

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

June 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 6

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.



Manager Takes Rural Electric Message to Washington D.C.

Tom Rudloff, ERPPD Manager, attended the National Rural Electric Coop Association's (NERCA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. May 3 - 5. He was one of 2,000 power provider leaders taking our customers's message to lawmakers.

The focus was on the Environmental Agency's over-reach that would significantly impact rural cooperatives and their customers. It is very important at this time to provide a common sense approach as the 114th Congress appears ready to act on environmental issues.

NERCA CEO Jo Ann Emerson encouraged participants, "You are a leader in your community because you care enough to help bridge the humongous gap between your town and Washington. There is no other way to do it than to pack up a suitcase full of common sense and deliver it yourself."

The following are the legislative points participants were to make with their congressmen:

- Seek cosponsors for the Ratepayer Protection Act, HR 2042, introduced by House Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield, R-KY. The bill would provide a legislative stay for compliance with the Clean Power Plan until legal challenges run their course.
- Seek cosponsors for the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act, HR 1732, and the Federal Water Quality Protection Act, S.1140. The bipartisan measures would halt the Waters of the U.S. rule and require more input from small stakeholders, such as public power districts.
- Urge support for the "Improving Coal Combustion Residuals Regulation Act", HR 1734. The bill authored by Rep. David McKinley, R-W.Va, would make permanent an EPA designation of coal ash as nonhazardous waste.

Participants were also encouraged to thank lawmakers for their support of the Rural Utilities Service budget, which was a net gain and a positive fiscal change, and water heater legislation that became law April 30 of this year.

source: *Electric Co-op Today*: <http://www.ect.coop>



Jennifer Adams Joins Staff

Jennifer Adams has joined the ERPPD staff as the Human Resource Specialist/Corporate Communications.

Jennifer has her MBA and is a certified Professional in HR (PHR) as well as a Society of Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP).

She has 20 years of experience in working with not-for-profit agencies, first at the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce and then at Behavioral Health Specialists, Inc. In addition to HR, she has expertise in following legislative issues, working with boards, writing newsletters, training for safety and compliance.

Jennifer and her husband, Scott, have two children - Jessica, a sophomore at Norfolk Public High and Nicholas, an 8th grader at Norfolk Junior High.

We want to welcome Jennifer and her family to the ERPPD family.

In Observance of Independence Day ERPPD Offices will be closed Friday, July 3.



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.

Avian Protection Plan

What is more beautiful than seeing a bald eagle soaring majestically above the trees? Or a hawk swooping down on his prey?

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (ERPPD) is dedicated to preserving these birds and other migratory species, by adopting an Avian Protection Plan to reduce injury and death on power lines. ERPPD's service territory is home to many raptors, including Bald Eagles, which winter over and nest here, as well as migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and water birds. All birds in Nebraska and our service territory are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, except the House Sparrow, European Starling and Rock Pigeon.

ERPPD has made design changes to its electrical system with avian protection as a goal. This helps protect the wildlife but also helps to maintain the reliability and safety of our power. It also reduces the chances for fires and keeps us in compliance with bird protection regulations.



Training has been initiated to equip our employees with the ability to anticipate and avoid problem configurations, remediate proven problem spots and properly handle, report and remediate when raptor mortalities occur or protected nests need to be moved.

ERPPD will utilize an internal evaluation/risk assessment of the distribution and sub-transmission system using the Avian Risk Assessment Map, on-site Risk Assessment Checklist and personal knowledge of the area to determine areas of priority within our territory. Areas designated as "high avian use" and high risk of mortality will be given priority in planning and proactive remediation efforts. A map of priority areas will be updated as assessments occur. Special consideration will be given to areas designated as state wildlife management areas or areas that have been federally designated as a wildlife preserve.

ERPPD is proud to be able to partner with other agencies to protect our natural resources while still providing you with safe, reliable and cost effective power.

Nebraska Public Power District Announces Hydrogen Plant

In April, NPPD announced plans to replace an existing coal-fired boiler at its Sheldon Station plant in Hallam, Neb. with one that uses clean-burning hydrogen fuel. The hydrogen will be produced by Monolith Materials as a co-product from its production of carbon black using natural gas as a feedstock. The collaborative undertaking is expected to create good paying jobs at the site and enable NPPD to continue to generate and deliver cost effective, reliable and sustainable energy to Nebraskans.

Monolith Materials will use a safe, patented and non-carbon emitting process to manufacture carbon black, a common material found in thousands of products Americans use every day including tires, rubber and plastics, printing inks, and batteries. Monolith uses natural gas as a feedstock in its process instead of oil or coal-tar as in the conventional process. The plant will be located next to the Sheldon Station. The facility will be powered by electricity.

"This is an example of the next-generation of American innovation and energy production that will also have a positive economic impact in Nebraska, and deliver clean and affordable energy to the state. This private business-led solution has the potential to support 600 new jobs and hundreds of millions of new capital investment in the state of Nebraska," said Governor Pete Ricketts.

