

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2016

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 25, Number 12

## PUBLIC POWER'S PRESENT

### Fourth Consecutive Year Without a Rate Increase

There will be no rate increase in 2017! A present to you this Christmas Season, because of the public power model.

What does this mean for you? For the fifth consecutive year (2013-2017), you will pay the same price for your electricity. While other household expenses continue to become more expensive over time, electricity holds the line.

As you can see by the graphic to the right, Public Power has provided a very stable commodity over time.

As a not-for-profit business, ERPPD operates at cost. We work with our customer-owners to continue to be cost effective in a multitude of ways. A couple examples are job scheduling and material management.

Your publicly elected board of directors is your watchdog on the expenses, as well. The directors make sure that costs are managed in such a way to keep your cost of electricity cost-effective.

Maintaining costs does not compromise our commitment to reliable electrical service. The reliability of the ERPPD system is at 99.98%.

We also work with our wholesale power supplier to keep costs down

and reliability high. There was an overall transmission increase from our wholesale supplier of 5%. Elkhorn will absorb this cost through increased efficiencies. In the last four years NPPD has had minimal rate increases and most have been transmission related.

Transmission is one of the costs of getting the power to the customer. High voltage transmission system additions are being made to improve reliability and to allow for the addition of renewables.

The directors and staff here at ERPPD are proud to provide you with this extraordinary value!



Since 1936 the cost of electricity for Nebraskan's has only increased FIVE CENTS per KWh.

How much have other items increased?

1936	vs.	2016
\$0.50	BACON	\$4.48
\$0.52	MILK	\$3.63
\$0.22	EGGS	\$1.46
\$0.10	BREAD	\$2.50

Nebraska's Public Power is not for profit, keeping the daily cost to power your home below \$4. Just one more way, Rural Electric Systems are... Working for Nebraska

*Public Power is a stable provider of electricity.*



### Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

offices will be closed in observance of  
**Christmas**  
**Monday, Dec. 26,**  
**and New Year's**  
**Monday, January 2**

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## LED Rebates Ending in December

The residential LED rebate Program is scheduled to end December 31, 2016. From now to the end of the year, you may qualify to get a \$3 rebate for each 800 lumen LED bulb purchased - limit of 15 per residential account in 2016.

Call us 800-675-2185 for an application or print one from our website at erppd.com.

A sales receipt must accompany the application. The rebate is applied to your account as a credit.

LEDs can last up to 35 times longer than incandescent bulbs and they produce more light per watt than incandescent bulbs.

You might like LEDs over CFLs as they light up instantly and con-

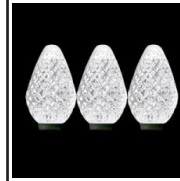
tain no mercury. LEDs generate almost no heat and many bulbs are dimmable.



**LEDs can save energy and money. \$3 rebate ends December 31.**

## Consider LED Christmas Lights

ENERGY STAR Certified Decorative Light Strings:



- \* Use 75% less energy than conventional incandescent lights strands.
- \* Can last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent

strands, meaning fewer light string replacements.

\* Are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

\* Do not have moving parts, filaments or glass, so they are much more durable and shock-resistant than other light strings.



\* Are available in a variety of colors, shapes and lengths.

\* Come with a three-year warranty.

\* Are independently tested to meet strict lifetime and electrical requirements.

\* Products labeled for outdoor use are subjected to weathering tests.



\* Some models deliver features such as dimming or color shifting.

\* Provide the latest features and functionalities such as dimming and color shifting.

(Source: energystar.gov)



**Left - Director Jerrell Dolesh (left) with President, Rod Zohner (right) is recognized for earning his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate. This program consists of 5 courses designed to provide essential knowledge and skills required for directors. All of the directors on ERPPD board have their CCD Certificates. Our directors are dedicated to providing excellent leadership for our District.**

**Right - Jennifer Adams Corporate Communicator (left) with President, Rod Zohner (right) is recognized for her efforts to promote the rural vote for the 2016 election cycle. The NRECA awarded "5 Star Coop" certificates to those utilities that participated in the challenge to increase the rural vote.**



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons – holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

# SAFETY NEWS

## Don't Wrap Up an Unsafe Electronic

Electronics are on the top of many wish lists. Safe Electricity shares tips on what to look for so that you can help ensure the electronic gifts you choose will be safe for your loved ones.



