

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 8

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.

## 2015 NREA YOUTH TOUR



*Karissa Dicke, left and Jaime Hoefler, right, in front of the Supreme Court during the 2015 NREA Youth Tour*

Karissa Dicke and Jaime Hoefler of Elgin were selected to represent Elkhorn Rural Public Power District at the NREA Youth Tour in Washington D.C. Karissa Dicke, daughter of Paul and Diane Dicke of Elgin, is a senior this year at Pope John Paul XXIII Central Catholic High School. Jaime Hoefler, daughter of Bob and Jaci Hoefler, is a junior this year at Elgin Public High School. They were joined by 18 other students from across Nebraska.

Each year the NREA hosts the Tour providing rural high school students, representing their public power districts and electric cooperatives, the opportunity to see the sites of our Nation's Capital first-hand. While on the Tour, students visited Gettysburg Battlefield, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral and numerous historical sites and monuments around Washington, D.C. Participating students also met with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and came together with 1,700 other rural high school students from across America for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Day where they learned about political engagement, leadership, and the pressing issues facing the electric industry today.

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## YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District sponsored five youth to attend Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the state 4-H camp in the Nebraska National Forest west of Halsey, NE. Erin Beckman, Elgin Pope John High School; Sam Dederman, Battle Creek High School, Taylor Sehi, Elgin Public High School; Antonio Soto, Clearwater - Orchard High School and Caleb Zohner of Battle Creek High School, all participated for the week long camp, July 13 - 17.

Youth Energy Leadership Camp is about having fun, but also learning about operating a power district and having hands-on experience. The first day of the camp a board of directors was elected ; they oversaw the operations of the newly formed district. The board then chose a general manager to oversee the committee activities and act as a liaison between the counselors and campers. Every participant had a role in the working of the "power district".

Campers can participate in the Ambassador competition or seek a position on the board of directors.

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## 2015 Youth Tour Con't . . .

Karissa Dicke expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to represent Elkhorn Rural PPD in Washington D.C.:

“Thank you so much for sponsoring me on the NREA Youth Tour! I had so much fun and got to see so many amazing sites of history. I must say that my favorite parts were Gettysburg and the Marine Corpse drill. The story teller, Miss Betty, really made it interesting and real. I was able to come back and share some pretty cool stories with my friends. . . It was incredible being able to meet people from all over the county. . . I highly encourage ERPPD to continue to sponsor kids to go to Washington DC. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me!”

Jaime Hoefler was equally as enthusiastic about the Tour:

“Youth tour was my first time ever touring Washington D.C. and I was ecstatic to go! Visiting Arlington Cemetery and viewing the Changing of the Guards was one of my favorite experiences, because it strengthened my respect of the military. . . Youth Tour has provided me with countless memories that I look forward to sharing with my future children in hopes they will also be able to experience this. I would highly recommend this to every high school student.”

It was not all work and no play. The campers also participated in recreational activities such as basketball, volleyball, a dance and canoeing.

Participants can also compete to represent Nebraska during the Youth Tour in Washington D.C. the following June. This year’s campers are also selected by their peers to return the following year as junior counselors. Karissa Dicke attended this year’s Youth Leadership Camp as a junior counselor.

This was a great opportunity to learn about leadership in their communities and how to make a difference for Public Power, while making great friends and having some fun!



*Taylor Sehi*



*Antonio Soto*



*Erin Beckman*



*Sam Dederman*



*Caleb Zohner*

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## Youth Leadership Camp Con't. . .

Each camper also volunteered for at least on of the committees responsible for various camp activities. The participants learned a lot about leadership, team work, and communication, all skills that will help them to be the leaders of our future Public Power Boards!

# KIDS HAVE AN IMPACT ON POWER USAGE

According to experts at the 2015 Energy Information Agency's (EIA) Energy Conference in Washington D.C. June 15 and 16th, kids are the way to engage families in energy efficiency and demand response programs.

"When we're talking about engaging households for energy efficiency and demand response purposes, I like to think about who's actually running the household. It's not necessarily the old guy paying the bill, like me. It's all about the kids," said Mark Podorsky, Southern California Edison's principal manager of implementation and information governance in customer service.

They're too young to have a checking account, much less understand a kilowatt-hour. But Podorsky told the 2015 EIA Energy Conference that the youngest residents play an important role.