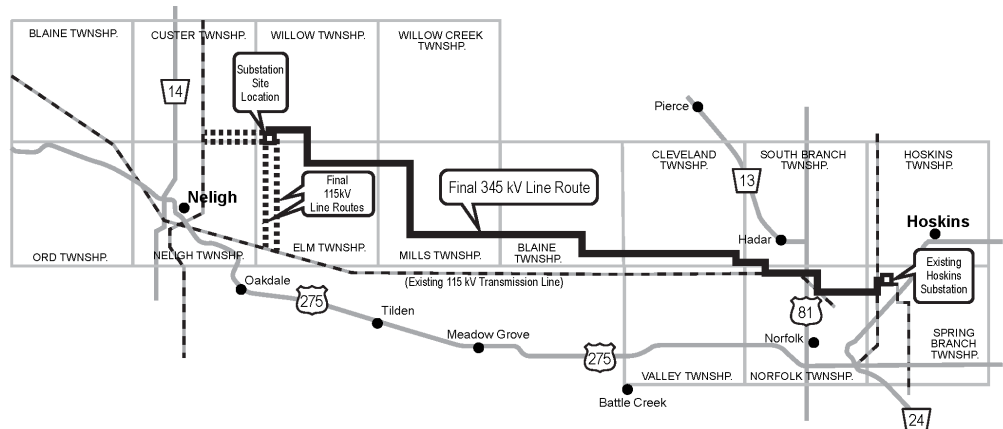
This initiative is not dependent on federal government grants or loan guarantees. Instead, innovative technology, affordable electricity and low cost natural gas allows for the production of products at market competitive prices.

The companies expect to break-ground on their respective operations in 2016, with an expected completion date of 2019.

SAFETY NEWS

Watch Out For Increased Truck Traffic Between Neligh and Norfolk

Nebraska Public Power District. -- Be aware of increased truck traffic on the roads between Neligh and Norfolk this spring and through the winter of 2015-2016. The Nebraska Public Power District is building approximately 40 miles of 345,000-volt transmission line and about 20 miles of 115,000-volt lines to help serve the electric needs of north central Nebraska.



The line will be built several miles north of and generally parallel to U.S. Highway 275. When completed, the 345,000-volt line will run between a substation located on the northeast edge of Norfolk next to Nucor Steel and a substation northeast of Neligh. The 115,000-volt lines will connect the Neligh substation to other transmission lines.

“Safety is our number one priority,” said NPPD’s Project Manager Jedd Fischer. “By spreading the word about increased traffic, we hope to avoid accidents.”

The first step in construction will be digging and then pouring concrete for foundations for the single-pole self-supporting steel that will compose the new lines (approximately 175 for the 345,000-volt line and another 30 for the 115,000-volt construction.) Foundation work was scheduled to begin at the end of March and will continue through the fall. Each foundation is about 7 ft. to 9 ft. in diameter, so there will be many cement trucks traveling the highways and county roads in the area.

In addition to the cement trucks, there will be utility equipment and material trucks in the area, so please be on the lookout as you travel these roads. We want to keep you safe.

OPERATIONS NEWS

Projects - Ongoing and Completed

- Crews are in the process of mapping and recording the electrical facilities in the city of Elgin.
- Completed our projects to relocate lines out of the path of NPPD’s 345,000 transmission line to be constructed from Hoskins to Neligh.
- Completed uprates to our distribution lines for increased reliability and capacity:
 - 4 miles out of sub 3 east of Elgin
 - 4 miles out of sub 4 north of Meadow Grove
 - 3 miles out of sub 11 south of Ewing

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Circulate savings! Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool during summer months and can even allow you to raise your thermostat setting about 4 degrees without affecting your comfort.

Source: energy.gov

Safety During a Storm

On a hot, summer day Steve Wald, his two boys and their friend found themselves caught in a terrifying thunderstorm. They ended up only seconds away from being in an accident with an overhead power line that was brought down by the force of the storm.

Safe Electricity wants you to know how to stay safe:

- Check weather forecasts so you can plan to stay inside when a storm threatens.
- If you are outside, seek safe shelter in an enclosed building or vehicle.
- If you see a downed power line, stay far away, instruct others to do the same, and call 911 and the utility immediately.

Learn more, and see their story at: www.safeelectricity.org

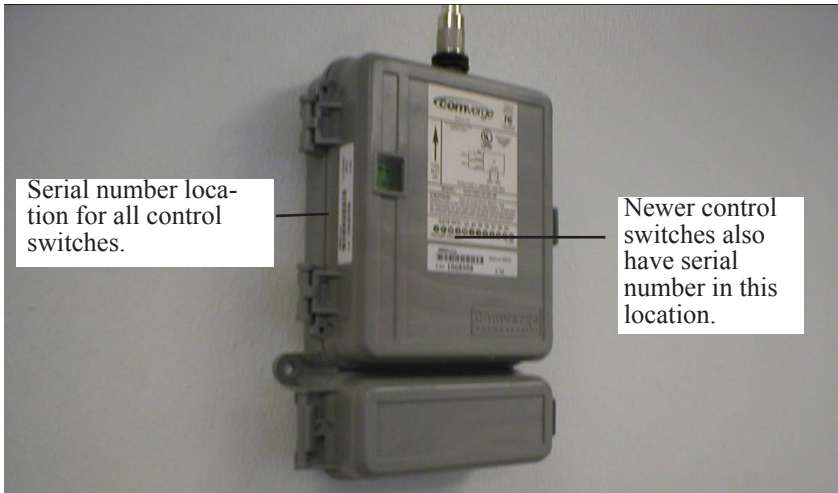
IRRIGATION

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:

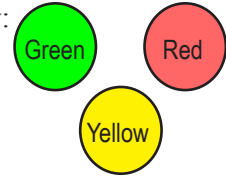


Lights have meaning

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
(click on "Irrigation Control")

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
Director II
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefer
DirectorIII

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**