



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2022

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 31, Number 2

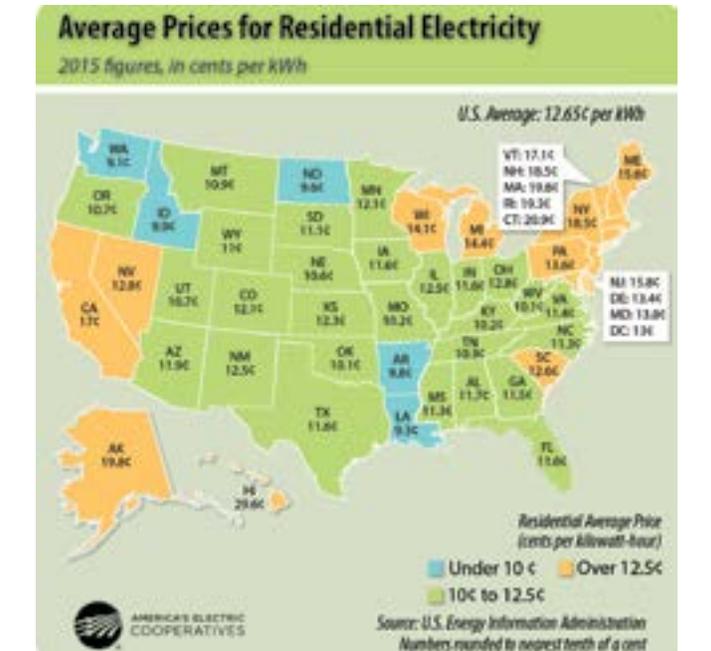
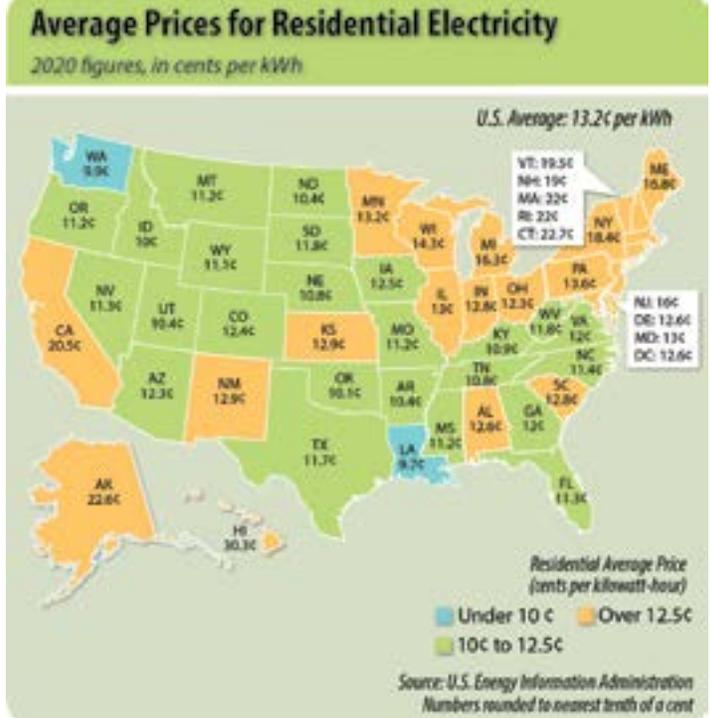
ERPPD IS UNCOMMON

The U.S. Energy Information Administration released data from 2020 that shows that Nebraska continues to have lower than the national average residential electrical rates - the graph to the right. It is interesting to compare them to the rates in 2015 - graph to the lower right. Public Power continues to provide value through stable, cost-effective rates for our customers.

For Elkhorn, there has not been an overall rate increase in the last 9 years. The average cost for residential kWh is 9.7 cents. That ranks considerably below the national average of 13.2 cents and Elkhorn's residential rates are also more than a cent below the Nebraska state average of 10.8 cents.

As was reported in the December *Wire*, not only has ERPPD not raised rates, there is an overall rate *decrease* of 4% for 2022, pretty uncommon for this day and age.

We look forward to continuing to provide "uncommon" service for our customers.



