



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2024

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 32, Number 4

## ERPPD/NE “ROCK” ELECTRIC RATES

From the GM - Mark Johnson

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released data from 2022 that shows that Nebraska continues to “rock” electric rates by having lower than the national average residential electrical rates - the graph to the right.

Nebraska’s rates have not changed, according to the EIA data, from 2019-2022, the latest data available. The national average increased over that time frame from 13.01 to 15 cents.

Nebraska, the only all public power state, continues to provide value through stable, cost-effective rates for our customers.

For Elkhorn, there has not been an overall rate increase in the last 12 years (2013-2024), and a 6% decrease in the last two years.

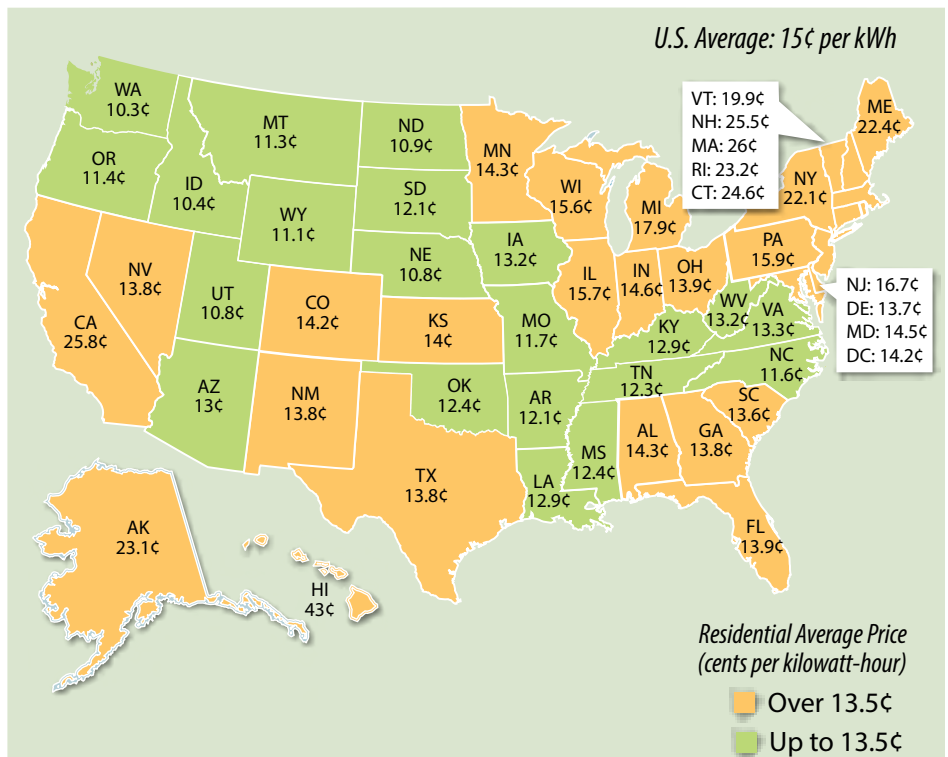
The average cost for our residential kWh for 2022 was 9.4 cents.

As you can tell, that ranks considerably below the national average of 15 cents and Elkhorn’s residential rates were also more than a cent lower than the Nebraska state average of 10.8 cents.

We will continue to look for ways to “rock” our mission statement and provide value to you through your electrical service.

### Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2022 figures, in cents per kWh



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration  
Numbers rounded to nearest tenth of a cent

### THE PEOPLE OF PUBLIC POWER IN NEBRASKA

In the summer of 1938, George Malin of Madison, had the idea to call J.H. Williams, the Madison County agricultural agent. Malin wanted electricity to help increase his hens' egg production. Little did he know that interaction sparked the start of ERPPD. George Malin was one of 8 directors in 1938 and became treasurer in 1939. On April 29, 1940 the first 116 miles of line were energized, and 148 consumers had electricity.

Source: erppd.com





# OUT IN THE FIELDS

Irrigation season will soon be upon us. With 78 new services put in last year and another approximately 95 slated for this year, it has been a busy couple of years.

Recently, name/rate class change letters went out to customers. Based on the responses from those letters, Marc Ahlers, SCADA field tech, will be coming around to those boxes to program or take the load control switches.

Those that have been marked for full time pumping will have an orange sticker, pictured lower right.

