



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2019

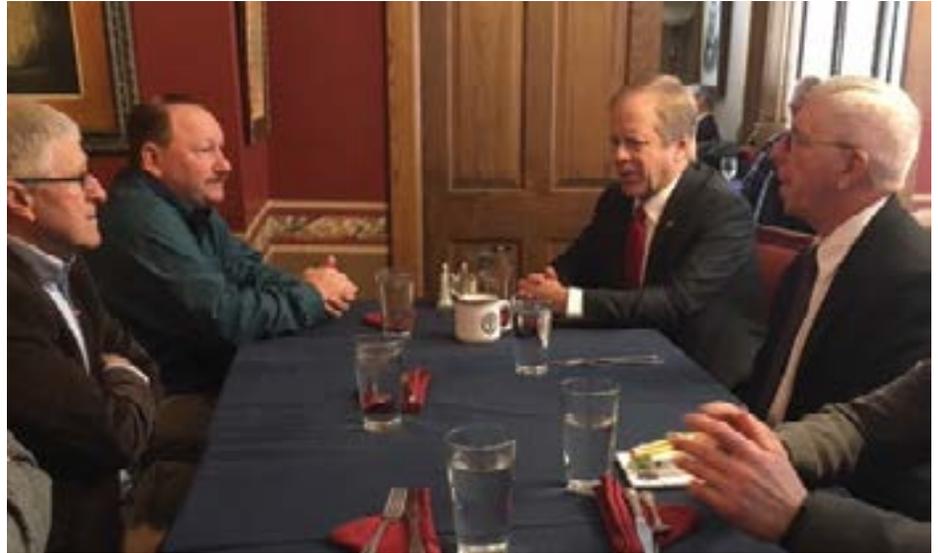
Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 4

GRASSROOTS RELATION BUILDING

A part of the Political Action Plan, that the board approves each year, is visiting the Capitol during the legislative session to build relationships with the senators and their staff.

It is important for ERPPD to be active on the political scene to help us achieve our mission of safe, reliable cost effective electricity for all our customers. Legislation on the state and federal level can affect anyone of those pieces of our mission and we want to be an **continued on page 2**



Pictures from top right clockwise: Left to Right - Rod Zohner, Hunter Frisch, Senator Briese, and Jerry Dolesh visit at lunch; Front row: Dave Hoefer, Jennifer Adams, Jerry Dolesh, Hunter Frisch, Mark Miller, Back Row, Tom Rudloff, Ray Payne, and Rod Zohner; Construction signs are a bit confusing; Speaker Scheer, Rod Zohner and Mark Miller.

RENEWABLES: UNDERSTANDING 100%

(Reprinted with permission from NMPP Energy's March Essent Newsletter)

There is a growing push for cities and businesses across the country to strive to use 100 percent renewable energy.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors in 2017 approved a resolution supporting a 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2035. Businesses such as Coca-Cola, BMW Group, Bank of America and others have committed to be 100 percent renewable. Budweiser unveiled a commercial during this year's Super Bowl to announce its beer is being brewed by 100 percent renewable (wind) energy.

But what exactly does being "100 percent renewable" really mean from a technical standpoint? Renewable energy from resources such as wind and solar aren't available all the time to produce energy, so how is a city or business able to claim to be 100 percent renewable?

The answer lies in financial arrangements as opposed to the actual energy received from the operation of the electric grid. To understand what being "100 percent renewable" means, it

helps to have a basic understanding of how the electric grid works.

To ensure reliability, electric grid operators must maintain a proper balance in matching electric load to electric demand at all times. Renewable energy resources such as wind and solar are inherently intermittent. To respond to this intermittency, other resources are required to maintain a proper balance of electric load and demand. If a city or business (assuming its hooked up to the U.S. electric grid) claims to be 100 percent renewable, what they are indicating is they have made financial arrangements to purchase the equivalent electric load output from renewable energy resources equal to their business or city's electric demand over a certain period of time. Being connected to the electric grid, they are receiving electricity produced from whatever generating sources are on the grid — this includes natural gas, coal, nuclear and other forms of electric generation. Once on the electric grid electricity produced by renewable sources is no different from electricity produced from other generating sources. In other words: An electron is an electron once produced. Electrons produced by renewable resources are mixed with electrons produced by more traditional baseload resources. This mix of electricity is then transmitted throughout the grid serving electric demand with no distinction on a business or city's renewable claims.

Knowing this concept helps in understanding the current limitations of renewable resources, the importance of baseload resources to maintain a reliable grid, as well as the phrase of being "100 percent renewable" — as it relates to a financial arrangement rather than from an operational standpoint.



Grassroots *Cont'd. from page 1* advocate for our customers.

On February 28th, six board members and two staff were able to go to the Capitol. We were able to attend some of the floor debate and final readings of the legislature and were announced as guests of Speaker Scheer. We were also able to meet with Speaker Scheer and Senator Briese to address Public Power issues and the legislative session. We also visited the Nebraska Rural Electric Association building and staff.

