



THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 12

SUB-T PLANNING; PROVIDING VALUE

Sub transmission (Sub-T) planning is vital to continuing to provide value to our customers in reliability and growth.

In October, a 10-year Sub-T Plan for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District in conjunction with our wholesale supplier was approved and will enhance reliability and growth into the future.

A good analogy for the sub transmission process is the highway system. Interstates with multiple lanes of high volume traffic feed the expressway systems which in turn feed the two lane highways, then county roads and ultimately to communities, businesses or individual homes. The electrical grid works in much the same way. Higher voltage lines - 345 kV lines - are like the interstate highways with large capacity for electricity. They feed 115 kV lines that are like the 4 lane expressways moving a bit less traffic, but still with good capacity. Then come the 69 kV lines that are like the two lane highways that feed into the substations. From the substations to your home is the distribution side of the business.

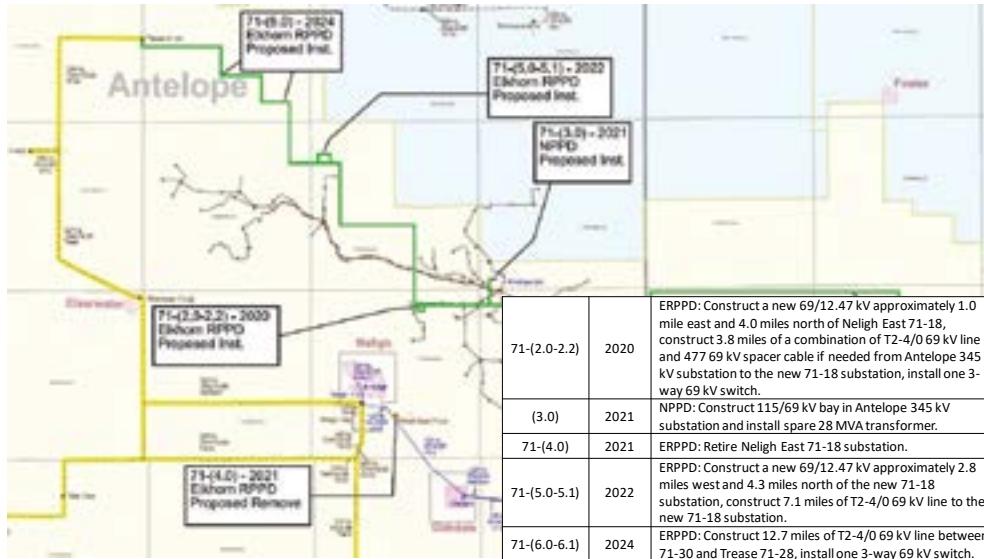
The Sub-T plan is in addition to other work plan projects that allow for reliability and growth in the district.

The Sub-T plan will link the entire district together, as well as, fortify the northern part of the district for reliability and capacity for growth.

It also gives another access point to 345 kV line - that interstate highway - to provide electricity to the district. Right now we are dependant on one 115 kV line (or expressway) that runs across the district. If that line is damaged due to a catastrophic event, we are pretty limited in how we can get the power back on. With an additional link to the interstate, we have other options to back feed the district.

Recent activity with the Sub-T plan, was in 2017 on the east end of the district, with the build of the Madison Tie Line (*see April 2017 Wire at erppd.com*). This strengthened the system around the Madison/ Newman Grove area. ERPPD received a hazard mitigation grant from FEMA to complete the tie line, which really helped keep our customers with electricity this spring with the

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Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be closed **Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day and Wednesday, January 1, New Year's Day**



ERPPD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund continues to invest in and help community organizations. Below are the recipients for the 4th and final round of funding for 2019.

Eligible organizations can apply for funding each year. Please see www.erppd.com/communityfund for more information and an application.

First quarter applications for funding in 2020 are due Monday, January 20.



Pictured above receiving 4th round funding are left to right: Judy Hilkemann, trustee and Jared Neuhalfen, Coordinator for Toys for Tots and Judy Warneke, business manager/treasurer and Arvid Warneke, head trustee, St. John's Lutheran Church, Battle Creek.

Community Fund Requests and Awards - November 2019

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek Police	CAT Tourniquets and Israeli bandages in Madison Co.	Battle Creek Area	\$1,000
Camp Willow Summer Camp (2020)	Expenses for camp	Norfolk Area	\$1,000
Elgin Public Post Prom	Post Prom games and activities	Elgin Area	\$100
Lois Johnson Memorial Library	Christmas Kids - Christmas gifts for children in need - clothing, books and toys	Oakdale Area	\$500
S.M.I.L.E	Scholarships and horse upkeep	Madison Area	\$1,000
St. John Lutheran Church	Replace elementary gym floor damaged from flooding this spring	Battle Creek Area	\$1,000
Teammates of Clearwater/Orchard	Background checks on mentors/activities throughout the year	Orchard Area	\$500
Teammates of Madison	Activities throughout the year	Madison Area	\$500
Toys for Tots	Buy Christmas gifts for area children	Norfolk Area	\$1,000
Total			\$6,600
First Quarter Funding	Application Deadline January 20, 2020	Board Meeting Date February 2, 2020	

RECYCLING ELECTRONICS

As you make room for new electronic gifts and gadgets received as Christmas gifts or, really, anytime throughout the year, there are several factors that can affect how you dispose of electronics.

