



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2017

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 26, Number 5

DIRECTOR HONORED FOR SERVICE



Rod Zohner (left) was recognized at the March Nebraska Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (NEG&T) board meeting for his service as an officer on the NEG&T board for the last 6 years.

He served as secretary/treasurer from 2011 - 2013; as vice president from 2013-2015 and most recently as President from 2015-2017.

During his presidency, Rod provided solid leadership during the whole sale contract negotiations. The contract allowed for systems to stay with a reliable provider and have accountability for low cost energy through a performance standard.

Rod was presented with a plaque and resolution from the board commending him for "his conscientious service to the directors, member systems, and staff of the NEG&T during his tenure."

May is National
**ELECTRICAL
SAFETY
Month**

#electricalsafetymonth

We're putting safety first. Are you?



Cultivate safety

At ERPPD safety comes first in everything we do. Electricity is a wonderful power source that heats our homes, cooks our meals and lights up the dark. Electricity can also be very dangerous and needs to be treated with respect. Complacency will get you killed. At Elkhorn we have a meeting before each job, called a tailgate, to make sure we are approaching the job in the safest manner possible. We also make sure that in case of an emergency, all of the crew know where they are and how to get help to the scene. This May, take some time to make sure your home and workplace are a safe place to be. Visit www.erppd.com for more information.

Today's farming operations involve bigger equipment, which can make you more productive. However, failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight. This planting season, remember to look up and look out for overhead power lines.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S EXEC ORDER

On March 28th, President Trump issued an Executive Order (EO) for "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth." The EO directs the EPA to begin reviewing the Clean Power Plan (CPP), along with a number of other rules, regulations, and agency decisions that impact public utilities.

Having governmental regulation and oversight curtailed are positive steps for public power. We are able to continue with our mission to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to you without the undue burden of excessive governmental control.

The following is a short summary of the seven page EO:

Policy — Calls for promoting clean and safe development of our nation's vast energy resources, while avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation.

Immediate Review of All Agency Actions that Potentially Burden the Safe, Efficient Development of Domestic Energy Resources — Directs federal agencies to review all existing regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and any other similar agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources. Agency heads should submit a report to the White House that includes the actions, along with specific recommendations, that could alleviate or eliminate aspects of the agency actions. The final report will be a blueprint for an administration energy strategy.

Rescission of Certain Energy and Climate-Related Presidential and Regulatory Actions — The EO rescinds Obama Administration executive orders and presidential memoranda related to climate change. It directs the Council on Environmental Quality to rescind its final guidance entitled "Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas

Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews."

Review of the Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean Power Plan" and Related Rules and Agency Actions — The EPA is to immediately review the 111(b) and 111(d) regulations and any related rules or guidance associated with them and to, as soon as practicable, suspend, revise, or rescind the guidance, or publish for notice and comment proposed rules suspending, revising, or rescinding those rules.

Review of Estimates of the Social Cost of Carbon, Nitrous Oxide, and Methane for Regulatory Impact Analysis — The EO disbands the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases (IWG) and the technical documents issued by the IWG shall be withdrawn as no longer representative of governmental policy. Effective immediately, when monetizing the value of changes in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from regulations, that any such estimates are consistent with the guidance contained in OMB Circular A-4 of September 17, 2003.

Federal Land Coal Leasing Moratorium — The Secretary of

Interior shall take action necessary to lift any and all moratoria on federal land coal leasing activities and shall commence federal coal leasing activities consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

Review of Regulations Related to United States Oil and Gas Development — direct the EPA Administrator and the Secretary of Interior to review rules related to oil and gas development and if appropriate, shall, as soon as practicable, suspend, revise, or rescind the guidance, or publish for notice and comment proposed rules suspending, revising, or rescinding those rules.

According to Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), who attended the signing, "This executive order is the first step in a lengthy effort that will take significant time as EPA goes through a full rule making process."

A first step will be the Department of Justice filing several motions with the DC Circuit Court of Appeals asking the court to hold the litigation over the CPP in abeyance while EPA reviews the CPP.

(Source - NRECA Jim Matheson, CEO e-mail)



President Trump signs the Executive Order Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth.
Photo Credit: JIM WATSON/AFP/Getty Images

IRRIGATION NEWS

Tips for Irrigators

Irrigation season is upon us! Here are some great tips for irrigators as the irrigation season starts. ERPPD wants to partner with you to make sure you have the most productive irrigation season ever!

- **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 which may result 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 E-mail Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or e-mail 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.



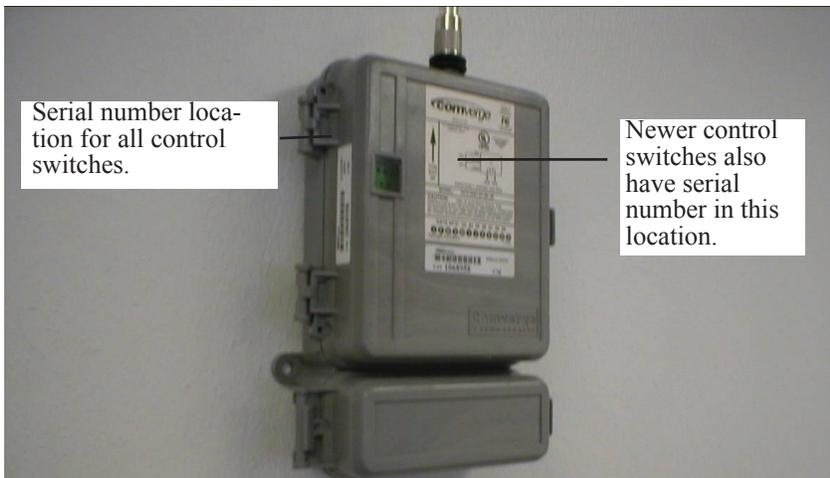
If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau. You can also find valuable energy information by logging on to our website (www.erppd.com) and clicking on the Energy tab.

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:

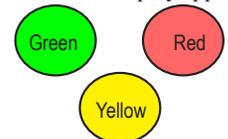


Lights have meaning

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" on the left hand side of the page)

OPERATIONS NEWS

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has again contracted with S&L to do pole testing in the district. Pole integrity contributes to Elkhorn's 99.98% reliability rate. Pole testing strikes a balance between accurately identifying poles that put both system reliability and human life at risk while minimizing the number of still serviceable poles being replaced.

S&L will be testing poles in several different areas around the district this spring. They will be checking distribution line (the line that brings electricity to your home) in the area south of Norfolk; by Ewing and west of Neligh.

They will also be checking sub-transmission lines (lines with larger poles that bring electricity from our power supplier substations to our substations) around Norfolk, west of Ewing, Neligh and Elgin and also between Battle Creek and Pierce and Battle Creek and Newman Grove.



Above: Woodpecker hole 10 inches deep in a pole below the cross arm. Without regular line maintenance this pole could break in a storm or high wind. This type of damage will usually have a domino effect and bring other poles and line down. Upper right: Line maintenance includes looking at the tops of poles. Lower right: Picture taken by a drone of the top of the pole during line inspection and maintenance.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Greg Weidner
President..... I
- Mark Miller
Vice President ... I
- Tim Means
Secretary II
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
Director II
- Dave Hoefler
Director III
- Larry Lindahl
Director III
- Joe Thiele
Director III
- Rod Zohner
Director II

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

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



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District offices **will be closed** Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.