It was a very successful trip for meeting and building relationships with legislators so that we can be a resource for them.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov



ANTELOPE COUNTY AG AND HOME EXPO



Pictured above: Melvin Kucera, winner of the LED shop light from the Antelope County Ag Show booth drawing.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, participated in the 2019 Antelope County Ag and Home Expo held on the Antelope Fair Grounds March 5 and 6. Congratulations to our Booth Drawing Winners! Rita Eickhoff, rural Tilden, won the Instant Pot; Melvin Kucera, rural Tilden, won the Portable LED Shop Light and Rachele Lyall, rural Meadow Grove, won Philips LED Light Bulbs.

Thank you to all who stopped and visited with us!

Pictured below: Board members Ray Payne, and Joe Thiele stopped by to visit Jennifer Adams, Corporate Communicator, center, at the 2019 Antelope County Ag and Home Expo in March.



CUSOTMER INFORMATION UPDATES

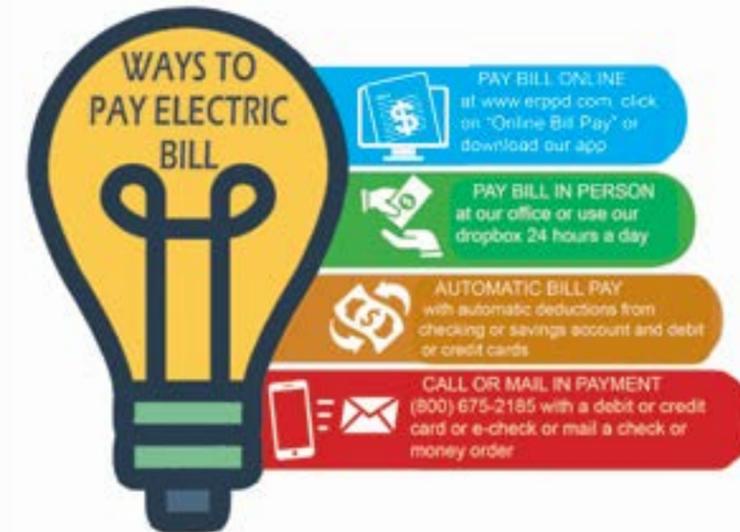
With Spring in the air, our thoughts turn to the changes in the season. Now is a good time to take stock and see what other changes might have occurred. Has your phone number or other contact information recently changed? Have you disconnected your land line? Is the name on your account listed properly? We

have customers with the same first and last names, so a middle initial is important to us when listing accounts. Many times we have more than one person listed on an account and find out at a later date that one of the parties has moved, is deceased or is no longer residing at the account address. It is very important to

us to have accurate information for contacting you for planned and unplanned outages as well as billing purposes. If you notice incorrect information and want us to make any changes, please notify our office at (800) 675-2185.

Life Sustaining Medical Equipment: Elkhorn RPPD can designate accounts of customers that have life sustaining medical equipment in use, such as an oxygen concentrator or infant monitoring for a premature baby. This information is used for notification of planned power outages for maintenance or line construction. Customers who qualify for this designation need to provide a letter from their physician.

For more information about the medical equipment designation or to notify us of life sustaining medical equipment in your home please contact the office at (800) 675-2185.



Committed to the job.
Committed to safety.
Committed to you,
our members.

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 8, 2019



#Thankalineman - a BIG shout out to the linemen at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District - Marc Ahlers, Kenn Capler, Patrick Hintz, Jeremy Holecek, Jeff Kerkman, Kyle Kester, Ryan Kittelson, Paul Lichty, Jason Lyon, Blake Papik, Dan Schrage, Eric Scranton, Dominic Smedra, Taylor Stanley, Andy Starman, Jared Sucksdorf, Chris Tillotson, Jim Wennekamp and Travis Wiebelhaus.

BEWARE of dangers above.
Your LIFE depends on it.



Look up and out for power lines this planting season. Please stop by the office to pick up some stickers or call us at (800) 675-2185 and we will mail them, to put on equipment to remind you to be careful around power lines.

SPRAYING & POLE TESTING

Each year as part of the routine maintenance of the electrical system that keeps our customers safe and their electricity reliable, is our pole testing and vegetation management programs.

This year Sundance Power Pole Inspections (Sundance PPI), out of Colorado, will be doing our pole inspections. Pole inspections consist of visually examining the pole, doing a sound test by hitting it with a hammer and digging out the pole to see if there is decay underground. Poles that show signs of advanced decay are marked for removal, before mother nature causes an outage. This keeps Elkhorn's reliability at 99.98%.

Pole testing will be conducted in the towns of Elgin, Ewing and Clearwater, starting in May. They will also be conducted out of Substation 9 - west circuit, which is northwest and west of Clearwater. Also out of Substation 25 - east and west circuits, which is east and southwest of Ewing.

Vegetation management also helps with safety and reliability. We have contracted with Wilson Tree Service again this year to spray in Ranges 1 & 2 (around the Norfolk and Madison areas) and the northern parts of Ranges 3 & 4.

If you have questions about our pole testing or vegetation management programs please call the office at (800) 675-2185.