"You want to think about 'how do I engage the kids in the house?'" Podorsky told a June 16 panel. "If you engage the kids, you'll engage the family. You engage the family, you engage the household. So we're doing a lot of thinking forward on how do we engage the kids in the house."

Rather than yelling about lights left on or the heat cranked up too high, Podorsky said SCE sees a better way of going about it. "Making it fun" is the key, he said.

"Parents are now starting to entice the kids: 'For every dollar you help me save on the bill, I will give that to you in your allowance.'"

Children can help to decrease the electrical load by being aware of how much they are using and having to recharge electronics. They can also help by unplugging chargers when they are not in use.

"Plug loads in homes represent the largest growth in residential energy use. All those electronic devices are a big part of young peoples' lives," said Alan Shedd, director of energy solutions at Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives.

"Helping kids understand and appreciate the connection is important," Shedd added. "Education is at the heart of what co-ops do."

It is also at the heart of what ERPPD does for its customers. Energy efficiency and demand or load programs help us to keep rates cost effective for our customers.

--Source: ECT.coop

## Make it Fun!

Help make saving energy fun for your kids.

There are lots of ways to engage your kids in saving energy and you can get some of those ideas at

[www.kidsenergyzone.com](http://www.kidsenergyzone.com)

There are coloring pages, games, and videos for kids that will introduce and teach them about electricity and how to help save electricity and have a direct impact on their environment.



Characters like LED Lucy help make learning about electricity fun and exciting!

## Load Management System in Place

Our new SCADA system is up and running. As with all new systems, technology and processes there is a learning curve for implementation and usage. We are on the down hill side of that, but there are still some bugs to be worked out.

We appreciate your patience as we fine tune the system - especially notifications. We appreciate you working with us to help keep costs down and we want to do the best possible job. The irrigation hotline and web page continue to be quality sources of information.

If you have questions about the SCADA system, please do not hesitate to call.

## Lights have meaning

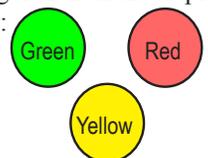
Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

Red - No Control

Red and Green - Control

Yellow - Signal Test (has no effect)

The light configuration on the display appears this way:



If the lights are not working, please check the fuses before calling ERPPD's outage number at **800-675-2185**.

### Check on Irrigation Control Status

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**June 1-Sept. 15**  
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### Irrigation hotline:

1-800-238-0185

**Website:** [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)  
(on menu to the left side page)

# SAFETY IS AN ACTION WORD



*ERPPD crews replace line outside of Elgin in July. ERPPD uses many different types of safety practices as can be seen here - signs that alert traffic that they are working in the area, cones and hard hats. Please slow down if you are driving in an area where crews are working.*

“Safety is an action word. To make something safe takes action and requires you to do something.”

This is a potent message to remember. Safety doesn’t happen by watching a training video, reading an article or listening to someone telling you what to do. It is an action each and everyone one of us has to apply in order for it to work.

ERPPD believes in putting into action its safety practices; not once in awhile, but every day, for each of our projects.

We also work to educate our customers to put into practice those things that will keep them safe around electricity. Look Up and Live and Call Before You Dig are examples of two such campaigns that help keep our customers safe. We also provide demonstrations for customers and schools.

If you would like more information on electrical safety please visit [www.safetelectricity.org](http://www.safetelectricity.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

Rod Zohner	President.....II
Tim Means	Vice President ..II
Larry Lindahl	Secretary .....III
Dennis Kuchar	Treasurer ..... I
Jerrell Dolesh	Director .....II
Mark Miller	Director ..... I
Joe Thiele	Director .....III
Greg Weidner	Director ..... I
David Hoefler	Director .....III

## MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

## Renewables Are Three Fourths of New US Generation

Renewables like wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower combined now provide 75% of the 1,229 MW of new U.S. electrical generating capacity placed into service in the first quarter of 2015. This is according to the latest Energy Infrastructure Update from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Renewables now account for almost 17 percent of the total installed capacity in the U.S. Percentages are as follows:

- Water: 8.53%
- Wind: 5.56%
- Biomass: 1.38%
- Solar: 1.03%
- Geothermal steam: 0.33%

Source: Today's Energy Solutions May/June 2015

## NEW Working for Nebraska Video

How do Rural Public Power Districts work to keep the lights on when you need them and keep costs in check?

It is all in the new Working for Nebraska video on load management.

You can view the 3 minute informational video at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com).

### Energy Efficiency

#### Tip of the Month

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)