

## STEVE PETERSEN RETIRES

General Foreman of Neligh, Steve Petersen, retired June 1st, after 41 years of service to Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

Steve started at the Neligh outpost right out of utility line school. He recalls Milton Smith and Terry Carson visiting the school, “talking” to him and offering him the job.

Steve served as journeyman lineman, foreman and general foreman in Neligh over his career here.

Due to COVID 19 concerns, the retirement party was held during safety day with all employees in May.



*Pictured above clockwise from top left - Steve 1985 and 1991; Steve receiving his meter lamp from Tom Rudloff, GM and Steve with his retirement cake.*



*Pictured left - Vivian Smith, Chester Smith, Steve Petersen, Dan Schrage, Dean Kimes, Dan Peck, Ken Capler, and Bill Petsche - 1985 Neligh employees.*



*Pictured left - Steve Petersen, Jeff Kerkman; Ken Capler, Tom Ford, Dan Schrage, Dan Peck and Dean Kimes - 1992 Neligh crew.*



*Pictured left - Kyle Kester, Steve Petersen, Andy Starman, Marc Ahlers, Ryan Kittelson, Travis Wiebelhaus, Dan Schrage, and Jeff Kerkman - 2015*

At the retirement party, Steve complimented those that he worked with over the years.

Steve said, “I have had the pleasure of working with some great individuals. I’d like to thank ERPPD and our board of directors past and present for a great working experience.”

Steve and his wife Carol (who has been a nurse for 44 years) will be retiring to Yankton.


They plan on spending time with their daughter and a month in Alaska, when they are allowed through Canada, as they plan on driving.

Steve then plans on a lot of time fishing and working on his houses in Neligh and Yankton on projects that were put off until retirement.


We wish Steve the best in his retirement!



# LET'S POWER SAVINGS

 Use less, save more. Keep your thermostat at 78° and keep more of your money this summer.

*We value our customers. We value you.*

www.erppd.com  
800-675-2185 

We know that keeping your energy bill as low as possible while remaining comfortable is a goal. Here are some steps you can take to help achieve that goal.

### Let us start with the thermostat.

The power is in your hands. Adjust the thermostat to use less and save more. Keep the thermostat at 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter.

Another smart step is to keep the thermostat on AUTO, so the fan only runs when the unit runs. Setting the fan to ON will result in the fan running continuously and higher bills.

For more control over your system, consider purchasing a programmable thermostat to simplify the job of creating optimal settings.

### Keep water heater temperature at 120 degrees.

Keeping the temperature below or at the 120-degree mark keeps more money in your wallet. More importantly, it reduces the risk of burning or scalding accidents.

### Change air filters routinely.

Follow the recommended replace-

ment schedule for your filter, as a clean filter allows your heating and cooling unit to work more efficiently as well as reducing the amount of dust in your home. An option is to buy filters in multiple packs, so you will always have them available.

### Use drapes and blinds.

In the summertime, keep your drapes and blinds closed to keep the interior of your home cooler and more comfortable.

### Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.

Appliance costs on average comprise 9 percent of monthly electrical usage. Be smart and make sure you run full loads of dishes and clothes to maximize your dollars spent.

### Plug home electronics into power strips.

Turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use and when you are going to be out of town for an extended period.

For more energy saving tips and our incentives, visit [erppd.com](http://erppd.com) or call Brian at 402-675-2185.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



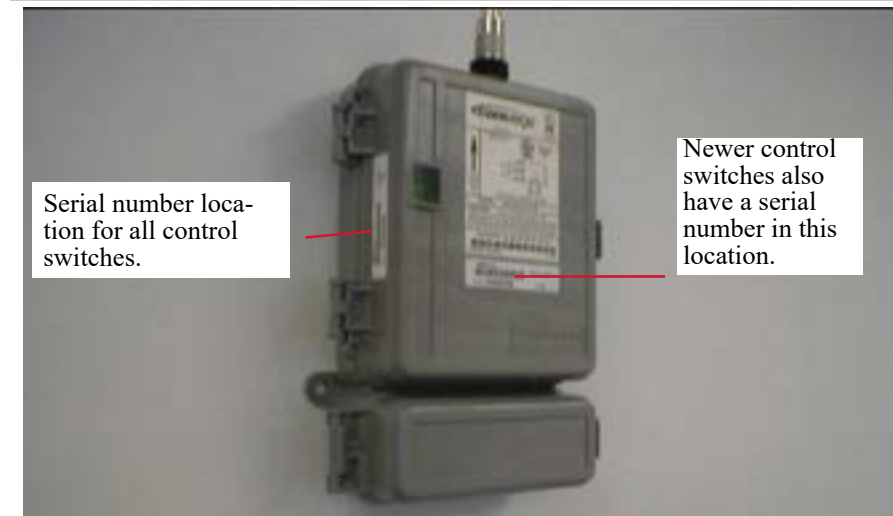
# IRRIGATION INFORMATION

With irrigation season in full swing, we wanted to provide you with some reminders and safety tips to help you have the most productive irrigation season possible. Please read the tips on this page and if you have any questions, please call the office 402-675-2185.