YOU COULD BE A



Sign Up for E-Billing and a Chance to Win \$50

Just a reminder to look into e-billing to ensure that you get your bill in a timely manner and to get entered into a quarterly drawing for \$50!

You can see the January *Wire* for more details or call the office 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to ask about how e-billing can make getting your bill easier.

SUBDIVISION CHANGES

Every ten years, after completing the census, organizations such as ourselves and other public entities are tasked with redistricting the areas served to ensure that each subdivision is fairly represented.

The 2020 census showed an increase in population in subdivision II and a decrease of population in Subdivision III.

Using Geographic Information System (GIS) data, our engineering firm RVW based in Columbus, NE, worked with staff on the proposed new subdivision boundary lines.

The best option available was to move part or all of sections 26-06; 26-05; 25-06; 25-05; 24-04 and 23-03 from Subdivision II into Subdivision III. This option equalized the populations in each subdivision to +/- 5% of the total population.

The directors are as follows:

Subdivision I

George "Hunter" Frisch; Mark Miller; Dennis Kuchar

Subdivision II

Jerrell Dolesh; Tim Means; Rod Zohner

Subdivision III

Joe Thiele; Ray Payne; Dave Hoefler

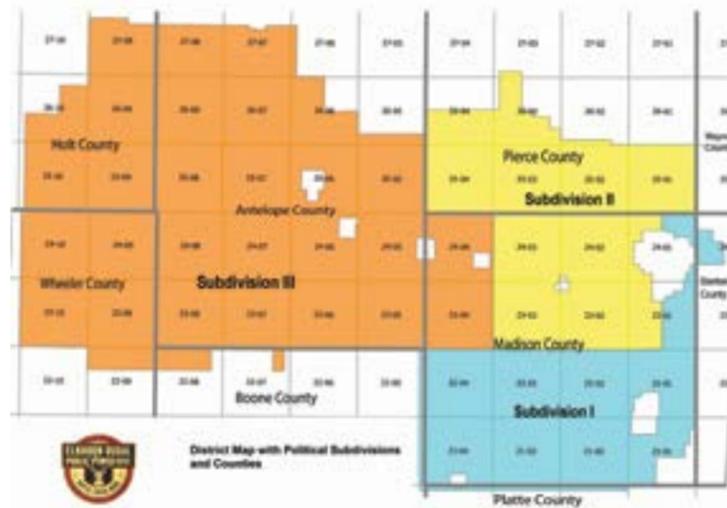
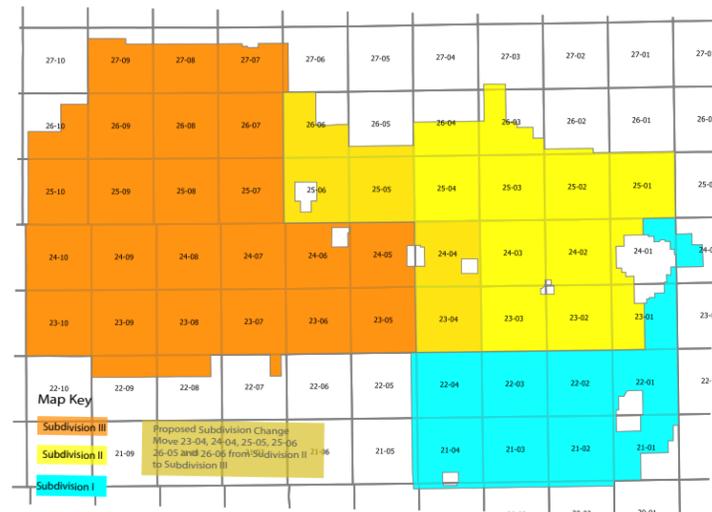
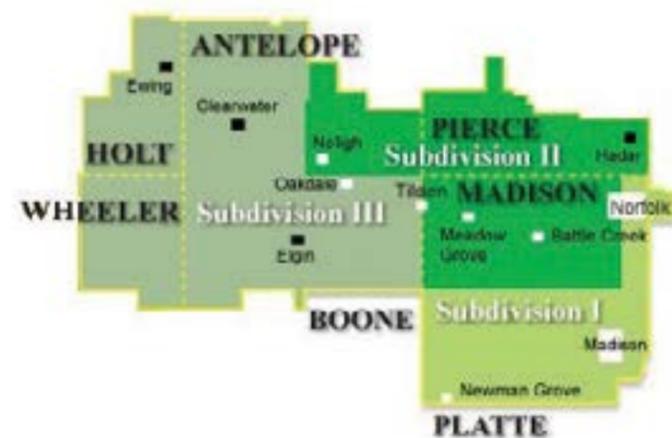
Pictured right from top to bottom are the previous subdivisions, the proposed changes to the subdivisions and the changed subdivisions.

