



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 5

PROACTIVE POWER BILLING

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will now be offering prepaid billing to our customers.

Prepaid billing puts you in control of your energy consumption and budget. You pay for the electricity before it is delivered - like filling your gas tank before driving your car - and then how much you spend is determined by how much you consume.

You can then "refuel" whenever you want.

You will never get behind or caught off guard by a high electric bill because you will always pay ahead.

There are many advantages to prepaid billing.

First, no deposit is required. For traditional billing, a deposit of \$200-\$300 may be required. Prepaid billing could be an option for those that do not want the up-front costs. New or existing residential or farm residential customers can participate in prepaid billing.

Next, prepaid billing offers flexibility. Payments into your prepaid account can be made daily, weekly

or however often you wish - as long as a credit balance is maintained. Money is posted into a prepaid account and the credit balance decreases as energy is used.

Payments can be made through the online bill pay, the app, by calling the office or in person, during business hours.

For additional flexibility and customization as a prepaid billing customer, you can opt to receive daily notices about your account through email or text messaging. You can also check energy consumption or account balances by going online to the erppd.com website, or using the app.



In this way, you decide how much information you receive about your account at your convenience.

Prepaid billing really gives you complete control of your account. You can pay how and when you want as well as track your energy use and adjust your habits to save money.

Call the office at 800-675-2185 if you have questions or would like to enroll.

A frequently asked questions sheet and a prepaid billing service agreement are also available on our website: www.erppd.com/customer-service/prepaid-billing.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
May 2019

Elkhorn Rural
Public Power
District
will be closed
Monday, May 27
In observance of
Memorial Day

As we express our gratitude,
we must never
forget that the highest appreciation
is not to utter
words but to live by them

John F. Kennedy

NEBRASKA STRONG

The flood of 2019 and its aftermath will be one for the history books. Our prayers go out to those who were affected the most.

We were very fortunate that our system did not sustain a lot of damage in the course of the flooding; although, we did have customers that were affected. Patrick Hintz, staking-meter assistant, took pictures of the flooding to the right.

We really appreciate the help we received and the good wishes we got via emails, phone or Facebook.

We are truly blessed to be able to serve you all during good times and not so good times.



Pictures: Top left: Battle Creek spur; Top right: washout by Sub 16 - NW of Battle Creek about 6 miles; Bottom: Hwy 13 north of Hadar looking west/northwest



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, 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.



SAFETY CONTEST: WIN \$100 GIFT CARD!

To create awareness and help our customers stay safe around electrical lines during planting season, Elkhorn Rural PPD is giving out window clings and having a contest!

These clings (see below) have the reminder to remain alert to electrical lines, so that they don't fade from your view and instructions of what to do if you have an accident with a power line.

We are taking it an extra step and having a **contest!** To enter, you just need to pick up or request the window cling(s) and then send a picture or selfie of yourself and the cling on your equipment, whether it be a combine, skid loader, truck, etc. to remind yourself to look up and out for power lines. Garland Gorecke, warehouse clerk, shows off his cling to the right.

You can drop the picture off at the **office** or send the picture to jadams@erppd.com or post it to our **Facebook page** by Friday, June 21.

Each picture will be posted to Facebook and your name will be put in a drawing for a \$100 gift card. We will also have a prize for the post with the most likes, so get your picture up early and share with your friends and neighbors!



ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY

Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



(800) 675-2185

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

LINEMEN APPRECIATED AT CAPITOL

Governor Pete Ricketts held a press conference on Monday, April 8, to read a proclamation honoring our lineworkers in Nebraska.

This was in conjunction with the National Lineworkers Appreciation Day acknowledged by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Governor Ricketts thanked the linemen for keeping the lights on and their hard work during the flooding. He noted that there are 1,800 lineworkers maintaining the over 6,000 miles of transmission line and 100,000 miles of distribution (sub-transmission) line in the state.

Dan Schrage, journeyman lineman of almost 38 years, was there representing Elkhorn. He is pictured in the upper photo to the right - he is behind and to the left of the Governor.

The linemen were also acknowledged by the state senators, pictured bottom right.

You can view the full press conference and the reading of the proclamation on the ERPPD Facebook page.

Elkhorn is proud of our linemen and what they do to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to all of you.



DIRECTOR RECOGNIZED



Mark Miller, board president presents, Rod Zohner, director, with a NRECA Director Gold Certificate

Rod Zohner, board director from sub-district II, 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.

Rod has earned Credentialled 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.