



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2025

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 33, Number 4

## FUTURE GENERATION CAPACITY



*From the GM - Mark Johnson*

This month, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has been delivering electricity

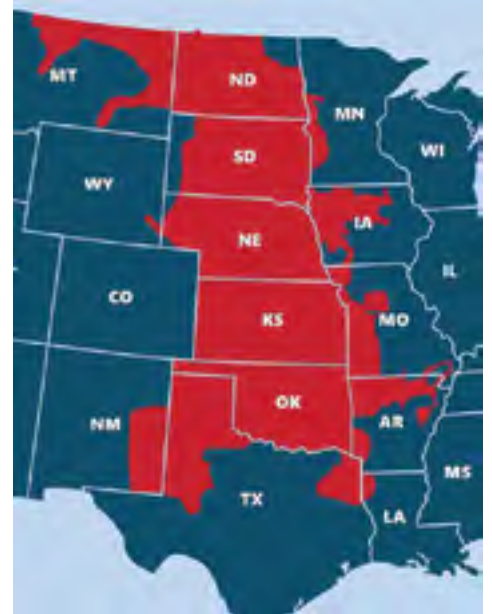
to our customers for 85 years! Over the decades, we have seen a tremendous amount of change to our industry. Today, we are facing a new challenge- ensuring that Nebraska has enough generation capacity to meet the growing energy needs of our state.

In the November *Wire*, my article focused on our contract negotiations with our wholesale power provider, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). In that article, I spoke about our state's need to invest in new generation resources mostly driven by a variety of new businesses and industries coming to Nebraska. Across NPPD's footprint, there is over 640 MW of new firm load that has been energized or is expected to be energized before 2029. The term firm load refers to the amount of guaranteed capacity that is needed to meet a customer's requirements. This 640 MW of new load comes from 50 different projects spread across a variety of differ-

ent industries. For comparison, NPPD's Cooper Nuclear Station generates approximately 835 MW of electricity.

On top of this growth, there are new regulatory requirements that will push an additional need for new capacity. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP), is a regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid across 14 states (see map to the right), will be increasing its planning reserve margin (PRM) in both the summer and winter seasons. This margin represents the extra generation capacity needed beyond

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*Southwest Power Pool - is a regional transmission organization that manages the electric grid across 14 states.*

## CELEBRATING 85 YEARS

The 1940s marked a period of significant change and turmoil. On April 29, ERPPD energized its first customers during a time when World War II was beginning in Europe, Franklin D. Roosevelt had just won his third term as President, the Jeep debuted, and mass-produced penicillin was saving countless lives. New milestones were being reached in various fields: the first McDonald's restaurant had opened, nylon stockings were introduced by DuPont, and rural America

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# FUTURE GENERATION CONTINUED

an entity's peak demand. The PRM is designed to ensure grid reliability in case of unexpected outages or extreme weather events.

SPP will be increasing the summer PRM from 15% to 17% in the summer of 2029. SPP is expected to increase the winter PRM from 15% to 39% in the winter of 2029/2030. In the summer of 2029, NPPD's new PRM is forecasted to be over 500 MW (17 % of NPPD's Peak Demand) and in addition to NPPD's forecasted summer peak. In the winter of 2029/2030, NPPD's new PRM is forecasted to be over 1,000 MW (39% of NPPD's Peak Demand) in addition

to NPPD forecasted winter peak. These increases mean utilities must have more generation capacity available to meet future energy needs/requirements. With the large increase in the winter PRM, NPPD's winter peak is forecast to surpass their summer peak.

Rest assured, NPPD has been taking steps to position themselves to take on these new challenges. They have announced plans for adding new gas generation facilities. This includes 12 Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines totaling 216 MW and two Combustion Turbines totaling 478 MW. These projects are expected to be in service in

the summer of 2029. In addition, NPPD has also made several capacity purchases from other entities to ensure reliable service.

At ERPPD, the board and staff are also taking steps to plan for continued growth while remaining committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity. We are working closely with our wholesale power provider, policy makers, and industry partners to navigate these challenges. By working with all involved and planning for future energy needs today, we can continue to power our customers and communities for the next 85 years and beyond.

# 85 YEARS CONTINUED

was in the process of having the "lights turned on".

Believe it or not, that was 85 years ago. Today, ERPPD is proud to continue providing electrical service to its customers through all the ups and downs of the last eight and a half decades. The journey from those modest beginnings to the modern-day organization has been marked by numerous advancements and unwavering commitment to service.

