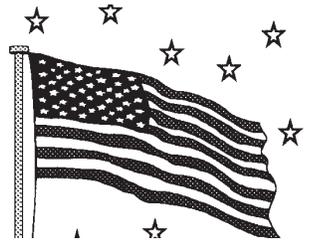
Ivy Prater of Elgin (Elgin Public School) was invited back to the camp to assist as a junior counselor.

Campers were treated to educational sessions on electric safety, energy efficiency, career opportunities, and public power in Nebraska. They visited the Gerald Gentleman coal-fired generating facility near Sutherland, and the Kingsley hydroelectric station at Lake McConaughy near Ogallala. The week was intermingled with fun activities, including sports tournaments, canoeing, dancing, a get-acquainted party, socializing and making new friends.

While at the camp, campers also had an opportunity to compete for a spot on the 2014 National Rural Electric Youth Tour, which will be held in June, and be sponsored by the Nebraska Rural Electric Association.

These students are eligible, after they return from camp, to apply for the opportunity to represent ERPPD on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C., held in June of 2014. Students who have attended the NREA Youth Energy Camp may complete an application and one will be selected by ERPPD to be our Washington Youth Tour representative for 2014.

Above all, they enjoyed a great time with other high school students from across the state.



Labor Day is Monday, Sept. 2

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

Husker Harvest Days Sept 10-12

Elkhorn RPPD will share a booth at Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island along with other public power utilities. The booth will be staffed with energy efficiency experts from various public power utilities. Also featured during the three days will be high-voltage safety demonstrations. Stop by the booth and learn how you can stay safe around electricity and how you can conserve energy and save money!

OPERATIONS REPORT

Ewing Electrical System Conversion Project

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District operations department is announcing a major project for the electrical system in the City of Ewing. The project will convert the city from a 2,400-volt system to a 7,200-volt system.

Presently, electricity is delivered over the transmission line east of town to the substation in Ewing at 34,500 volts, where it is transformed down to 2,400 volts for distribution to the homes and businesses. There is only one transmission line into the town, so if any maintenance is required on this line, or if the line goes down in a storm, there is no alternate feed to keep the lights on.

The conversion project will utilize the rural substation east of Ewing, which transforms the 34,500 volts down to 7,200 volts, which will be carried into town over the present transmission line. This is the same voltage ERPPD uses to distribute electricity to the rural area of the district. This will allow ERPPD operations personnel to connect the town to the rural distribution lines, and vice-versa, thus increasing the reliability of the town's system. The project also includes the construction of a distribution line to connect the town's electrical system to the rural lines southwest of town.

Using the existing breakers and switches located throughout the ERPPD distribution system, the town can be fed from an alternate substation for maintenance projects or potentially

for storm restoration.

The Ewing conversion project has been part of the long range plan since ERPPD began serving the community in 2000. ERPPD personnel have been replacing 2,400 volt transformers with 2,400/7,200 dual voltage transformers for several years preparing for this project. There will only be around 50 transformers that will need to be changed out for the conversion project. The transformers will be removed from the Ewing substation and it will be converted to a voltage regulation station for the town's electrical system. This project essentially changes the Ewing system from a 2,400 volt island to a 7,200 volt system that is integrated with the surrounding rural area.

The project is scheduled to begin in early September and should be completed by the end of the year. The project will involve several phases, including building the alternate feed into town, converting the northern part of town to 7200 volts, then converting the southern part of town to 7200 volts, converting the present transmission line to 7,200 volts, and finally, connecting the town's electrical system to ERPPD's substation east of town. During the project, customers will experience various outages from 15 minutes to four hours to allow ERPPD crews to make the new connections. We will be making contacts with customers prior to the outages.

If you have any questions about the Ewing electrical conversion project, please call Jim Ridder, ERPPD Operations Manager, at 800-675-2185.

SAFETY NEWS

Moving Oversize Loads Requires Planning and Permits for Safety

We cannot stress enough the dangers of approaching high-voltage power lines. For the general public, there is a "ten-foot rule", which means that persons or equipment should not approach within ten feet of a power line from any direction (below, above, left, or right). Only specially-trained individuals are to be within the ten-foot envelope, and then only with specialized safety gear and equipment.

The power lines in our service area carry 7,200 volts up to 69,000 volts of electricity through bare-metal wires, and this electricity would love to get to the ground. It does not care how it gets there and will find any path it can find, whether a tree, vehicle, farm equipment, squirrels, or heaven forbid, a human-being.

