



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2017

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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ELKHORN AWARDED FEMA GRANT



FEMA

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The just over \$1 million project will add a subtransmission line from a substation northwest of Madison to a city substation to the south of Madison, strengthening the entire system south of Norfolk. The FEMA grant for just over \$786,000 will pay for 75% of the project. Elkhorn will work with the City of Madison on the project that will tie our electrical systems together. This will allow for enhanced electrical service to our customers, providing better opportunities for maintenance, reliability and future growth. The project will include a 4.7 mile line-build. Elkhorn is working with customers along the route for easements. There will be a public comment period opportunity in the future as the project progresses. Hazard mitigation grants are used to implement mitigation plans that reduce or eliminate the damage due to natural disasters.

RETAIL CHOICE? I THINK NOT

As I was preparing to share information with the State Legislature's Natural Resources Committee in opposition to LB 660 - retail choice bill, I knew that numbers, statistics and other data would be used by proponents and opponents, to try and assist the committee in their decision. However, to me, this data is only part of the equation, necessary yes, but what is really important about public power is our customer/owners: the people and communities we serve.

Dear Natural Resource Committee:

My name is Tom Rudloff, General Manager of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD). I have served public power customers/owners for over 27 years. In that time, I have had numerous opportunities to work with and listen to many customers. Today, I speak on their behalf.

I speak on behalf of the young mother that stood at our front desk and asked me not to raise electrical rates as she could not afford to pay more as she would not have enough money to pay for her electric bill and still put milk on the table for her child. We worked with her that day and we have not raised rates in four years. That year for Christmas, our employees put some of their money together to help her and some others with their bills, so these customers might have a Christmas with a little less worry. Would retail choice help this mother? I think not! But public power does.

I speak on behalf of the seasonal service customers: the stock well, the grain bin, and the irrigation customers. Our load profile is not pretty. We don't need electricity that many months out of the year, but we help feed the world, support the local economy, and as agriculture producers, we are the backbone of the Nebraska economy. Even though our load profile is not ideal, my public power company is glad to be our partner to help us with our electrical needs. Will retail choice even want us? I think not! But public power does.

I speak on behalf of the third generation rancher living on the original homestead where his grandfather helped public power, or as grandpa called us - the REA, bring in the lines to serve his very remote farmstead.

You see, the private electrical developers, who represent retail choice today, did not want to serve grandpa. There was not enough profit and too many miles of line for one customer. Do you think that retail choice

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A Nebraska farmstead, part of our rich history, like Public Power - Fred Volk farm June 1901.

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will serve the remote customer? I think not! But, public power does.

I speak on behalf of the rural communities. Our load profile looks better because we have more meters per mile of line, so we might just look pretty good to retail choice. However, the local public power folks, its employees and directors, live in our communities and send their kids to the local schools. They serve on our local boards and volunteer within our communities. They serve on our fire departments and as EMT first responders. Yeah, they save homes



and lives. They even put on electric safety demonstrations. Employee and public safety is extremely important to my local public power. Their wages stay in our communities and help sustain us. The public power company even provides lease payments to our community and gross revenue tax dollars to our counties. If the baseball or football lights need fixed, we know who to call. Heck, local public power employees even used their big boom truck to help set the fire/tornado whistle. Do you think the retail choice folks will do all that? I think not! But public power does.

I speak on behalf of the large power, industrial customer. We are the customer that retail choice wants. Oh, but wait just a minute. My local public power company has a reliable factor of 99.98% and that is pretty important to us. If we don't have reliable electrical power, our whole operation comes to a stop. Elkhorn Rural Public Power, our local provider, buys their power from Nebraska Public Power

District. Those folks have a diverse energy mix portfolio of generation, or as they like to call it, steel in the ground, which is pretty important to reliability. Public Power has invested in a pretty expansive electrical grid in Nebraska to ensure that we, large power and industrial customers, have reliability. Public Power has invested their margins back into the system, not to pay stockholders in other states. The cost is pretty darn good, too, 30% lower than retail choice states. Elkhorn's employees have been out to our facilities to help us figure out ways to use electricity more effectively. ERPPD has programs to help with energy efficiency, too. Yeah, that's right; Elkhorn Rural Public Power helps us to use less of their product, because it is the right thing to do. Public power must be customer driven, not profit driven, or why else would they do this? Will retail choice take care of large industrial customers this way? I think not! But public power does.

I speak on behalf of the lineman. This one is really easy for me, as I was one. I have seen many parts of this state

from atop a pole. When a public power district gets hit by a storm and needs help to take care of their

customers, you can bet Public Power's linemen from across the state will be there to help. They will work in wind, rain, heat, cold, and ice to get our customers, our friends, and our neighbors' lights back on, because that is what public power does. Will retail choice do that? I think not! But public



power does.

I speak on behalf of directors and employees at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District who are dedicated to providing safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity for ALL customers. The state statute states that we have an obligation to serve our customers' electrical needs. We say that it is a privilege to serve our customers/owners who are our friends and neighbors. Our board is comprised of locally elected folks who live and work in the communities and receive their electrical power from our district. Yes, we provide local control that is accessible to our customers and we care about those customers. Can retail choice provide that? I think not. But public power does.

I hope you will consider what I have shared with today as you make your decision. Please oppose LB 660 Retail Choice. You can rest assured that public power will continue to stand tall and work with our customers as we have for over 75 years, taking care of ALL of our customers.

