



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 8

SUB-DISTRICT I OPENING

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board of Directors announces it has a Sub-district I vacancy. Those interested in applying will need to meet statutory requirements: “ A candidate for director shall be a registered voter residing within the chartered territory or subdivision as defined in the charter of the district or a retail customer duly certified in accordance with subsection (3) of section 70-604.03. The chartered territory is as follows (see map):

Stanton County:

Sections 17, 18, 19, and 20, all in Township 24 North, Range 1 East;

Madison County:

Township 21 North, Range 1 West, excluding the City of Madison, and excluding Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36; Township 22 North, Range 1 West, excluding the City of Madison, and excluding sections 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33; Township 23 North, Range 1 West, including only the following sections: 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36; Township 24 North, Range 1 West, including only the following sections: 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12; Township 21 North, Range 2 West; Township 22 North, Range 2 West; Township 21 North, Range

3 West; Township 22 North, Range 3 West; Township 21 North, Range 4 West, excluding the City of Newman Grove; Township 22 North, Range 4 West.

Those applying for the board position should fill out a questionnaire and submit it to the office Attn: Board President, 206 N. 4th, Battle Creek; by mail to Mark Miller, Board President c/o ERPPD, P.O. Box 310, Battle Creek NE, 68715; by fax 402-675-6275; or e-mail with subject line: “Board Position Letter of Interest” to trudloff@erppd.com, no later

than 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2018.

Candidates can contact the office for the questionnaire or find it on the erppd.com website under job opportunities.

Candidates will be contacted to set up a time to speak with the General Manager and Board President about the expectations for the position.

If you have questions please contact the office at 800-675-2185 and ask to speak with Tom Rudloff, General Manager.



NEW FOREMAN



Jim Wennkamp accepted the position of foreman and started his duties on Monday, June 18.

Jim began his career with Elkhorn in 1995 as an apprentice lineman, after graduating from NECC Utility Line School. He has been a journeyman lineman for the balance of his time here.

Jim’s strengths include communicating well with customers and coworkers and being knowledgeable about the ERPPD system. These leadership skills will help make Jim successful in the position of foreman. We look forward to Jim being a leader in continuing to build our organization and our quest for zero accidents and safety excellence.

GRID RESILIENCY

Earlier this year Nebraska was named the “Best State for Grid Reliability” by *US News and World Report*. The data used to determine the ranking was from the Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) report based on 2016 information - see *Nebraska is #1* article below. Part of the reason for our reliability has to do with resiliency in our system.

Resiliency is many things – it’s reliability in your electric service, it’s our ability to efficiently restore your power, and it’s being able to meet the demands of new technology without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resiliency is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our customers.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cyber

security threats and other disruptions that could result in outages.

The way our system reacts to advancements in technology – from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles – all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it’s the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly.

A recent example in the news is Puerto Rico. The lack of resiliency, after the Hurricane Irma and Maria in 2017 that left thousands without power for months, in Puerto Rico’s power grid wasn’t solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and

preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one.

Living in Nebraska, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter the summer storm season. Whether we’re at the mercy of ice, blizzards or thunderstorms, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as “the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched.” When it comes to providing our customers with resilient service, this is what we work toward – day in and day out!

Nebraska is #1

The Department of Energy measures the number of minutes of power outages each customer experiences on average every year. Excluding major events, customers in both Nebraska and Arizona experienced less than an hour of power outages in 2016. With 439 minutes – or more than seven hours – of power outages in 2016, West Virginia was the No. 50 state in reliability of power grids, far exceeding No. 49 Maine’s nearly four and a half hours, or 264 minutes. The Southeast had the greatest power disturbance by far, with an average of more than two hours per customer, while the average for the Great Plains region was only 86 minutes.

Best States for Power Grid Reliability:

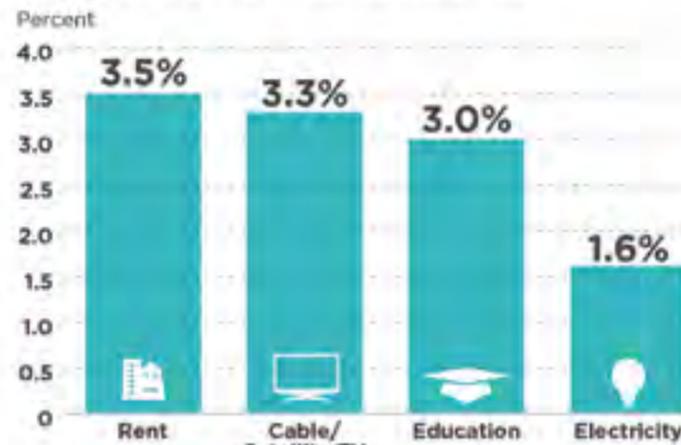
- #1 Nebraska
- #2 Arizona
- #3 North Dakota
- #4 Rhode Island
- #5 Nevada

