

# THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 6

## Trease Substation Completed and Ready To Take On Summer Loads

ERPPD contracted with Watts Electric of Waverly, Nebraska, to construct a new substation southeast of Orchard. The substation will allow ERPPD's Operations Department to better balance the load and increase the reliability in that area. ERPPD's engineers recommended constructing the new substation to handle

previously added and projected irrigation load northwest of Clearwater. The substation was constructed near the new load center in the northwest part of the district.

The land for the substation was purchased from the Trease family and is located 2 miles south and 3 miles east of Orchard. The substation has a 7,500 kva transformer, and has 2 circuits to serve the surrounding territory.

The substation will also help ERPPD take advantage of the projected increase in capacity supplied by Nebraska Public Power District when they complete their 345,000-volt Hoskins to Neligh Transmission Line. NPPD estimates that the Hoskins to Neligh 345 kV project will be in service in the fall of 2015.

This is another example of our mission, which is to "provide SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers".



*Preparing to set the transformer in the Trease Substation, located 2 miles south and 3 miles east of Orchard.*



*The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District was initially formed under the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as the Madison County Rural Public Power District. It was later renamed the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District when Antelope County joined the district.*

## Help Us Capture Our History

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be 75 years old in 2015. We are starting to gather history of the district and would appreciate your input. Do you have old photographs, memorabilia, or stories from the early days of the district. If you have such information, please share them with us via email to [wmccormick@erppd.com](mailto:wmccormick@erppd.com), or you can bring items to Wayne McCormick at our office in Battle Creek. We can scan photographs or other documents, so you do not need to give up the originals.

You can check out our history on our web site at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com). Look under the 'About Us' tab.



## Independence Day is Friday, July 4.

ERPPD Offices will be closed as our employees and their families remember the day in history when our American forefathers first made their Declaration of Independence.

# **ERPPD's "Going Green" Program Offers Green Energy Blocks**

In February, ERPPD announced the "Going Green Program" as a voluntary option to our customers that wish to support green energy. It is available for residential, commercial, or industrial accounts. Green Energy blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity are currently being offered. The number of green energy blocks a customer decides to purchase does not change what they would normally be billed, but provides a surcharge to be added to the bill for green energy.

Currently, a Green Energy Block (100 kWh) is available at \$1.80 (plus sales tax and bill adjustments as applicable) per block. That unit charge will be subject to change on an annual basis, and we will make sure to let you know about that. When you purchase a "Green Energy Block", all of the revenue from the block is passed on to the Nebraska Public Power District, our power supplier, to help subsidize the higher cost of renewable energy and to help sustain green energy in Nebraska.

The average Nebraska home uses approximately 1,000 kWh of electricity per month. Purchasing, for example,



**with Elkhorn Rural  
Public Power District**

three blocks (300 kWh) of green energy would add \$5.40 (plus sales tax and bill adjustments as applicable) to the current bill. In this scenario, the customer would be getting the equivalent of nearly one-third of their energy from green sources.

You may enroll or cancel the "green energy blocks" at any time. Cancellation will be effective at the end of the billing period.

To enroll, simply complete the form below and return it to our office. You can drop it off at the office, mail it in, or include it with your next bill payment. This is your chance to directly support renewable energy in Nebraska.

## **"Going Green" FAQS**

### **What is the "Going Green" Program?**

It is a program offered by ERPPD, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, where customers can

purchase renewable energy or "green power". When you sign up for this program you are purchasing energy generated from Nebraska-based renewable sources.

### **How do customers benefit from joining the Green Energy Program?**

They will support renewable energy generation from Nebraska-based facilities and encourage investment for this type of energy generation.

They will know they are helping to maintain the environment through their support of renewable, non-carbon emitting generation and will help enhance the quality of life for Nebraskans.

### **Who should I contact for more information?**

For additional information regarding the Going Green program or the green energy blocks, please stop in our office or contact us at 800-675-2185 during regular office hours 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday.