If you are purchasing electronics for a child, that means making sure that batteries, small pieces, and cords do not present safety risks. Remember not to purchase electronics that plug into the wall for children under the age of 10. Instead, opt for battery-powered products.

Buying refurbished electronics can cut back on the costs of a new product, however you should always buy used products from brands and manufacturers that you know and trust. If the packaging seems tampered with or is already opened, make sure that the product is undamaged and still under warranty. Before you purchase electronics that have already been opened, be sure that all safety components are still in place.

Products that are packaged in boxes that do not display a brand

name and do not have a certification

mark should be regarded with suspicion. Electronics without official markings could be counterfeit products, which are often cheaply made, presenting safety concerns. Stay away from electrical products that are sold at temporary venues where you will be unable to make returns.

Although these products are often much less expensive than their certified counterparts, they lack the reliability of electronics that have been tested and marked by an independent laboratory. If the price is well below market value, there is a likelihood that it is a counterfeit.

A certification mark indicates that a product is in compliance with safety standards and has been approved based on quality tests. While these marks, often found on the bottom of a product, cannot guarantee safety, they do indicate compliance with the preset standards. To help ensure safe use of the product, consumers must also properly maintain it and follow all manufacturers' directions for use.

Safe Electricity recommends you keep the following tips in mind to help weed out fake safety labels:

- Take a close look at the label for signs of quality. If the label is blurred or torn, do not trust it.
- Check the packaging to ensure that there are no misspellings or incorrect information. This is a sure sign of a counterfeit product.
- Buy from brands and certification laboratories you can trust. If you come across a labelling standard you are unfamiliar with, check for the legitimacy online. Some common, legitimate marks are UL, CSA, and ETL.

**Gifting an electronic?**  
Look for one of these safety certification marks:



Safe  
Electricity.org

Information collected from Occupational Safety and Health Administration's list of nationally recognized laboratories.



# ERPPD SAVES \$344,000

Recently the board of directors approved the refinancing of 2011 debt service bonds and the result was a \$344,000 savings in interest payments, by reducing the interest rate from 2.96% to 1.38 %

Because Elkhorn is a public power entity, we are able to leverage tax exempt bonds to finance large capital projects. Investor Owned Utili-

ties (IOUs) nor cooperatives are able to take advantage of this type of financing.

This type of savings helps our customer - owners rates remain cost effective.

One more way Elkhorn and public power are looking out for our customers!



## A CHANCE TO GIVE BACK

Elkhorn Rural PPD is partnering with CoBank to provide a wounded service member with an opportunity to attend the No Barriers program. Below is the press release about Co Bank and the program.

CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agri-businesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit associations throughout the United States, today announced it is launching a new program for veterans with disabilities from America's rural communities.

In partnership with its customers and the nonprofit group No Barriers USA ,

CoBank will sponsor up to 50 veterans from rural areas across the U.S. to participate in outdoor expeditions that challenge them mentally and physically and help them to transform their lives.

Eligible CoBank borrowers will be able to nominate veterans from their local communities to participate in the No Barriers Warriors program, with CoBank covering the full cost for each veteran, including travel expenses.

"Every American owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the men and women who serve in the armed forces and protect our country," said Bob Engel, CoBank's chief executive officer. "Those who are wounded



or injured in the course of duty are even more deserving of our thanks. At CoBank, we want to do our part to honor veterans and repay them for their service to the nation."

Engel noted that over 5 million of the nation's 22 million veterans are located in rural areas and called on the bank's customer base to help identify deserving participants for the No Barriers

program. "Rural America produces a disproportionate share of the nation's military personnel," Engel said. "We need our customers to help make this program successful by nominating individuals from their communities who would

benefit from the No Barriers experience. We look forward to partnering with our customers in this effort, which we believe has the potential to change the lives of rural veterans who have been disabled as a result of their military service."

CoBank will sponsor four, five-day expeditions in 2017 on the following dates: July 6-10; August 3-7; August 10-14; and September 7-11.

Please contact Jennifer Adams, at ERPPD if you or someone you know would be interested and eligible for the program. Nominees can be from any branch of the armed forces and need to have a VA disability rating. Nominations will be taken starting in January and will be selected on a first come first served basis.