(Source: *US News and World Report.com 2018*)

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it’s easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2012-2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



NEBRASKA AG FACTS

Ag is a very important part of the Nebraska economy, being the number one industry in the state. It is also a big part of the US economy. Perhaps many of us don’t realize just how important. Take a look at these stats that were recently passed out at the Northeast NE Ag Banquet.

*Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed over \$21.5B to NE economy in 2016 and 6% of the US total.

*Nebraska’s ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2016 cash receipts were cattle & calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products, wheat, hay, chicken eggs, dry beans, and sorghum.

*Every dollar in agriculture exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing, and production. Nebraska’s \$6.58B in agricultural exports in 2016 translate into \$8B in additional economic activity.

*Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2.1B gallons in 2017. Approximately 36% of the state’s 2017 corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.

*Approximately 1 in 4 (25%) of all jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.

Nebraska ranks #1 in the nation in 2017 for:

*Beef and veal exports - \$1.38B

*Commercial red meat production - 8.1 B lbs.

*Commercial cattle slaughter - 7.5M head.

*Great Northern bean production - 1.2M cwt.

*Cattle on feed - 2.8M head (Jan. 2018)

*Popcorn production - 354B lbs. (2012)

(Source: *NE Dept. of Ag*)

YOUTH TOUR 2018

Kaden Hackerott, a student at Humphrey St. Francis High School and the son of Jeff and Julie Hackerott represented Elkhorn RPPD as a delegate for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association on the Youth Tour to Washington D.C. area. Kaden joined 19 other youths from Nebraska on the tour.

Each year the NREA hosts the Tour providing rural high school students, representing their public power districts, the opportunity to see the sites of our Nation's Capital first-hand.

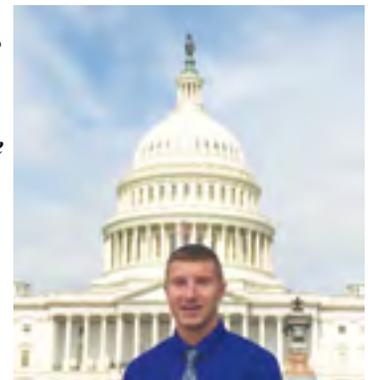
Participating students also met with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation and came together with 1,800 other rural high school students from across America for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Day where they learned about political engagement, leadership, and the pressing issues facing the electric industry today.

ERPPD sponsors youth to attend Youth Energy Leadership Camp in Halsey, Nebraska and Youth Tour in Washington D.C. each year to give them opportunities to learn about leadership, public power and the electrical industry, and our country. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for the youth in our area to expand their understanding of the world in which they live.

If you know of a youth that is in high school - freshman to junior year- that is interested in how to go on Youth Tour, you can contact Stacie Young at (800) 675-2185.



Kaden Hackerott attended Youth Tour 2018 in Washington D. C. Pictured above, Kaden, third from the left in the second row, listens intently to Congressman, Jeff Fortenberry. To the right, Kaden pictured in front of the Capitol Building.



SCAMS

Scams are in the news again. In the last few months there have been many systems that have reported customers calling into the office to say that they had been contacted by scammers.

The story changes a bit, but the general theme is the same - they want your money or your personal information. The scammers will threaten to disconnect your electrical service without immediate payment - usually on an prepaid debit card or "green dot" card.

One recent customer reported that the scammer told them that they had a new meter and that they had been over charged. This person needed their mailing address to send a

refund check. When pressed about where they were calling from they didn't answer. The customer hung up and called the utility.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will not call you asking for your personal information, such as credit card numbers, social security information, or ask you to pay with a prepaid card.

We will, however, send a payment reminder or make an automated call reminding customers that a monthly payment is due.

Then, you can initiate a call to our office and feel very comfortable that your information is secure.

If you ever receive a call regarding "energy-saving" products,

"energy-audits", bill payments, threats of disconnect unless payment is made over the phone, etc., in which the caller requires a credit card number to proceed, please hang up and call our office at 800-675-2185.

You can also report any scam activity to the Nebraska Attorney General's office on-line: <https://protectthegoodlife.nebraska.gov/report-scam> or by calling (402) 471-2682.

PROTECT THE
GOOD LIFE