

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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Widger Selected for National Youth Leadership Council

Dylan Widger of Elgin has been selected to represent Nebraska on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Widger was sponsored by Elkhorn Rural Public Power to attend the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 13-19. While in Washington, D.C. he was chosen from among the 20 Nebraska students that attended to represent Nebraska as the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) member. As the YLC delegate, Widger will next attend the YLC Conference, July 19-23, 2014,



Dylan Widger of Elgin (pictured in front of the nation's capitol)

in Washington, D.C. The conference agenda includes leadership and team building exercises, meeting with Capitol Hill staff members who are alumni of NRECA's Rural Electric Youth Tour, and a competition to select the NRECA's National Youth Spokesperson. All 44 members of the YLC from across the nation, including Dylan, will participate in the 2015 NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. They will provide assistance to the NRECA staff and co-op delegates; participate in the Parade of States at the opening General Session, and take part in a variety of educational forums.

"I am so very excited to be able to go to our nation's capital to meet with kids from across the country, learn about our country's energy industry, and to have a look inside America's political system," Widger said. "It's an incredible opportunity, and I am thankful to the NREA, my local public power district ERPPD, and to the NRECA, for sending me."

The Nebraska Youth Tour met in Washington, D.C. June 13-19. The 20 Nebraska students who attended had meetings with their representatives in both the U.S. House and Senate, visited Washington's historic landmarks, and participated in Youth Day with more than 1,600 high school students from across the country.

NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit, public power districts and co-operatives which provide electric service to 42 million people in 47 states. For more information about this program, please visit www.youthtour.coop.

Your Voice Is Needed to Help Rein In the EPA!

We need you to add your voice to the thousands of rural electric customers who will be affected by the latest proposed EPA power plant emissions rules. See the TAKE ACTION ALERT on page 4 and please TAKE ACTION to help us "Protect Affordable Energy", as Senator Deb Fischer so aptly stated in a recent editorial.

75th Anniversary Recipe Book

Do you have a favorite recipe, a unique recipe, a "handed-down" recipe, a time-saving recipe? We are asking you to submit a recipe for inclusion in the ERPPD 75th Anniversary Recipe Book, which will be given away at our open house in June of 2015.

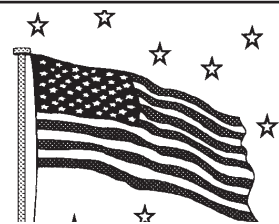
Please submit recipes to:

ERPPD

Attn: Wayne McCormick

PO Box 310

Battle Creek, NE 68715



Labor Day is Monday, Sept. 1

ERPPD offices **will be closed** so employees and their families can celebrate the day that's dedicated to the workers of America.

SAFETY NEWS

Grain Bins: Harvesting Safely

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our customers.

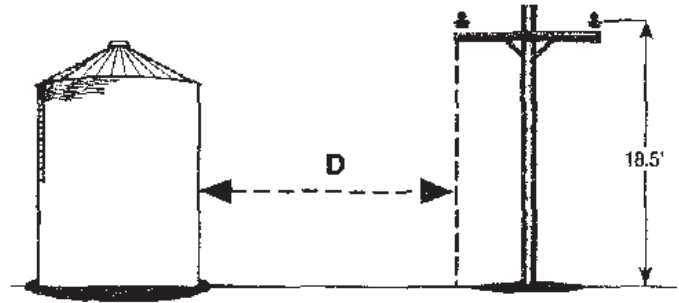
Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

- **Safe clearance.** The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart at [direction] for further guidelines. [Consider using Grain Bins – Clearance Guidelines graphics to accompany this article.] Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.
- **Filling grain bins.** High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.
- **Moving equipment near grain bins.** When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Elkhorn Rural Public Power District reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Elkhorn Rural Public Power District at (800) 675-2185, and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

Siting Grain Bins Safely

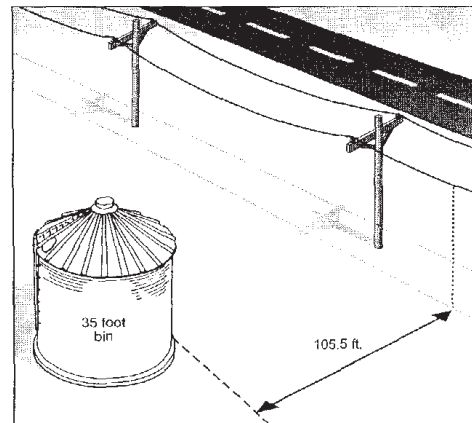


National Electric Safety Code diagram illustrating Grain Bin Clearance Rules.

(see chart below for explanation)

The following list gives the minimum distances that a variety of grain bin sizes should be placed away from a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5' and a phase-to-ground voltage between 750 volts and 22,000 volts. (Note: ERPPD's phase-to-ground voltage for its rural lines is 7,200 volts.)

Height of Grain Storage Structure	D=Minimum Distance From Line to Bin Wall
15 feet	55 feet
20	68
25	80
30	93
35	105
40	118
50	143
60	168
70	193
80	218



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

During summer months, our homes can be extremely hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. Before you fire up your air conditioner, try cooling off with a ceiling fan first. Using ceiling fans can actually raise your thermostat setting by 4 degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

OPERATIONS NEWS

ERPPD Construction Crews Busy This Fall Preparing for NPPD's Hoskins to Neligh 345kv Transmission Line

In order to clear the route for Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD's) Hoskins to Neligh 345,000 volt (345kv) transmission line, the operations department of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD) will be busy this fall and winter with moving or burying distribution lines out of the right-of-way of the new line. ERPPD crews will also be building lines to supply power for a new NPPD substation in the Neligh area. ERPPD will be reimbursed for this work as part of the total cost of the project.

The 345kv line is probably one of the most important NPPD upgrades in recent years that directly affect ERPPD customers. This project has been on the drawing board for many years, but it was brought to the front following the drought of 2012, when NPPD found out that the central part of the state was short on electrical capacity.

The 345kv line will provide much-needed capacity for all electric utilities in the area, including ERPPD and other public power districts, rural electric cooperatives, city utilities, municipals, etc.

Construction on the new 345kv line will begin in the spring of 2015, with a scheduled completion in the spring of 2016. This schedule would result in the line ready to supply power for the summer loading season in 2016.

"Lineworker Appreciation Day"

The 103rd Legislature passed Legislative Resolution 409, designating August 26, 2014, as "Lineworker Appreciation Day" in Nebraska. Following is the text of LR 409:

WHEREAS, America's electric energy is generated by thousands of individual power plants connected to a complex electrical grid consisting of over 5 million miles of transmission and distribution lines that deliver energy to homes, businesses, hospitals, churches, and schools throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide electrical grid must be maintained and operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year despite inclement weather, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and other hazards; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's lineworkers have demonstrated outstanding skill and dedication and have won numerous awards by participating in various lineworker competitions, most notably the annual Nebraska Lineworkers' Rodeo at the Nebraska State Fair; and

WHEREAS, the hardworking men and women of Nebraska who risk their lives daily in extremely dangerous situations to ensure the reliable delivery of electric energy to all citizens of the state are deserving of our respect, gratitude, and honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature expresses its appreciation to all of Nebraska's hard-working lineworkers.
2. That the Legislature recognizes August 26, 2014, as "Lineworker Appreciation Day" in Nebraska.

S&L Testing Poles

S&L Pole Testing, Inc., employees are inspecting poles in the following areas: north of Newman Grove, south and east of Meadow Grove, north of Norfolk, and southeast of Norfolk. S&L began testing poles for us in mid-July.

We had announced in April that the pole testers would be starting sometime in May, but due to unforeseen circumstances on the part of the testers, the start time was moved back to July.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD TODAY

On June 2, 2014, as part of President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a proposed rule seeking to cut carbon emission from Nebraska's existing fossil fuel power plants by 26 percent by the year 2030.

Coal fired power plants provide two-thirds of our state's electricity. These plants provide an affordable source of electricity that can be depended upon around the clock. The proposed rule would force the closure of many coal fired power plants across the nation, placing in jeopardy the affordability and reliability of our electrical system.

The EPA is asking for public comment on this rule and we are asking you to Take Action. The public comment period will be a very important part of the rule-making process, and we need the EPA to know that Nebraskans are very concerned about the impacts of excessive regulations from the EPA.

We thank those of you that have participated in these Action Alerts in the past. Please continue to be active on these issues. The more you are aware of the impacts of these regulations on your pocketbooks, and the more active our rural membership is on these issues, the more likely we are to see the EPA listen to our concerns.

Take Action Now at www.action.coop. If you do not have internet, please fill out the card below and return it to our office and we will submit your comments for you.

Following is the text of the comment that will be submitted when you TAKE ACTION. There is an opportunity to add your own words to make it more personal. This comment will be sent on your behalf to Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I oppose the EPA's proposed greenhouse gas regulations for existing power plants because we need to balance our country's energy needs with environmental concerns. It's very important that we all have the electricity needed to run our lives and the economy.

The potential for these new regulations to dramatically raise energy prices and cost thousands of hard-working American jobs is too great.

I'm a member of my local not-for-profit public power district and these proposed regulations have me really concerned.

These new plans to regulate power plants don't work for my family, my community or our nation's economy.

PLEASE SEND THE ABOVE LETTER TO THE EPA ON MY BEHALF

EMAIL _____
(If you have an email address, please include it. This is the most cost-effective way for us to reach you in the future.)

NAME (print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Note: Your contact information will not be used in any other manner except to contact you on critical issues impacting Elkhorn Rural Public Power District. You will be notified of these issues as the need arises. Thanking you in advance -- ERPPD, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715, 1-800-675-2185.