

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2016

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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ELGIN UPGRADE

For our customers in the Elgin area, you may have noticed activity to the west of the city of Elgin. Crews have begun preparation for upgrading the voltage for the town of Elgin.

The electric system will be converted from 400/4160 volts to 7200/12470 volts. This upgrade will promote efficiency and reliability.

Different equipment and materials needed to maintain the city's system will be reduced. It is also going to enable having two more ways to supply power to the city of Elgin.

One feed will come from the west of Elgin along Highway 70. The other feed will come from the South on Highway 14. The substation just east of town will also be upgraded.



With the extra feeds into town, this will help the system to be even more reliable. For the future, work in the substation will be per-

formed without having to shut the power off to the entire town.



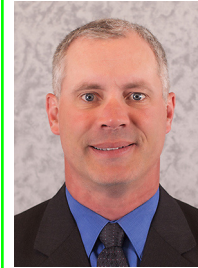
Construction on the line into town from the west has already begun. Employees have been going through the town organizing the job to make this as smooth as possible.

Within the city of Elgin, crews will be changing insulators and some transformers and doing preventative maintenance before this summer, weather permitting. During this work, there will be short intermittent outages.

Depending on project schedules, weather, and the summer loading season, it is projected that the actual conversion for the town of Elgin will happen in the latter part of August. At that time, there will be extended outages as crews put in the new voltage equipment and convert the system.

This is a large project - the total budget is \$624,000 - and we are managing it in such a way to limit the inconveniences to our customers. We appreciate your business and patience through this process. The long term benefits will be well worth it!

Board Member Earns New Certificate



Greg Weidner, sub-district 1 board director for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, has earned the Director Gold Certificate from

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). He joins 800 other directors across the nation who have earned the certificate since it launched in January.

"The certificate program is designed to strengthen board leadership through continuing education," said Pat Mangan, NRECA's director of governance education.

"Director Gold demonstrates to co-op members, regulators and elected officials a directors' ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability," said Mangan.

To earn Director Gold, directors must first earn NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate plus obtain three additional credits from the BLC courses.

Greg has been a director and strong advocate for customers since 2007.

(source *Electric Coop Today.com*)

ANTELOPE COUNTY AG AND HOME EXPO



Lori Wagner: Grand prize winner - George Foreman Grill.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, participated in the 2016 Antelope County Ag and Home Expo held on the Antelope Fair Grounds. Energy efficiency information was disseminated to those in attendance at the show. Attendees visiting the booth registered for a drawing for several electrical related items. Lori Wagner of Pierce won the grand prize drawing for the George Foreman electric grill. Pat McLain of Ewing won a LED shop light. Winners of LED light bulbs were Ron Allen of Clearwater, Jeremy Funk of Elgin; Dennis Hughes of Orchard; Josh Mitchell of Oakdale; Julie Smith of Neligh; and Craig Sprout of Elgin. Congratulations to these prize winners, and thank you to all who stopped by our booth during the expo.

(Left) Pat McLain: Prize winner - LED Shop Light.

Pole Testing & Vegetation Spraying to Start Soon:

As part of Elkhorn's commitment to safety and reliability, pole testing and vegetation management are part of our maintenance routine.

S& L Pole Testing, Inc. will be testing poles again this year. The area to be tested is west and south of Neligh. The poles are tested for soundness and if they are found not to be sound they will be replaced.

To keep the electrical line right-of-way free of large bushes or trees, vegetation is killed by spraying herbicides. Spraying will be completed in the area around Tilden and Meadow Grove and north of those towns.

SAFETY

Padmount Transformer Safety

When Aaron and Brett Studer were young boys, they got into an electrical service box in their yard, and Aaron suffered second and third degree burns to his face. Fortunately there were no permanent scars.

The Studer family is now partnering with Safe Electricity's "Teach Learn Care (TLC)" campaign to share their experience in hopes of helping others stay safe. Safe Electricity urges you to:

- Recognize that these boxes contain electrical equipment.
- Respect the equipment and the boxes. Do not open, tamper with, or obstruct access to them.
- Report if there is any damage, such as a hole or broken lock, immediately to your utility.

To view the entire video go to www.erppd.com and click on the Safe Electricity link to the left hand side of the page.



Padmount Transformers can be dangerous. Remember the three R's above and teach your children about how to be safe around electricity.



GRASSROOTS



(Above) From left to right: back row Dick Ray, Burt County, Rod Zohner and Larry Lindahl, Elkhorn, middle row: Tom Rudloff, Elkhorn and Chad Waldow, Stanton County, and front row: Jim Scherer, Stanton County and Jaime Hoefer, 2015 Youth Tour Representative for Elkhorn.

(Picture to the right). Representatives from Public Power Districts across the state were on hand at the Capitol on Tuesday, February 23, for the LB 1068 hearing.

Meeting with Governor Ricketts

Elkhorn and Stanton County directors, staff and other representatives were able to meet with Governor Ricketts and speak with him about issues concerning to Public Power. This was a fantastic opportunity as not many organizations receive an audience with the Governor, due to his schedule.

First, we were able to thank him for his support with efforts to block the Clean Power Plan and with other EPA rulings, governmental overreach and Waters Of The US proposed regulation.

We also discussed a few of the current bills that we are supporting, opposing or monitoring. Notably, LB 960 – Transportation Innovation Act, which is a priority of the Governor’s; LB 1068 – takes local control out of rate setting; LB 736 – Allowing PPD’s to purchase energy from Community Based Energy Development projects; and LB 720 – drone regulation, which might help Public Power District’s save rate payer dollars by patrolling line or assessing storm damage.

We were also able to introduce the governor to our programs that will help identify and educate future leaders in our state through the Youth Leadership Camp and Youth Tour. Jaime Hoefer and Karissa Dicke, both of Elgin, were great representatives to our efforts in that area!

Our interests are very much aligned with the Governor’s and we were able to establish a rapport for the second year in a row.

Grassroots At Work

Board members Rod Zohner and Larry Lindahl, along with staff, 2015 Youth Tour representatives Jaime Hoefer and Karissa Dicke, both from Elgin, and representatives from Stanton County Public Power, went to the capitol in February to meet with the Governor, senators and attend a committee hearing on LB 1068, which would lessen local control in setting rates.

These activities get us involved in the legislative process and have a positive impact on legislation that affects how we provide safe, reliable, cost effective power to our customers.

LB 1068, for example, was killed in committee due to the efforts of the NREA, PPD’s and their directors

We encourage you to be engaged in the political process, become educated on issues and respond to Action Alerts.

Your voice matters!



Coops Vote Campaign

The NRECA has launched “Co-ops Vote” – a non-partisan, nationwide effort to promote civic engagement and voter participation in the communities they serve.

“Through Co-ops Vote, we want to help our members know when elections are, what is at stake and how to make their voices heard,” said Jeffery Connor, interim CEO.

As you can see through Elkhorn’s efforts, we believe this is important to our mission to provide safe, reliable, cost effective power to all our customers.

To learn more visit www.erppd.com or vote.coop.

(Source: NRECA)

Linemen Appreciation Day April 11

Thank you to all who work to keep the lights on!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.



Appreciate Linemen “Like It” on Facebook

Please post your expressions of appreciation for the linemen on Ellkorn Rural Public Power District’s Facebook page!

See you there!



Linemen at Work

Watch this short video from Working for Nebraska on “The Life of a Lineman” at erppd.com. We will be observing Lineman Appreciation Day on Monday, April 11. Join us in showing appreciation for those that work hard to ensure safe and reliable electricity to your homes and businesses.

