

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 2

190 Years of Working for the Customers of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District



Mark Gronau
Energy Services
Representative
40 years



Kenn Capler
Meter Technician
35 years



Rich Eymann
Work Flow
Coordinator
35 years



Jim Ridder
Operations Manager
35 years



Larry Lindahl
Director
15 years



Patrick Hintz
Journeyman Lineman
10 years



Dave Hoefler
Director
5 years



Kyle Kester
Journeyman Lineman
5 years



Tom Rudloff
General Manager
5 years



Andy Starman
Journeyman Lineman
5 years

Public Power Fact: Did You Know?

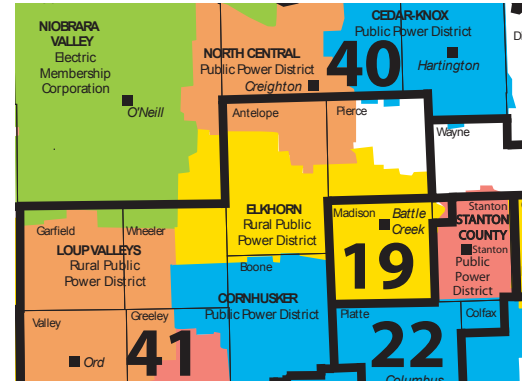
More than 40% of the electricity generated in Nebraska comes from carbon-free sources. (hydroelectric, nuclear, and wind)

GRASSROOTS NEWS

2015 Unicameral in Session

The 104th Nebraska Legislature, Second Session, convened at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. This will be a long session (90 days), and will conclude on or about June 5. You can follow the legislative session at www.nebraskalegislature.gov.

Senators representing constituents in the ERPPD service area include: Jim Scheer-District 19, Madison and northwest Stanton counties; Kate Sullivan-District 41, Pierce, Antelope, Wheeler, and Boone counties; Tyson Larson-District 40, Holt county; and Paul Schumacher-District 22, Platte and Stanton counties. [The map at the right shows the outline of the Elkhorn RPPD service territory (light gray), with the bold outline of the Nebraska legislative districts.]



The format of the mailing addresses for the senators is:

- Senator Name
- District #
- State Capitol
- P.O. Box 94604
- Lincoln, NE 68509

Web pages for the senators can be found at www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators. The senators' web pages contain office numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, updates on bills, etc.

The general format for email addresses for the senators is: **first initial and last name@leg.ne.gov**

If you are not sure which legislative district you live in, you can find your senator by visiting www.nebraskalegislature.gov and click on "Senators" and "Find your Senator". This will open a map that permits you to enter your address or click on the area in which you live.

If you have any questions about how to contact your senator, please call Elkhorn RPPD at 1-800-675-2185, and ask for Wayne McCormick..



Jim Scheer
District 19



Kate Sullivan
District 41



Tyson Larson
District 40



Paul Schumacher
District 22

The 114th United States Congress is now in Session

The 114th session of the United States Congress convened on January 6. The U.S. Congress is made up of two legislative chambers, the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Nebraska delegation includes three members of the U.S. House of Representatives and two members of the U.S. Senate. The Representatives are elected by district and the Senators are elected at large.

In general, contact information for the senators and representatives may be found on the US government website, www.usa.gov, but I have included the individual websites for the Nebraska Representatives below, listed by district:

- District 1 Jeff Fortenberry (www.fortenberry.house.gov)
- District 2 Brad Ashford (www.ashford.house.gov)
- District 3 Adrian Smith, (www.adriansmith.house.gov)

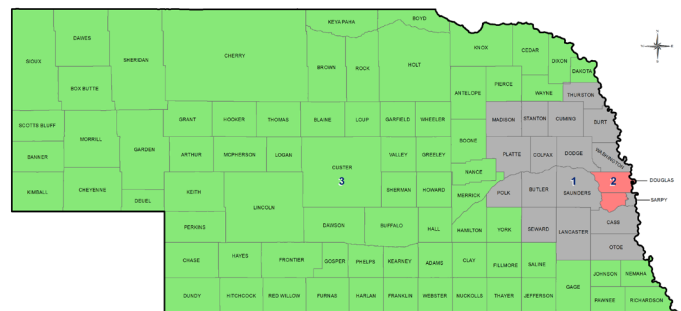
Following are the websites for the Nebraska Senators:

- Senator Deb Fischer (www.fischer.senate.gov)
- Senator Ben Sasse (www.sasse.senate.gov)

For more specific contact information, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask for Wayne McCormick, our grassroots coordinator.

U.S. House of Representatives - LB 704 (2011)

(Districts took effect May 27, 2011)



Map of the three Nebraska legislative districts

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
February 2015

TURN ON THE ENERGY SAVINGS



Lighting accounts for 5-10 percent of the total energy used in your home. LED lamps use about 80 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 25 years. So, what are you waiting for? Make the switch today.

Contact Mark Gronau, our Energy Services Representative, at 1-800-675-2185, for information about incentives available for installing energy-saving bulbs. Residential customers qualify for a \$5.00 per bulb rebate for installing up to 15 LED bulbs, plus reap the benefits of lower energy usage.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)

What are Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)?

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child's curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

TRRs by the Numbers

- Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That's nearly seven children a day.
- It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles.
- Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50¢ more than a traditional receptacle.
- Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

For more information on TRRs, visit www.esfi.org.

Grassroots at Work: Your Voice Was Heard

Your voice, along with nearly one million other rural electric customers, made a resounding impact on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The agency actually received over four million comments on their proposed Clean Energy Plan, which seeks to control carbon emissions from new and existing power plants.

The EPA had been expected to finalize its highly controversial carbon dioxide standards for new units on Jan. 8, and for existing units on June 1. Now, final federal regulations to control carbon dioxide emissions from new, modified and existing electric generating units will be delayed until mid-summer. We do not know what the final regulations will look like, but I know that, through the Rural Electric Grassroots "Take Action" program, we were able to affect the outcome, if even a little bit.

If you are not yet a member of the Nebraska rural electric Grassroots program, go to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District website, www.erppd.com, and click on the 'Grassroots-Join Our Team' link on the left side of the home screen and follow the links.

Through the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, we are constantly monitoring legislation or regulations that have an impact on your electric system. If there are issues that need immediate action, we will issue a Take Action Alert to all of the Grassroots members to submit comments on the subject. These comments go directly to your elected decision-makers so "Your Voice Can Be Heard".

75th Anniversary Recipe Book

Do you have a favorite recipe, a unique recipe, a "handed-down" recipe, a time-saving recipe? We are asking you to submit a recipe or recipes for inclusion in the ERPPD 75th Anniversary Recipe Book, which will be given away at our open house in June of 2015.



Please submit recipes by mail to: **ERPPD, Attn: Wayne McCormick, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715**, or you can submit them by email to wmccormick@erppd.com. Please

include your name so you can be given the credit, and your phone number, just in case we have questions about the recipe. (Your phone number will



not be included in the book.)

We really want to make this a special keepsake for you and your family, and you can be included in it.

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
Jerrold Dolesh
Director.....II
Mark Miller
Director.....I
Joe Thiele
Director.....III
Greg Weidner
Director.....I
David Hoefer
Director.....III

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting

1-800-675-2185

After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

It's the law! Call 811 Before You Dig!

Or 1-800-331-5666

Diggers Hotline
of Nebraska

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.

- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.

- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.

- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.

- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE 68715**