He will be driving a Ranger side by side with Elkhorn stickers on it, pictured right.

He utilizes the Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) to access the boxes out in the field. He will be doing this throughout the spring and irrigation season.

Please be aware, for your safety and his, that Marc is out there working for you.



*Pictured above: SCADA Field Tech, Marc Ahlers, with the Ranger side by side. He uses the Utility Terrain Vehicle to access and work on ERPPD equipment out in the field.*

*Pictured right: If you go to full time pumping, Marc will be coming to your box to remove the load control switch.*



# YOUR "CHANGE" AT WORK

You can see in the chart to the right how your generous giving through Operation Round Up is impacting organizations in your community.

Each quarter, the board of trustees is able to fulfill the needs of organizations because you round up!

If you know of an organization that has a project that needs some funding, please go to [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) and under the Community Fund tab, fill out the application.

The deadline for 2nd quarter funding is April 22, 2024.

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards February 2024

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek Youth Football Association	Enclosed Trailer for Equipment	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Elgin Public Library	Project Door Opener	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Elgin TeamMates	Graduation & Red/White Game	Elgin	\$750.00
ESU 8 Clearwater Learning Center	Flexible Seating for Students	Clearwater	\$1,000.00
Grace Lutheran Childcare	Start Up Fund	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Lois Johnson Memorial Library	Summer Reading 2024	Oakdale	\$500.00
Neligh-Oakdale TeamMates	Bus Rental	Neligh	\$750.00
Northeast Nebraska High School Rodeo	2024 High School Rodeo	Madison	\$1,000.00
St. Paul's Lutheran School	St. Paul's AEDs	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$8,000.00</b>

<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Application Deadline April 22, 2024</b>	<b>Board Meeting Date: May 6, 2024</b>
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## STRESS FREE PAYMENTS

Worried about your payment making it to the office on time? Have you had to pay a penalty because your payment was late? ERPPD has many ways to take the stress out of getting your payment to the office by the due date!

**\*Pay Through Automatic Drafts.** Set up an automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account or from a debit or credit card.

Set it up once and your payment will never "get lost in the mail" or forgotten.

**\*Pay Online.** Go to [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) and click on the online bill pay tab or graphic.

**\*Pay by App.** Download the app and access your account and make payments right from your phone or smart device.

**\*Pay by Phone.** Call the office at 800-675-2185 during office hours and speak with our friendly



customer service reps.

They can take payment for your account over the phone.

If you need more predictability for your electric bill ask about budget or pre-payment billing.

For any of these options you can

visit [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) or call the office for more information.

Please make use of these easy and convenient payment options for stress free service and to help us to keep your rates cost-effective.



# LINEWORKER APPRECIATION APRIL 8



## ERPPD LINEMEN

Name	Position	YOS
Marc Ahlers	SCADA Field Tech	26
Coltin Bauer	Appr. Lineman	2
Grady Bellingtier	Journeyman Lineman	4
Dan Belt	General Foreman	34
Chris Bentley	Journeyman Lineman	4
Patrick Hintz	Staking Eng. Tech	21
Jeremy Holecek	Journeyman Lineman	22
Dawson Kaup	Appr. Lineman	1
Kyle Kester	Journeyman Lineman	15
Ryan Kittelson	Safety Dir./Jrny. Lineman	27
Todd Knutson	Operations Manager	29
Carter Lammers	Appr. Lineman	2
Jason Lyon	Foreman	17
Blake Papik	Journeyman Lineman	6
John Paul	Meter Tech	18
Quinton Ries	Appr. Lineman	1
Eric Scranton	Foreman	23
Dominic Smedra	Journeyman Lineman	22
Andy Starman	General Foreman	14
Jared Suckstorf	Journeyman Lineman	22
Chris Tillotson	Journeyman Lineman	26
Jim Wennekamp	Staking Meter Assit.	29
Travis Wiebelhaus	Foreman	23

**206 N 4TH ST  
PO Box 310  
Battle Creek, NE  
68715**

**General Manager:**  
Mark Johnson  
**CFO/Office Manager:**  
Carmen Christensen  
**Operations Manager:**  
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:

### Board of Directors

**Subdivision I**

- Mark Miller, President
- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director

**Subdivision II**

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zolner, Director

**Subdivision III**

- Joe Thiele, Vice President
- David Hoefer, Director
- Raymond Payne, Director