First, what is electronic waste?

Electronic waste (or e-waste) is electronic equipment that is obsolete, or no longer working and includes:

- Televisions and monitors
- Computers
- Printers, scanners, and fax machines
- Stereo equipment
- VCRs, DVD players
- Video cameras
- Telephones
- Cell / wireless phones
- Fax and copy machines
- Video game consoles

E-waste does NOT include toasters, blenders or other small appliances.

Next, why is it better to recycle e-waste rather than dispose of it?

1. Electronic equipment contains hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and brominated flame retardants.
2. Glass monitors and television screens contain about 4 lbs. of lead!
3. Circuit boards contain heavy metals that leach out into the environment and affect our public health and natural resources, but when recycled, can help manufacture new electronics.
4. Fifty million computers and monitors and 130 million cell phones are thrown away each year in the United States. That's a lot of equipment! (Source: www.norfolkne.gov)

Lastly, what can you do with e-waste? You can follow the tips given in the infographic to the left.

Be sure to check with your local city or village to see what guidelines they have for e-waste disposal.

The Nebraska Recycling Council has an online search available for recycling around the state. You can access the search engine here: <https://recycle-search.com/#/>.



WAIT! Before you recycle or donate your unwanted electronics, consider these tips from the EPA. **BEFORE** you donate or recycle:

- 1 Delete and destroy all personal information from the device.
- 2 Remove batteries for separate recycling.
- 3 Check with the manufacturer or with local or major retailers for recycling options.
- 4 Consider upgrading your current computer's hardware or software instead.



Recycling one million laptops saves the energy equivalent to the electricity used by more than 3,500 U.S. homes in a year!



For every million cell phones we recycle, we can recover...

- 35 thousand pounds of copper
- 772 pounds of silver
- 75 pounds of gold
- 33 pounds of palladium



Did you know?

By unplugging electronic devices when they are not in use, you can save about \$100/year on your electric bill. (energy.gov)

SUB-T CON'T. FROM PG. 1

flooding when one of the NPPD subs was under water.

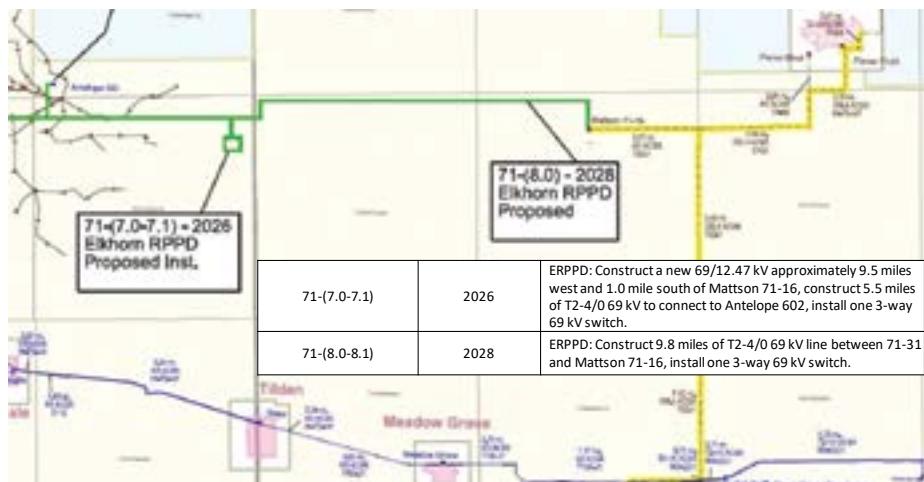
The next phase of the Sub-T plan can be seen in the picture on the front page. Below is the last phase of the Sub-T plan.

Todd Knutson, Operations Manager explains, "The Sub-T plan will benefit all our customers by allowing for growth

and strengthening reliability.

There will also be more options in catastrophic conditions, such as flooding, ice storms, drought, etc. with more access to higher voltage feed into our system."

As we move into a new year, we will continue to look for ways to provide value to you.



NEW HIRE

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District welcomes Grady Bellingtier as a full-time apprentice lineman as of November 1. He will be located out of the Neligh outpost.



Grady graduated from Mitchell Technical Institute's lineman program. He also has a certification for GIS and a license to fly a drone. He did his internship in 2018 with Central Electric Cooperative in Mitchell, SD.

Grady started with Elkhorn as a seasonal worker this summer.

Grady graduated from Clearwater/Orchard High School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

Mark Miller

President.....I

Joe Thiele

Vice President....III

Tim Means

SecretaryII

Dennis Kuchar

TreasurerI

Jerrell Dolesh

DirectorII

Hunter Frisch

DirectorI

Dave Hoefer

Director.....III

Ray Payne

DirectorIII

Rod Zohner

DirectorII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff



Jerrell, "Jerry", Dolesh, board director from sub-district II, has completed the certification process for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). (*Pictured on the right with Mark Miller, board president*)

The BLC advances the knowledge and experience of directors to govern their board effectively. The BLC is obtained by earning a Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), five basic board leadership classes, and then completing 10 advanced board leadership classes.

Jerry's dedication to obtaining the BLC shows his willingness to continue to educate himself on issues that affect Elkhorn now and into the future and his commitment to be a strong leader for our customers.