At the Natural Resources Committee hearing for LB 660, in which the room was so packed with public power supporters that an overflow room was needed; the proponents claimed that electricity is just a commodity, the market controls the cost, and public power is no longer viable.

Unfortunately, they don't get it; public power is not simply about delivering an electron. It IS about doing what is in the best interest of the customers we serve and you telling us what you need -- that is public power.

The Natural Resource Committee definitely gets public power as they unanimously voted to kill LB 660.

Thank you for your support as well. We truly appreciate the opportunity to serve you and we will continue to work hard providing you with the public power advantage: safe, reliable, cost effective electricity.

ANTELOPE COUNTY AG AND HOME EXPO



Mark Gronau and Jennifer Adams manned the Elkhorn booth at the Antelope County Ag and Home Expo

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, participated in the 2017 Antelope County Ag and Home Expo held on the Antelope Fair Grounds March 1 and 2.

Congratulations to our Booth Drawing Winners! We had 186 attendees registered for our 6 drawings!

Gary Jones of Royal, NE, won the grand prize drawing for the George Foreman electric grill.

Karol Michael, of Clearwater, won a LED shop light. Debbie Bolling of Elgin and Becky Springer of Oakdale won Prescolite LED Lights.

Winners of LED light bulbs were Richard Trease of Clearwater, and Cameron Paulk of Neligh.

Energy efficiency and safety information was disseminated to those that stopped by. We appreciate the helpful feedback, energy efficiency and irrigation questions and the pro-public power comments we received. Thank you for stopping by.

ENERGY NEWS

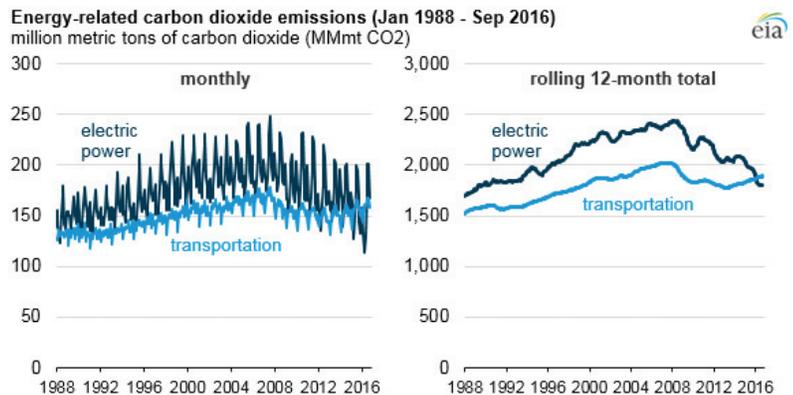
Carbon Footprint of Power Plants Now Lower Than Vehicles, EIA Says.

Carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generation in the United States last year fell below those from the transportation sector, the first time that had occurred since the late 1970's, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). From October 2015 through September 2016, carbon dioxide emission from transportation came in at 1,893 million metric tons, compared with 1,803 million metric tons for power plants.

Overall, EIA adds that power sector carbon dioxide emission dropped an average 2.8 percent annual between 2007 and 2015 - due to greater amounts of natural gas, hydropower, wind and solar generation coming on-line and a decline in coal use - while those from transportation rose an average of 1.8 percent per year as increased travel and shipping, due to cheap oil prices, outpaced efficiency gains.

The United States has made remarkable progress in greening its electricity sector since 2005. Whenever you see exciting headlines about renewable energy growth or the plunge in US emissions, those articles are usually talking about electricity.

Power plants are only one-third of America's CO2 emissions. Transportation, another third (and now the biggest source), remains tougher to address as there aren't other readily available substitutes for oil. In fact, since 2013, transport emissions have been creeping upward again. As power plants are (roughly) one-third of US greenhouse-gas emissions and transportation is another third so that leaves a lot of other stuff, such as industry (cement and steel plants both emit a lot of CO2 directly), fossil-fuel consumption for heating in homes and buildings, livestock and agriculture (a big source of methane), as well as forestry. If we really want to decarbonize the US economy, we'd need to tackle all of these areas. (Copied from: CFC Solutions News Bulletin and Vox.com Brad Plumer)



THANK A LINEMAN APRIL 10



THANK YOU FOR
POWERING OUR
LIVES.

NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY

APRIL 10, 2017

#THANKALINEMAN

SAFETY

Keep Yourself from Having to Dig Out of Trouble

If you had a new fence to install at home, you would likely research property lines, ordinances, and fence types. Then you would get to the point of purchasing, prepping, and assembling materials to get work started.

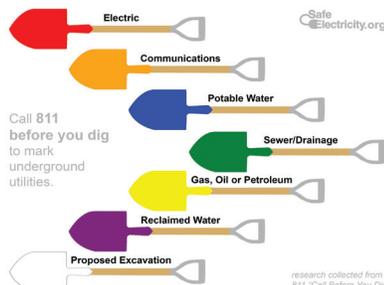
However, you would still not be ready to dig. There is a very important step missing—calling 811.



Know what's below. Call before you dig. 811 is a free service that will have buried public utilities marked on your property so that you can safely dig around them. Just call 811, or submit an online request at call811.com at least a few

business days(48 hours) before you plan to dig.

Digging without having utility lines marked can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water, and sewer systems. Checking the safety of a location before you begin digging is important for both professionals and homeowners. It helps prevent accidents on projects of all sizes and scopes.



Pictured above left to right: Dave Hrbanek, foreman and safety director, receives his National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP) plaque from Board President, Greg Weidner. The CLCP is an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control.