

BILL HUGHES RETIRES



William (Bill) Hughes, Field Service Tech, retired July 30th after 43 years with Elkhorn Rural Public Power

District (ERPPD).

Bill was grateful to have been at one company for his entire career. "It is pretty rare these days," he said, "that you can stay at one place for 43 years."

He started at ERPPD doing work for a couple of summers. He was in college, but decided to quit after a digger truck operator position came available in May of 1978. He did that for about 30 years and then transitioned into the position he has now as a Field Service Tech.

Bill said that what he remembers most about working at ERPPD over the years was the on-call and storms. Getting up in the night in all kinds of weather to turn the lights back on. The

storm jobs away from home were the toughest. "Those were some very long hours, Bill stated.

Some things have changed, there isn't as much on-call with storms since the system has been hardened. Bill joked that in the past the pole testing program used to be a strong wind, so crews were going to be out if there was a storm.

But the highlight was when everything went as planned and you were able to get everyone back on before they expected it. Bill really enjoyed working with the customers and the satisfaction with being able to help them out and their gratitude for the work.

Of course there were frustrating times, when nothing seemed to work right and you were tired and cold. He will not miss those times!

He and his wife, Connie, who is also retiring, are looking forward to some traveling and leisure activities. One destination is the Pacific Northwest as well as visits

to family to see the grand kids. They will be able to attend some of their functions. They also plan on attending some basketball games and playing some golf.

We wish Bill well in his retirement!



Bill points out some features on a meter 2015.



Bill accepts an award from Ray Robertson. Terry Carson is also pictured. 1993



Battle Creek Crews -1992
Back row - L-R - Bob Lang; Mark Gronau, Dave Hrabanek, Bill Reisdorff, Larry Johnson, Bill Seifert, Lyle Hoffman, Roger Borchers, Jim Ridder, and Chip Guenther. Front Row - L-R Matt Johnson, Dick Seelmeyer, Rick Cherington, summer intern, Bill Hughes, Rich Eymann, Dan Belt and Jack Smith



Bill doing pole top rescue. Early 1990s

NEW ENERGYWISESM INCENTIVE

Gasless, but not gutless. Quiet, but not shy. This ain't your grandfather's battery-powered mower. Advances in battery technology have come a long way in recent years. More power is now being packed into batteries so your mower can speedily deliver a knock-out punch to your lawn and now you can receive 10% back.

Maybe it's time to consider upgrading your conventional, gas-burning mower with a new electric or battery powered option. Consider the following advantages:

- **Lower energy costs** – depending on how often you mow, electric powered mowers will cost about \$15 per year in electricity. Gas mowers use approximately \$30 of gasoline.
- **Less maintenance** – No spark-plugs, air filters, fuel filters or oil change.
- **Quieter operation** – Electric mowers create up to 75 decibels of sound, which is similar to a washing machine. Gasoline mowers can exceed 95 decibels,

which is comparable to a motorcycle on the highway.

• **Eco-friendly** – No toxic gas emissions including nitrogen oxides, airborne particulates, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

For your incentive follow these easy steps:

1. Obtain an EnergyWiseSM Lawn and Garden Tools application form at www.erppd.com/energy or call the office at 402-675-2185.
 2. Purchase your choice of a new (not used, previously owned or factory reconditioned) battery-powered or corded electric riding, walk behind or robotic mower on or after **June 1, 2021**. Chargers and additional battery purchases are available for the incentive at time of initial mower purchase. However, taxes, delivery/shipping and set up costs are not.
 3. Complete the application and return it to ERPPD, attention Brian Suckstorf, with a copy of proof of purchase identifying the selected mower, batteries, etc.
- Contact Brian Suckstorf, Energy Services Rep., during office hours at (402) 675-2185 with any questions.



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Learn about PUBLIC POWER, SUSTAINABILITY, and get an up close look at NPPD's electric MUSTANG MACH-E!

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 6



LET'S POWER RELIABILITY

Nebraska was ranked # 3 by US News and World Report for grid reliability in 2019 (the latest data available). ERPPD is committed to keeping the lights on. Our reliability is 99.98%.

We value our customers.
We value you.

Reliability is a top priority for Elkhorn RPPD. We pride ourselves on having an overall reliability of 99.98%.

There are times, however, when there might be an unplanned interruption to your service. This generally comes in the form of a surge or a blink. While the symptoms of a surge or a blink can appear similar, (a potential interruption of your service) what is happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What is a power surge? A power surge is a brief overvoltage spike or disturbance of a power waveform that can interrupt your electrical service.

Power surges can be caused by internal sources like overloaded circuits or faulty wiring, or external sources, like lightning.

To minimize the external source of lightning, we install lightning arrestors in substations, on poles and on transformers - see pictures to the right. The lightning arrestors divert the electrical surge from the system to the earth. To protect your home from power surges, internal or external, it is recommended that you install surge protective devices such as a surge protector power strips.

What is a blink? A blink is a brief service interruption that is typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in

reaction to the fault.

Faults can occur through a variety of instances like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line or lightning and other similar events.

At ERPPD, we track blinks daily with our current AMI system to be proactive on fixing problems before they become an outage. Soon, with the new AMI system that was approved by the board earlier this year, we will be able to monitor the system in real time. This will allow us to better monitor the system and communicate about any outages.

As noted above, you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices, known as oil circuit reclosures (OCR) are working to detect the fault.

These brief power blinks mean the equipment is working to allow time for a temporary fault to clear the line, which keeps your lights on and prevents a prolonged outage.

We do many different things to mitigate blinks and outages on our lines and to keep your electrical service reliable. Our vegetation management and pole testing programs are two such examples.

To minimize the number of critters that might get on the line, we install a black plastic wrap on the pole to keep animals from climbing the pole as well as placing animal guards on pole equipment, such as, transformers, OCRs, etc.

All of these things work together to provide you with reliable electric service.



ERPPD line and equipment are protected from surges and blinks by the arresters and animal guards pictured to the left on an OCR and in substations on transformers. To the right, black wrap keeps animals from climbing the pole and getting into the equipment.



AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing ERPPD, please let us know as soon as possible by calling 402-675-2185.

NEW HIRE



Brian Hain started June 16th as a Field Service Tech. He has taken over for Bill Hughes since his retirement.

Brian has many skill sets that will help him to be successful in the position. He worked as a journeyman lineman for the City of Neligh and most recently was a Level II Wind Technician for Prairie Breeze in Elgin.

He and his wife Tessa, live in Neligh and have a three-year-old son, Hunter.

Brian is active as a volunteer fire fighter for the Neligh Fire Department and in the Young Men's Club.

We are excited to have Brian as part of the Elkhorn RPPD family.



Just a reminder to always look up and out for power lines when using large equipment. If your equipment hits a power line, be sure to stay put in the vehicle/on the equipment and call ERPPD or 911. If you have to get out because of imminent danger- jump clear and then hop or shuffle a safe distance - approximately 50 feet - from the accident. Window decals are available with these instructions; please call the office for yours.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov


