



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2025

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 34, Number 2

IRRIGATION UPDATE



From the GM - Mark Johnson

Last month, I shared reflections on the past irrigation season, emphasizing the importance of our load control program in balancing our system load during periods of peak demand. As we move into a new season of planning and preparation, I'm excited to announce we are expanding our irrigation load control pilot program which will integrate advanced irrigation management technologies—FieldNET, FieldWise, and AgSense—into our load control efforts. We believe these new partnerships will continue the success of our irrigation load control program, increase organizational efficiencies, and provide significant benefits to the producers we serve.

During last year's irrigation season, we worked with FieldNET on a pilot project where we utilized their smart irrigation panels to execute our load control events. ERPPD had access to participating irrigation services through a specially designed load control portal which allowed us the ability to integrate this technology into our load control process. This project's success prompted our team to look at expanding this program to partner with the other irrigation systems that serve our customers, FieldNET, FieldWise, and AgSense.

These platforms enable ERPPD to increase organizational efficiencies by cutting down on our labor required to install and maintain additional equipment needed for load control. Currently, we need to go into the field to not only install a load control switch but maintain the units and physically update the switch for any requested rate changes. The smart irrigation panels will be owned by the participating farmers and allow for remote rate changes which will cut the need for our technicians to go into the field. This pilot program will be open to both new

and existing irrigation services and will complement our existing load control program.

As we are incorporating this into the load control program, there is still a need for staff to be working on the irrigation systems and with those switches that are being programmed, replaced or taken out. Marc Ahlers, SCADA field tech, pictured below, will be out in the field starting in late February or March depending on the weather. He uses the Ranger side by side to access the panels in the field. Please be on the lookout for Marc, for his safety and yours, as he is out in the field working for you.

Participating farmers will receive an incentive for each service that is enrolled in the pilot program. Be on the lookout for more details regarding the incentive structure.

We're excited about the future of this program and its potential to strengthen our partnership with local farmers. By working together and leveraging the best technology available, we can continue to meet the needs of our community and ensure the resilience of our electrical system for years to come. If you have any questions regarding this new program, please contact our office at 800-675-2185 and speak with Brian Suckstorf or Marc Ahlers.



NEW FACES AT ERPPD



Zane Stoike, apprentice line tech, joined ERPPD on November 18, 2024. Zane is from Alliance, NE and completed his line tech training at Western Nebraska Community College.

His internship was at Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association (PREMA) in Alliance and then he worked for Watts Electric Co., an electric contractor out of Waverly, Neb., for over a year.

Zane enjoys hunting and fishing.



Bryan Hohnholt, field services tech, joined ERPPD on December 16, 2024.

Bryan has over thirteen years of experience as a field tech and maintenance specialist with Black Hills Energy. He worked in the ERPPD territory for many of those years.

Bryan has been an active member of volunteer fire departments in Neligh, O'Neill and now in Albion, where he is a captain.

He resides in Albion with his wife, Shalynne, and three children.

WORK AROUND THE DISTRICT



Pictured above and upper right - Crews are building 3-phase line to new irrigation services. First, they grounded the distribution line, for safety. Then they moved the neutral on the dead end arm to align the phase and neutral before stringing the new line. To do this, crews untied the first span and corrected the sag.

Pictured lower right, Chris Bentley, journeyman line tech, is training Dayton Vanosdall, intern, on how to install ties on a new build.



*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
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GIVE BUDGET BILLING A TRY

Do you need more predictability in your monthly budget? We've got you covered. ERPPD offers budget billing for residential or rural residential services with 12 or more months of usage.

With budget billing you pay the same amount every month for 12 months with a billing true up in the month of March. There are no fees to sign up.

The deadline is **March 1, 2025**, to sign up for budget billing for the April 2025 – March 2026 cycle.

To sign up for this year's budget billing cycle or find out more information, contact our office at 800-675-2185.



ENERGY SAVINGS - INSULATION

Ensuring your home is properly insulated can improve energy efficiency and make your home more comfortable. Insulation acts like a cozy coat that reduces heat loss during winter months and a protective layer that reduces heat gain during summer months.

Many older homes have less insulation than newer homes, but even newer homes can benefit from additional insulation. Adding insulation and air sealing your home can provide the biggest bang for your buck in energy savings and overall comfort.

The most common areas to insulate are attics, ceilings, crawlspaces or unconditioned basements, exterior and interior walls, floors, and ductwork located

in unconditioned spaces.

The amount and effectiveness rating of insulation required for each area varies by climate, but many websites like The Department of Energy or Home Depot provide easy-to-follow recommendations. Visit energy.gov/insulation to learn about recommended R-values for specific areas of the home based on climate zones.

ERPPD also offers EnergyWiseSM incentive credits (up to \$600) to add insulation to your attic. You can learn about this incentive and more energy savings at www.erppd.com under the energy tab. You can also call the office and ask to speak with Brian Suckstorf, energy services rep.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR[®]-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.

Source: energy.gov

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CELEBRATING SERVICE



Chris Bentley
Journeyman Line Tech
Neligh
5 years



Grady Bellintier
Journeyman Line Tech
Neligh
5 years



Xuan Zoubek
CSR/Office Tech
Battle Creek
5 years



Kyle Kester
Journeyman Line Tech
Neligh
15 years



Patrick Hintz
Staking Engrg. Tech
Battle Creek
20 years

Board of Directors



Dave Hoefler
Director
15 years

Safety Committee



Galen Beckman
Accountant
2 years



Jeremy Holecek
Journeyman Line Tech
2 years

Pictured above are the staff and directors that were recognized for their milestone service anniversaries for 2024 at the annual Awards Banquet held in January. Those serving on the safety committee were also recognized. The dedication and service of the employees and directors is greatly appreciated!



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Office Hours: M - F
8:00AM - 4:30 PM



General Manager:
Mark Johnson
CFO/Office Manager:
Carmen Christensen
Operations Manager:
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:



www.erpdp.com



SCAN ME

Board of Directors

Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

Subdivision III

- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefler, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President

Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185