Over the past 85 years, ERPPD has witnessed substantial technological advancements. Initially, self-read meters required customers to manually report their electricity usage. This method, while effective at the time, could be cumbersome and prone to errors. Today, ERPPD employs an automated meter infrastructure that not only streamlines the process but also enhances customer service. This system allows ERPPD to detect power outages often before the customers themselves realize there's an issue.

Billing practices have also evolved from the days of receiving postcards in the mail. The current option for paperless billing is not only environmentally friendly but also offers convenience and efficiency to the customers, ensuring timely and accurate billing.

The equipment used in the field has undergone significant improvements, making the work less physically demanding and far safer for workers. These advancements enable ERPPD to maintain a high standard of service while

## Service Comparisons

\*2025 numbers are through January 31, 2025

As of April 29 (by year)	Other Vital Statistics				
	1940 First day	1965 25 years	2000 60 years	2015 75 Years	2025 85 Years*
Miles of Distribution Line	116	1,855	2,460	2,650	2,680
Miles of Transmission Line	---	51	176	199	231
Substations	1	8	24	27	31
Number of Services	148	3,471	8,386	9,449	10,240
Average monthly kWh per customer	64	674	1,357	2,222	2,985
Counties served	1	5	9	8	8
Employees on Payroll	3	17	37	40	39

prioritizing the safety and well-being of our employees.

Despite the numerous changes and advancements, many things have remained constant at ERPPD. The organization's commitment to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity to its customers has never wavered. This dedication is reflected in our continuous efforts to innovate and improve, ensuring that the needs of our customers are met with utmost efficiency and reliability.

The progression of ERPPD (see

chart above) over the past 85 years is a testament to the organization's ability to adapt and grow amidst changing times. From the initial challenges of rural electrification to the sophisticated automated systems of today, ERPPD has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and service.

The story of ERPPD is a story of its customers - (see box below)- one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment—a journey that began 85 years ago and continues to evolve today.

**CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG**

For projects big or small, call at least two to three days prior to digging.

Safe Electricity.org

**RESPECT THE WORK ZONE**

SO WE ALL GET HOME

2025 NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Scammers will try anything to deceive utility customers, including a tactic that claims customers have overpaid their bill. If you receive a call, text or email from someone claiming you overpaid a utility bill and need to provide your banking or credit card information to receive a credit, it's likely a scam. In most cases, your utility will apply a credit to your account to cover future charges or refund an overpayment with a mailed check.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams



### THE PEOPLE OF PUBLIC POWER IN NEBRASKA

In the summer of 1938, George Main of Madison, had the idea to call J.H. Williams, the Madison County agricultural agent. Main wanted electricity to help increase his herd's egg production. Little did he know that interaction sparked the start of ERPPD. George Main was one of 9 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

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This spring, consider using a rain barrel to save energy. Rain barrels capture rainwater from a roof that can be used later for watering your lawn, garden or indoor plants.

# LINEWORKER APPRECIATION APRIL 14

## WIRED FOR SERVICE.

We thank electrical line techs for their commitment to powering our communities.

LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY  
APRIL 14, 2025

#Thankalineman - a **BIG** shout out to the line techs and operations at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District: **Journeyman** - Marc Ahlers (*SCADA Field Tech*), Grady Bellingtier, Chris Bentley, Patrick Hintz (*Staking Eng. Tech.*), Jeremy Holecek, Kyle Kester, Ryan Kittelson (*Safety Director*), Jason Lyon (*Foreman*), Eric Scranton (*Foreman*), Dominic Smedra, Jared Suckstorf, Chris Tillotson, Jim Wennekamp (*Staking /Meter Tech*) and Travis Wiebelhaus (*Foreman*); **Apprentices** - Coltin Bauer, Taylor Cappel, Dawson Kaup, Carter Lammers, Quinton Ries, and Zane Stoike, and to **General Foremen** - Dan Belt and Andy Starman and **Operations Manger** - Todd Knutson.



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Office Hours: M - F  
8:00AM - 4:30 PM



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

Connect with us Online:



WWW.ERPPD.COM



SCAN ME

### Board of Directors

#### Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

#### Subdivision II

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

#### Subdivision III

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

**Customer Service: 402-675-2185**  
**For Outages: 1-800-675-2185**