

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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Utility Line Students Set to Begin Summer Internship in May

A cooperative internship program between the state's public power districts and the Utility Line program of the Northeast Community College (NECC) of Norfolk and Metropolitan Community College (MCC) of Omaha will allow these two students to gain practical, on-the-job training at Elkhorn Rural PPD during the summer.

Starting in mid-May, Cameron Higgins of Amherst, Utility Line student at NECC, and Tyler Bolling of Central City, Utility Line student at MCC, will spend their summer days working with ERPPD line crews. They will be doing a variety of utility functions, gaining valuable experience in the utility line industry. Both students will be assisting crews from the Battle Creek headquarters.

The internship is a Win-Win program. It gives the students a chance before graduation to find out if they really want to make a career out of utility line work, and the district benefits from the added labor force. The program is part of the curriculum of NECC and MCC, and is a requirement for graduation.



Tyler Bolling



Cameron Higgins


May is National Electrical Safety Month

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is dedicated to promoting safety in all that we do. Spring planting season is a great opportunity to remind everyone of the dangers of contact with high voltage lines. Farm equipment is getting larger and taller each year as farmers try to cover more ground in less time to improve efficiencies. Along with larger equipment comes increased risk as sprayer booms, planter arms, and bigger disks fold up taller and swing wider on turns. Be aware of the dangers and always remember the safety motto "Look Up and Live".

If you do have an accident involving contact with the high voltage lines or hitting one of the poles, be sure to stay in your equipment or vehicle and call our outage line (800-675-2185), or call 911 and the emergency personnel will contact our crews to secure the scene so you can safely exit. DO NOT make contact with the ground and the equipment at the same time. STAY CALM and take time to assess the situation. You may be able to carefully back out of the situation, but you still need to call our office at 800-675-2185, so we can check out the poles and wires.

For a demonstration on high voltage safety, just log on to our web site, www.erppd.com. You can click on the button on our home page entitled SafeElectricity. This link will take you to www.SafeElectricity.org, where you can click on a Live Line Demo link. This 30 minute video-streamed program and other safety video productions are among thousands of resources available on the web site dedicated to educating people about electrical safety.

If you have any electrical safety-related questions, or if you wish to schedule a high-voltage safety demonstration for your school or civic club, please contact Wayne McCormick, safety director for Elkhorn RPPD, at (800) 675-2185.



Memorial Day
ERPPD offices **will be closed** on Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day.

ENERGY NEWS

Light Bulbs-Sorting through the clutter

Bulbs, Brands, Lumens, Labels --Oh My!!

With the government phase-out of Thomas Edison's infamous incandescent bulbs, popular since the 1800s, the consumers are left to fend for themselves in a search for replacement bulbs. You may still be able to buy incandescent bulbs for some time, but as of January 1, 2014, there will be no traditional incandescent bulbs manufactured in the United States. We all realize that the reason for the phase-out was for energy efficiency, but that does not make the decision any easier.

I have created a table below to help simplify the decision. The first column in the table is a measure of the brightness of the bulb, which is the best way to compare the new

bulbs with the traditional incandescents. Wattage is no longer an effective measure of brightness. For example, a 10-watt LED or a 13-watt CFL will put out the same light (800 lumens) as a 60-watt traditional incandescent, will use only a fraction of the energy, and will last from 10 to 25 times as long. The remaining columns compare the wattages and operating costs of the various styles of light bulbs. The wattages of the different styles of bulbs are averages, actual wattages may vary slightly.

The chart below illustrates that the new bulbs are more energy-efficient and cost less to operate. What it does not show is that the more efficient bulbs come with a higher initial cost. Elkhorn Rural Public Power



District, wants to take some of the pain out of the initial purchase of the new, energy-efficient bulbs, so we have teamed up with Nebraska Public Power District, our power supplier, to offer a rebate of \$5.00 for each LED bulb purchased (limit 10 LED bulbs per year).

You can download an incentive form by going to the following website: http://www.nppd.com/assets/2012_incentives/led/brochure.pdf. Print the application, complete it, and bring it or send it to our office along with the receipt for proof of purchase. If you have any questions, please call our office at 1-800-675-2185.