Part of the process for the redistricting is to have the board adopt the proposed boundary changes, which was completed at the October 2021 board meeting.

The Power Review Board is then petitioned with the proposed changes. They review the changes to make sure customers are fairly represented and statutes are being followed. They approved the subdivision changes at their December 13th meeting.

Please take a moment to identify which district you are now located in, along with who now may represent you.

Local control is a key piece to helping provide you with safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
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To provide excellent service and keep our crews as safe as possible, please help us with the following:

- At a job site, do not stop to ask crews what they are working on or when power might be restored. Crew members need to give the repairs their full attention to ensure safety. Asking them questions can divert their attention and increase the amount of time it takes for the issue to be resolved.
- When driving by a utility truck (or any roadside vehicle with flashing lights), please move over and give them space. In a work zone, follow all signage, including speed limits. Drivers who travel through a work zone too fast can endanger workers on the ground and up in the bucket.
- If one of our employees is in your yard or on an easement to address service issues, be sure to secure your dogs. Please keep meters and padmount transformers (green boxes) free from obstructions.

Please be patient as we work on an outage or other issues. Safety is our top priority, for you and for our employees.

For more information see www.safeelectricity.org

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ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT

When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

109 YEARS OF SERVICE CELEBRATED



Jerrell Dolesh
Director
10 years



Mark Miller
Director
20 years

Staff and Directors were recognized for their milestone service anniversaries for 2021 at the annual Awards Banquet held in January. The dedication and service of the employees and directors is greatly appreciated!

Pictured above from left to right with Board President, Mark Miller, are John Paul, Meter Tech, 15 years, Garland Goracke, Warehouse Coordinator, 20 years; and Eric Scranton, Foreman, 20 years. Not pictured is Travis Wiebelhaus, Foreman, 20 years.

Pictured to the left are Directors, Jerry Dolesh and Mark Miller, who were recognized for their years of service to the board.

Taylor Stanley, apprentice lineman, and Jim Wennkamp, foreman, were also recognized for 2 years of service on the safety committee.



Crews stringing line on the Enola Road in December. This was a scheduled work plan project to help strengthen the system.

~Photo Credit: Patrick Hintz

Valentine's Day Word Search



Valentine's Day is February 14! Can you find the associated words in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.

CANDY

FLOWERS

HUGS

VALENTINE'S DAY

CARD

FRIEND

LOVE

CHOCOLATE

HEART



T	Q	V	X	G	F	C	R	F	C	J	U	E	Z	E	
S	R	A	I	Z	W	R	Y	G	S	E	L	M	D	J	O
K	M	E	E	U	V	R	C	H	O	I	C	P	X	J	A
G	Z	H	A	H	A	W	O	H	R	D	E	P	V	A	E
P	N	H	A	H	A	W	O	H	R	D	E	P	V	A	E
D	W	C	G	A	W	O	H	R	D	E	P	V	A	E	R
I	B	E	J	S	R	C	H	O	D	H	R	V	A	E	R
L	D	R	Z	D	U	Z	E	K	P	C	O	J	H	H	R
M	B	H	M	O	L	X	Z	E	K	P	C	O	J	H	H
H	U	G	S	J	Y	D	N	A	K	C	E	D	Y	A	P
J	G	D	G	W	M	K	J	P	T	P	D	A	Y	U	E
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	S	D	S	Y	N	H	
F	T	J	Z	V	L	R	G	K	A	V	U	I			
E	H	K	H	P	Q	X	G	K	A	V	U	I			

