



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 5

ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATE

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District (Elkhorn) presented Norfolk Iron and Metal with a rebate check totaling \$51,960 for upgrading their lighting system with LED lighting.

“It is all about the partnership Norfolk Iron and Metal (NIM) has with Elkhorn, said Scott Orwig, Corporate Facilities Manager for all four of the NIM locations, “The savings in costs and energy are great, but working with Elkhorn and their wholesale provider, gives us the best value.”

Orwig stated that they started the project because it was time to change the light bulbs - they were losing lumens, the intensity of the light - and that could become a safety issue for employees.

NIM wants to provide a safe environment for employees, and the employees notice. He would often get inquiries from the employees about when the section where they worked would be done. Scott is looking at doing similar upgrades at the other facilities in IA, KS and CO.

They decided LEDs would be right for their facility with savings on their electric bill and length of life - these LEDs should last 5 years as opposed to 3 years with the fluorescent lights.

Per year each fixture will save 1,769.5 kWh and \$80.89 off NIM’s electric bill. With 866 fixtures that is significant savings - \$70,050 per year.



Scott Orwig, Corporate Facilities Manager for Norfolk Iron and Metal, shows off some of the 866 light fixtures that were upgraded to LEDs. This will save NIM 1,532,404 kWh and \$70,050 per year on their electric bill. This is a Public Power Advantage.

Having customers upgrade lighting and appliances to save money, also helps keep everyone’s costs down as new generation will not need to be built to serve increased demand.

Please contact Elkhorn at (800) 675-2185, to speak with Brian Suckstorf to see if you would qualify for energy efficiency credits. You can also visit www.erppd.com for more energy saving tips, a home energy use calculator and information about our energy efficiency incentives.

NEW PAYMENT APP

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District now has a payment app for your phone, tablet or electronic device, available at the Apple App Store and Google Play.

This convenient app allows you to pay your bill, view your accounts and see your billing and payment histories.

To use the app you must already be signed up to pay your bills on-line.

If you are not signed up, you can go to www.erppd.com and click on the On-line Bill Pay tab at the top of the page. That will take you to our customer portal. Click the login button to the right and then the “new user” link below the login to set up your account. Once you have set that up you can download the app and login with your user id and password.



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. 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.



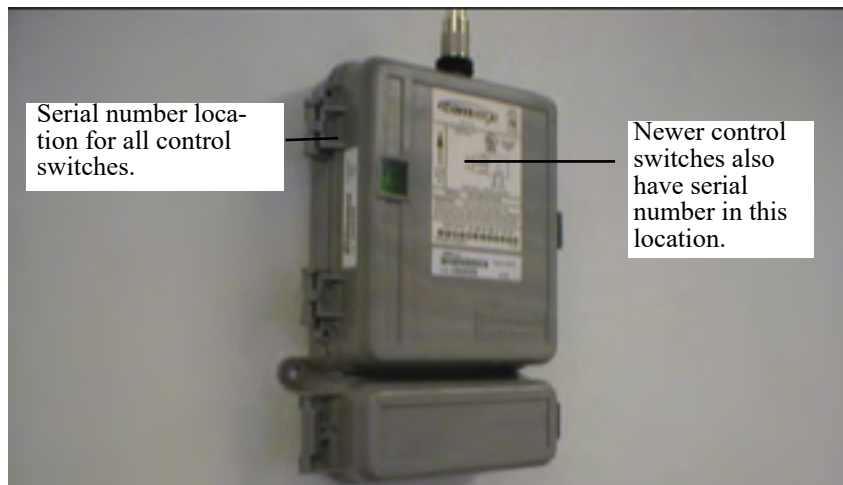
If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Brian Suckstorf. You can also find valuable energy information by logging on to our website (www.erppd.com) and clicking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

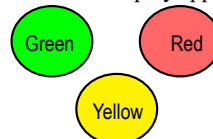


Lights have meaning

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)

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
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Every year, thousands of accidents occur due to shock hazards, and Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is committed to educating our customers about potential electrical dangers in the home.

In 2016, 475,500 structure fires (including residential fires) were reported in the U.S., causing 2,950 deaths, 12,775 injuries and \$7.9 billion in property damage. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used.

It is critical that customers understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes. With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, our customers need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future. Together, let's plug into safety this May.

LINEMAN INTERNS

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will have two interns this summer.

Chris Bentley has started working Fridays at the Neligh outpost in April. Chris is a first year line student in the Northeast Community College Lineman program. He is a native of Neligh and spent summers working at Sargent Irrigation.



Ryan Huntly will start June 4, at the Battle Creek office. He has just finished his training from Metro Community College in Omaha. Ryan is from Stanton and is excited to get back to the area after serving for 8 years as a wheeled vehicle mechanic in the United States Army and as a correctional officer for two years.



We look forward to having the interns here for the summer.

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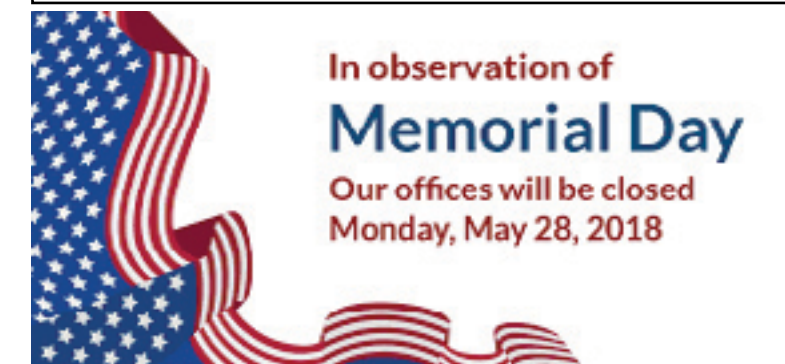
NEW FOREMAN

Eric Scranton has been named foreman at ERPPD.

Eric joined Elkhorn in 2001, after graduating from the Utility Line School at Northeast Community College. He has well rounded experience in electric construction, underground and vegetation management. He also possesses the competencies that will set him up for success as a foreman - teamwork; communication, customer focus, problem solving, decision making and project management.



We look forward to having Eric lead the crews and serve our customers.



Change Habits to BEAT THE PEAK

You can beat the peak (and save money!) by decreasing your power use when energy demand and prices are at their highest. Here are a few tips to help you get started:

Laundry for Less:

Full loads mean fewer cycles, and washers and dryers run in the late evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy can cost less outside of peak hours.



Cool Off/Calm Down:

Turn off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat, resist the urge to turn down the thermostat and remember, lower fan settings use less energy.



Intramural Competition:

Online gaming with each active player using their own computer, display, gaming console and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



Countertop Convenience:

Range or oven cooking can really warm up a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot® and toaster ovens put more cooking heat where you need it.



DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED



Greg Weidner, board president presents, Joe Thiele, director, with a NRECA Director Gold Certificate

Joe Thiele, board director from sub-district III, has completed the recertification process for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold Certificate.

Three continuing education credits need to be earned in two years to be eligible for the certificate. The national certificate program is designed to strengthen board leadership through continuing education. It demonstrates to customers, regulators and elected officials a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Joe has earned Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates through the NRECA. The Director Gold Certificate recognizes the continued effort to keep up to date on training and issues that affect the district today.

CUSTOMER WINNERS



Prize winners from the Antelope Co. Ag Expo March 6 - 7. Left Leonard Kerkman, Clearwater, George Foreman Grill and Mrs. and Mr. Norbert Starman, Elgin, LED light bulbs. Not pictured Teresa Walton, Ewing, LED shop light. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and visited!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: energy.gov