## Irrigator's Switch Number is Important

If you need to call ERPPD with questions about your irrigation systems, please reference the system's switch serial number when giving information. While account number and location are necessary components, it is the switch number that will best help district personnel to provide you with the fastest resolution to your situation.

As can be seen in the picture below, the switch serial number will be on the switch box. There are a couple of different locations for the switch serial number.



## IRRIGATION SAFETY

Irrigation systems are important to farms, providing needed water to crops. These safety tips will keep the crops watered and you safe during irrigation season.

\*Do not allow irrigation water nozzles to spray on power lines. A water stream hitting a power line could energize the entire system, creating a shock hazard to anyone nearby or in contact with the equipment.

\*Always know the location of nearby electrical lines when working with irrigation equip-

ment. Any contact between the irrigation equipment and nearby electrical lines could be fatal or cause serious injury.

\*Stay away from the piping during any lightning activity. Install lightning arresters to protect your equipment. If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional electrician check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.

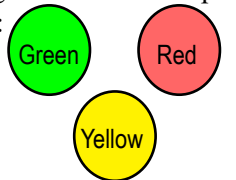
\*Always shut off and lock the master electrical control switch before servicing the machine.

## Lights Have Meaning

Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

- Red - No Control
- Red and Green - Control
- Yellow - Signal Test (has no effect)

The light configuration on the display appears this way:



If the lights are not working, please check the fuses before calling ERPPD's outage number at 800-675-2185.

## Check on Irrigation Control Status

June 1-Sept. 15

Phone: 1-800-238-0185  
OR

Internet: [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)  
(click on "Irrigation Control")

\*If an irrigation pipe comes in contact with a power line, never try to remove it yourself. Stay away and call ERPPD at (800) 675-2185 for help.



# THE GOOD NEWS OF ELECTRICITY

The report is out from the Energy Information Agency (EIA) - nationwide electricity has only increased 1%! That seems like really good news.

Here is some even better news - Elkhorn Rural Public Power District customers have not seen a general increase in rates since 2013.

That means that for the last 8 years your electric rates have increased 0%!

In fact, ERPPD residential rates at 9.6 cents/kwh remain lower than the state average of 10.8 cents and national average of 13.01 cents. (2019 data -See the February 2021 *Wire*).

Compared to other expenses as shown in the graph below, electricity is a great value.

Over the last five years nationally, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%.

Having steady electric rates is a good thing, especially since according to the EIA, the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices.

Which means that electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (ap-

pliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router.

Today, there is also more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

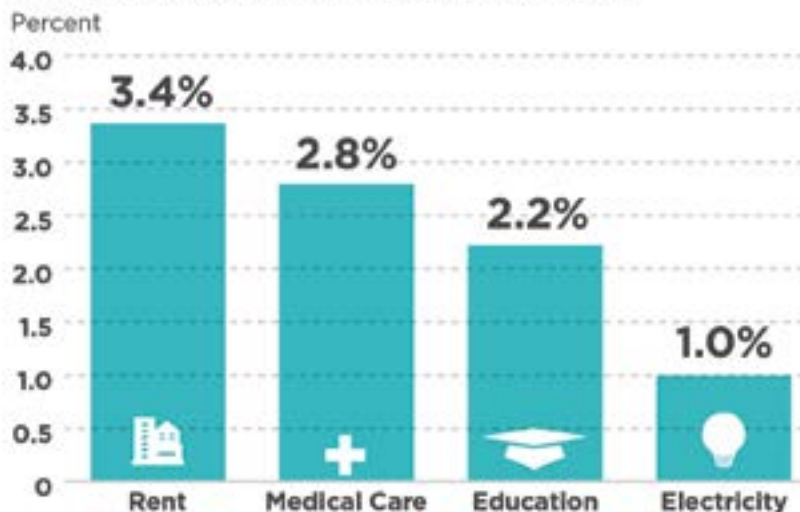
Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with ERPPD electrical rates.

We will continue working hard to power your life, safely, reliably and cost effectively.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index

## NEW POSITION



We are pleased to announce Jeff Kerkman started his new role as General Foreman in Neligh, June 1st. Jeff has been with ERPPD for

31 years as a journeyman lineman and most recently as foreman.

Jeff has shown leadership and organizational skills that will serve him well in his new position.

**ERPPD offices will be closed  
Monday July 5,  
in observance of Independence Day.  
Have a safe and fun 4th of July!**