Least Efficient ----->						<-----Most Efficient
Brightness	Standard Incandescents	=>	New Halogen Incandescents	CFLs	LEDs	
450 lumens	40-watt \$4.38/yr	=>	29-watt \$3.17/yr	10-watt \$1.09/yr	5-watt \$0.55/yr	energy use energy cost per year
800 lumens	60-watt \$6.57/yr	=>	43-watt \$4.71/yr	13-watt \$1.42/yr	10-watt \$1.09/yr	energy use energy cost per year
1100 lumens	75-watt \$8.21/yr	=>	53-watt \$5.80/yr	16-watt \$1.75/yr	15-watt \$1.64/yr	energy use energy cost per year
1600 lumens	100-watt \$10.95/yr	=>	72-watt \$7.88/yr	20-watt \$2.19/yr	19-watt \$2.08/yr	energy use energy cost per year
Typical Life*	1 year		1 - 2 years	10 years	15 - 25+ years	

*Table figures based on 3 hours of use per day at an average residential rate of 10¢/kwh. Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

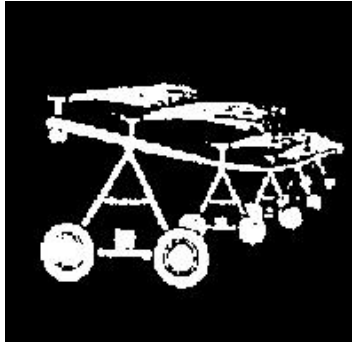
A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where they are planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.

Source: Energy.gov

Tips for Irrigators

- **Check Fuses:** Perform a system check before the irrigation season begins to make sure you have power. There may be fuses that need replaced.
- **Motor Savers:** Have your electrician install a motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors detect a blink on only one phase, which can allow the motor to continue to operate on two phases resulting in motor damage. A motor saver monitors all three phases and shuts down the system if any one of the phases blinks.
- **Power Factor Corrective Capacitors:** Capacitors installed at the pump panel will lead to several important customer benefits, such as:
 - Guarding against low voltages on startup
 - Assisting in keeping your system's voltage at a proper level while running.
 - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor.
 - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts
 - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment
 - Reducing the demand (measured horsepower) of your well
 - Reducing consumption of kilowatt-hours by utilizing more efficient practices
 - Maximizing the output of the electricity purchased.
- **Autostart:** An autostart component installed on your system can maximize the amount of pumping by automatically starting your system following a period of control, or following a blink on the electrical system.
- **Text or Email Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or email when the radio signal has been sent to control your individual well. Another notification will be sent when the radio signal has been sent to restore the individual system at the end of the control period.

If you have any questions on these items, or questions on energy efficiency, please call our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau, at (800) 675-2185.



Irrigation Control Switch Inspections

ERPPD personnel will be performing their annual inspection of irrigation control switches. The inspection was started in April and will finish sometime in May. The techs may need to energize the panel to test the switch, but will put everything back as it was found.



With the switches subject to severe weather such as thunderstorms and lightning, it is very important that we make sure each switch is working properly.

The irrigation load control program is very important for managing electrical rates. Keeping the peak demand down during the hot summer months saves the district hundreds of thousands of dollars in electrical power costs. These savings are reflected in all of our rates.

Homes and other businesses can also contribute to controlling the peak demand by using energy conservation, especially during the hot summer months.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in keeping rates as low as possible.

Power Factor Corrective Capacitor Verification Inspections Under Way

ERPPD personnel are performing inspections on irrigation systems this spring to verify Power Factor Corrective Capacitor (PFCC) installations. They will be inspecting irrigation systems in which PFCC installation has not yet been verified. The inspection was started in April and will finish sometime in May.

Power Factor Corrective Capacitors are called for on irrigation motors 50 hp or larger. Effective 2014 and each year thereafter, irrigation systems with motors 50 hp or greater that do not have PFCCs installed and verified will be assessed a fee of \$3.00 per horsepower, and this fee will be attached to the electric bill for each season until a PFCC has been installed.

It is not our intent to collect fees, but we understand the value, both to the district and to the individual customer, of having a fully operational PFCC on any irrigation motor 50 hp or greater.



We may have your number; but it might be the wrong one!

Cellular phones have become the up-and-coming preference over land lines for many people in today's fast-paced society. Incorporating the use of a cell phone as an adjunct to a land line is not new; cell phones have been around for many years. Now, however, with the additional cell phone towers and improved coverage, people are eliminating their land lines entirely and replacing them with cell phones.

If this is the case for you, please call Elkhorn Rural Public Power District and change the contact phone number we have on file for you. Some of the land line numbers that ERPPD has on file have been disconnected.

Every once in a while, ERPPD personnel need a customer's phone number in order to ask him or her a question about an account, to inform that customer about an outage that



may be planned for the area, or to discuss other utility business. We have also tried to be more proactive in our customer service department by using the phone system to send a friendly reminder that payment has not been received on an account.

ERPPD has always kept customers' land-line numbers in confidence; cell phone numbers are handled in the same manner. No customer's contact phone number will be given to any

other party.

The bottom line is that we really want to provide the best customer service possible, and having your correct contact information is one of the keys.

Give us a call at (800) 675-2185 to check to see if we have your correct contact information.

Please, let ERPPD office personnel know if a cell phone number has replaced your land line for your primary contact.

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with Board position and subdivision

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- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
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- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
DirectorII
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Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefler
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**