## **Sign Up for "Going Green" Energy Blocks Today**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Blocks \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Office Use Only: Assigned Blocks*

## Convenient Payment and Billing Options

We work very hard to make your payment experience as painless and convenient as possible. Paying a bill may not be easy, but we offer several options for you to choose from. Following are the options available:

- **Mail:** This is the traditional method of payment. You receive a bill on approximately the 5th of the month, write a check, and return it to our office in the enclosed envelope.
- **Budget Billing and Payment:** The Budget Billing and Payment Program assists customers with their monthly budget. The previous 12 months of billings are added together and then averaged among 12 equal monthly payments. This option is available for customers after at least one year of service, and takes the surprise out of monthly bills. There is a true-up at the end of the 12 months, and customers can tell each month if they are behind or ahead of actual usage.
- **ACH:** More commonly known as a bank draft, the ACH (Automated Clearing House) automatically withdraws the amount of the bill and transfers it to ERPPD. You will still receive a bill, but with a note that it has been paid via ACH. Another convenient payment option is to utilize the automatic withdrawal feature from your savings or checking account(s). All you have to do is complete the initial paperwork and supply a voided check or deposit slip (for account information) and Elkhorn will take care of the rest.
- **Credit/Debit Card:** You can either set up an automatic credit/debit card payment or you can call our office with the credit card information and make the payment while you are on the phone. There is a 2.45% convenience fee associated with this service.
- **E-Check:** You can call our office with your checking or savings account information, and we can draft your account for the amount you authorize. There is a 60¢ transaction fee associated with this service.
- **Online Bill Pay:** You can visit our website ([www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)) and click on the BillPay link. You need to call our office prior to the first use to get this option set up. After the setup, this option can be used anytime, day or night. You can either use the E-Check option or the Credit Card Option when you pay Online.
- **E-Bill:** Go “Green” with this option. Your monthly statement would be emailed to you. Make it totally paperless by combining this option with the Online Bill Pay option.



## Automatic Meter Installation Completed on Seasonal Services

Operations personnel recently completed the installation of automatic meters on seasonal services, including pasture pumps. This was the final group of meters that were customer read for billing purposes.



Starting in 2014, customers with pasture pump services will not be required to read their meters and submit that reading to the office for billing. We believe this will be a tremendous time-saver for you, the customer, as well as for our billing department. We will no longer need to print and mail meter reading request forms, and the customer will not need to visit the service just to read the meter.

Our engineering department will also be able to discover meters that have stopped before the end of the season. The operations department can use the meters in outage management from the office by providing another meter to test for power, which will help determine the extent of an outage in progress, and also to help in verifying that power has been restored following an outage. Our customer service department can use the load profiles collected from the meters to assist customers with high bill inquiries.

This is just another example of fulfilling our mission “provide SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers”.

### Energy Efficiency

#### *Tip of the Month*

When replacing incandescent bulbs from recessed light fixtures, use energy-efficient bulbs that are rated for that purpose. For example, the heat buildup in downlights will significantly shorten the life of spiral CFLs.  
Source: Department of Energy

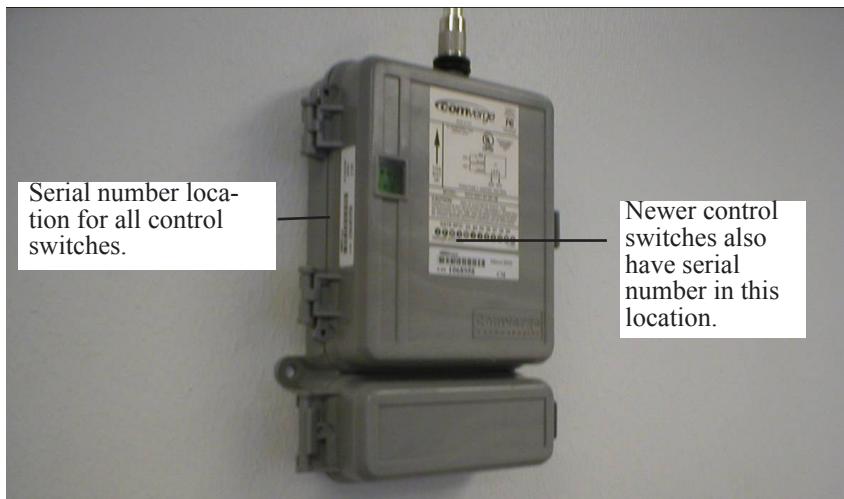
# IRRIGATION NEWS

## Irrigator's switch number is important

This irrigation season, an ERPPD irrigator who has occasion to call the utility should reference the system's switch 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 the irrigator with the fastest resolution to his or her situation.

See illustration below for location examples:



## Lights have meaning

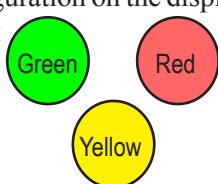
Three LED lights on the control box have particular significance.

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")

### 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
Jerrell 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](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto: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**