Most of us will not have the need to move objects or buildings, but if you do need to, please observe the regulations that apply. If the building or object being transported, when loaded, is over fifteen feet, six inches, (15'6"), the mover is

required by state statute to contact the power company and the local authority. This notification shall be made at least ten (10) days prior to the move. Please do not think of this as another "government intrusion". It truly is a matter of life or death when we are dealing with high-voltage, and we will do everything we can to keep everyone out of harm's way. Electricity is very unforgiving and is not selective.

Besides the danger involved in contact with high-voltage lines, there is the inconvenience of outages caused by the contact. These interruptions can affect hundreds of people, and could be avoided with a single phone call.

As the safety director for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, I am most concerned with the safety of the human beings, but power interruptions can also be a tremendous hardship on other customers.

Human life is sacred and precious, so if it means prosecuting violators of this statute, so be it. No life is worth the time that might be saved during the planning stages. Remember, the risk here is not whether you get caught, it is whether a life is lost.

What is the NRECA?

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD) is a member of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), a national service organization representing more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts. These rural electric systems provide electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 47 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States.

What advantages do Elkhorn Rural Public Power District and its customers receive from membership in NRECA? The following are some of the programs that NRECA offers its member systems:



Education and Training

NRECA's Education and Training department operates much like a community college, offering more than 250 classes and professional development programs for the elected leaders and employees of its member rural electric systems.

In the case of directors, education is the cornerstone of effective self-governance. Customers are best served by their elected representatives, directors, who are well-versed in democratic principles and who understand the industry and how this industry can move forward to meet changing demands. The following are some of the programs for directors; Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate, which emphasizes foundational governance knowledge and skills required by directors; Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), which extends the core CCD program, providing greater depth on industry, governance, risk management, rate making, and policy; Directors' Conference; NRECA Annual Meeting; and NRECA Regional Meetings.

ERPPD has seven directors who have earned the CCD and four who have earned the BLC.

For employees, NRECA offers classroom-based and on-line instruction in many areas, including supervisory

skills, communications, engineering, safety and management. These courses help rural electric systems provide the best possible service to its customers. Other conferences help employees in Human Resources, Accounting, Finance and Tax, Cyber Security, Safety and Loss Control, etc.

Cooperative Research Network

The Cooperative Research Network (CRN) is the technology research arm of NRECA. CRN conducts collaborative research to accelerate technological innovation that can be applied by rural electric systems across the United States and worldwide. CRN's guides, publications and online tools assist rural electric systems meet their members' expectations for affordable, reliable electric power using the most advanced technologies available.

Political Action

Based just outside of Washington, DC, in Herndon, VA, NRECA serves as a collective voice for rural America, working directly with senators and representatives on issues affecting the electric industry. NRECA works to promote common-sense legislation to help keep our electricity SAFE, RELIABLE, and COST-EFFECTIVE for ALL customers. NRECA serves as the watchdog for rural America as new legislation is introduced in Congress, making sure the legislation is in the best interests of the rural electric customers.

Employee Benefits

NRECA serves as the benefits administrator for the more than 70,000 employees of its more than 900 member rural electric systems. This provides an economy of scale to help the individual systems provide competitive retirement and health insurance benefits to its employees, thus helping the systems attract and retain the best and brightest employees.

Check out the NRECA website, www.nreca.org, to find out more about where the NRECA stands on current issues, such as affordable hydropower, climate change, environmental issues, fuels and other resources, and other electric industry issues.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Like homes and other businesses, farms of all types can lower their electricity bills by turning off or reducing use of lights and small equipment in outbuildings. Timers and sensors can help, too. Regular cleaning, maintenance, and seasonal tune-ups help keep larger equipment running at top efficiency.

Source: E Source

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.



It PAYS to install a new heat pump

HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Receive a Direct Incentive

based on the type of new qualifying heat pump system you install.

-OR-

Apply for a Low-Interest Loan

for your new qualifying heat pump.



Contact us for more information.

Mark Gronau
Energy Services Representative
Elkhorn Rural
Public Power District
(800) 675-2185

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

Residential High-Efficiency Heat Pump Incentive

Home owners who install a qualified heat pump will be eligible for a variable rebate, depending on the SEER of the unit. Please call us or refer to our website, www.erppd.com, for details. ERPPD customers who replace a window or central air conditioner with a qualified air-source heat pump will earn a double rebate.

Air Source Heat Pump

Qualifying Installation	Basic Rebate	Replace A/C Unit
14 SEER	\$200	add \$200
15 SEER	\$400	add \$400
16 SEER (& up)	\$600	add \$600

Ground Source Heat Pump

Any EER \$1200

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

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**