



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2026

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 35, Number 3

POLICY MATTERS TO PUBLIC POWER



From the GM - Mark Johnson

Many of my monthly articles focus on our mission statement and the ways we work

to deliver value to our customers at ERPPD. This month, I'd like to shift the conversation slightly and talk about the importance that politics plays in our day-to-day operations. Public power is about more than poles, wires, and substations. It also operates within a structure defined by laws, regulations, and public policy. While our crews are in the field maintaining infrastructure and our office staff works to keep rates stable and service reliable, the policy decisions made at the state and federal levels have a direct impact on how we carry out our mission and serve our communities.

At the state level, protecting local control remains essential and is something we focus on during every session. Nebraska's public power model is built on governance by locally elected board members who understand the needs of the communities they serve. Legislative proposals that

affect oversight or governance can impact that structure. We stay engaged and work with our statewide association, Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA), to ensure that public power remains accountable to the customers we serve, not outside interests.

During this legislative session, state lawmakers are also considering issues related to privately owned generation facilities, renewable energy development, and private battery storage projects. Innovation and private investment can bring opportunities, but thoughtful policy is

essential. New projects must be coordinated with existing utilities, protect grid reliability, and ensure costs are allocated fairly. It is important that public power utilities remain part of these conversations from the beginning so that long-term system planning and customer interests are safeguarded.

At ERPPD, political engagement means building relationships. Each year, we meet with state senators in Lincoln to discuss issues affecting public power (pictured below). We also host elected officials at our facilities, inviting them to our board meetings, providing system tours, and sharing **continued on page 4**



As part of the ERPPD Political Action Plan, the board visits the State Legislature and meets with state senators.

REVIEWING 2025 ENERGY INCENTIVES

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District returned \$71,984 to customers through energy-efficiency incentives in 2025. Proof that investing in energy efficient equipment does pay off.

Participating customers reduced ERPPD's overall load by 64 KW, in addition to lowering their own monthly energy costs through upgraded appliances, equipment and lighting.

Heat pumps led the way with \$33,600 in incentives issued.

Commercial lighting followed with \$14,277 in customer refunds. Agricultural programs combined ranked third with \$9,350.

In addition, Beneficial Electrification, which provide incentives for things like electric car charging, electric lawn equipment or electric chain saws, accounted for

\$3,011 in savings.

If you want to save in 2026, check out all the energy saving options on our website at www.erppd.com and click on the energy tab or use the QR code below.

You can save when you install attic insulation, get a smart thermostat, or have a cooling system tune up. Save when you buy hog mats, or upgrade your irrigation



outlet components, or variable frequency drive.

Remember that in addition to the incentives to your upgrades, you will also save each month on your electric bill.

For any questions, please call the office at 800-675-2185 and ask to speak with Brian Suckstorf.

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Bottles of water | Extra batteries |
| Non-perishable food | Pet supplies |
| Portable phone charger | Blankets |
| Prescriptions | Warm clothing |
| Battery-operated radio | First-aid kit |
| Flashlights | Hand sanitizer |

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.



YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

JULY 20 - 24

CAMP COMECA
Cozad, Nebraska

Tours, workshops, sports, friends & fun!

Apply Today!

The Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) is not your usual camp. YELC is a great opportunity for youth in high school to experience what it is like to be involved with their electric power utility, while having a lot of fun, meeting new people, and learning leadership skills.

Campers also tour Gerald Gentleman power station, participate in fun activities like games and swimming. There is a talent show and on the last night there is a dance.

Who should attend?
Any 9-11 grade high school student:
 *with leadership potential;
 *with an awesome personality;
 *strong academic record and,
 *an interest in meeting new people;
 *and who is served by ERPPD.
 For questions, call the office at 402-675-2185 and ask for Stacie Young.

2026 YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Return to : Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young
 PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715
 (Entry Deadline April 15, 2026)

APPLY TODAY!

Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2026 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at Comeca Camp and Retreat Center, Cozad NE, July 20-24, as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

POLICY MATTERS CONTINUED

(Cont'd from page 1) updates on what is going on in our industry. Ongoing communication helps policymakers better understand the practical impacts of legislation on rural electric systems.

At the federal level, issues such as FEMA disaster assistance, permitting reform, keeping reliable generation resources online, and smarter land management policies all influence our ability to serve customers. At this level, working with our national association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), helps us leverage the 800 + public power and cooperative utilities across the nation to get in front of policy makers and have our voices heard.

ERPPD's engagement with politics is not about partisanship but rather focused on being good stewards of our public power system and to the people we serve. Staying involved helps ensure that policies support reliable service, strong local governance, and the long-term success of public power.

You are a part of this process as well. Please be aware of policy that is being enacted, contact your elected officials about issues that impact you, and be sure to vote, especially in local elections. An informed and engaged public is what makes public power so successful.

If you ever have any questions regarding any state or federal issues, feel free to reach out to discuss potential impact for you or to our utility.



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Battle Creek, NE
68715

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.ERPPD.COM



SCAN ME

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

Board of Directors

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- James Geyer, Director

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