

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

November 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 11

EPA's Proposed Power Plant Rule Very Costly to Consumers-TAKE ACTION

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District is concerned that the latest proposed regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants could lead to more expensive electricity for Nebraska residents, both rural and urban.

We care about the price of electricity because we're a not-for-profit public power district that looks out for our customers and their checkbooks. We're concerned that the EPA is making a decision that could increase what we have to pay for electricity and erode the reliability of our power supply.



We believe that relying on diverse fuel sources for electric generation is the best way to keep electric bills affordable. Whether our energy is generated by coal, natural gas, hydropower, nuclear, solar panels or wind turbines, we take our responsibility seriously to provide reliable and affordable electricity while doing our best to protect the environment.

What's at stake? Beyond providing safe, affordable electricity, we're worried about jobs in places like Nebraska. Higher electricity prices hurt businesses of all types, potentially leading to layoffs or slower job growth. It also affects the prices of everyday goods and services, like milk, bread, and gasoline. All these products rely on electricity for production and delivery. etc.

That's why we're encouraging everyone to speak up. Visit www.erppd.com, click on the TAKE ACTION link, and tell the bureaucrats in Washington, DC, that we can't afford more regulations and higher electric bills.

Help Us Capture Our History

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be 75 years old in 2015. We are starting to gather history of the district and would appreciate your input. Do you have old photographs, memorabilia, or stories from the early days of the district. If you have such information, please share them with us via email to wmc-cormick@erppd.com, or you can bring items to Wayne McCormick at our office in Battle Creek. We can scan photographs or other documents, so you do not need to give up the originals.



The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District was initially formed under the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as the Madison County Rural Public Power District. It was later renamed the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District when Antelope County joined the district.

You can check out our history on our web site at www.erppd.com. Look under the 'About Us' tab.

75th Anniversary Recipe Book

Do you have a favorite recipe, a unique recipe, a "handed-down" recipe, a time-saving recipe? We are asking you to submit a recipe or recipes for inclusion in the ERPPD 75th Anniversary Recipe Book, which will be given away at our open house in June of 2015.

Please submit recipes to: ERPPD, Attn: Wayne McCormick, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed

Tuesday, Nov. 11,
for **Veterans Day**

and

Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 27 & Nov. 28,

for the **Thanksgiving holiday.**



"Freedom isn't Free-Thank a Vet"

OPERATIONS NEWS

Moving a Large Structure? Notify ERPPD

If you are planning to move a house, grain bin, irrigation system, barn, or any other large structure, be sure to give us a call or stop in the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District office at least 10 days before the planned move. We will take a look at the calculated height of the structure when loaded and then check our lines. We will estimate the number of men and vehicles that it will take to safely handle the wire crossings. At no time should you attempt to handle the high-voltage wires in the path of the move.

According to Nebraska state law, those planning to move a structure over 15'6" in height must notify the public power district or districts who own and maintain the overhead lines in the proposed route of travel at least 10 days prior to the move. Notification shall describe the height of the object to be moved, the route to be used, and the time of the planned move.

We will determine how much assistance, if any, will be needed to allow the move to proceed safely. We will provide an estimate of the cost, which will need to be paid prior to the move. The district will keep track of the expenses involved including labor, materials, and equipment use. If the total cost to move Elkhorn RPPD's lines along the route is different than the estimate, the owner will either be reimbursed the difference if the estimate was high, or will be billed for the difference if the estimate was low. The estimates are usually pretty accurate, but sometimes unforeseen circumstances arise that change the number of trucks and/or personnel needed to safely accomplish the move.

At Elkhorn Rural Public Power District safety is our number one priority. We value you as a customer and want to do all we can to keep you safe, especially around power lines.



ERPPD employees assisting with a building move through the northwest edge of Battle Creek.

ENERGY NEWS

ENERGYWISESM

Use less. Spend less. Do more.



It PAYS to install a new heat pump

HIGH EFFICIENCY HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Receive a Direct Incentive

based on the type of new qualifying heat pump system you install.

-OR-

Apply for a Low-Interest Loan

for your new qualifying heat pump.



Contact us for more information.

Call or stop in to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's Battle Creek office and ask for Mark Gronau, Energy Services Representative, for the current incentives. (800) 675-2185

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.

Energy Efficiency

Month Tip of the

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy – and help you save on your monthly bill..

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

LED Bulb Rebate

Switch to LED lighting and receive a rebate of \$5.00 per bulb for up to 10 bulbs. You will appreciate the energy savings, and we will all benefit from the reduced generation costs. Remember, the greenest power is power not generated.



Lives On the Line: Annual Poletop and Bucket Rescue Training Completed

Linemen have a very hazardous job that comes with many potential life threatening dangers. It is very important for

linemen to practice safety procedures and to be prepared for the worst. Often linemen will work in groups of two or more people, so; linemen need to practice Mayday procedures as a two man crew. What this means is that if one lineman is down, there is only one lineman left that must be able to both call in for

help and rescue the partner. This is a worst case scenario, to have only one able lineman on scene of a life threatening accident. It is extremely important for every lineman to be trained on pole top and bucket rescue and it is also very important for linemen to practice so that they can improve their skills in rescuing a fellow lineman. In the event they should need the skills they will know exactly what to do, to have the best possible outcome in potentially life threatening accident/event.

While training linemen to rescue it is also important to



Lineman Dan Schrage lowering the mannequin to the ground during poletop rescue training.



Staking Tech Rick Cherington using the override controls to lower the bucket during bucket rescue training.

train office personnel to respond to the Mayday call coming into the office. They need to be able to get the information correctly the first time so that the proper authorities can be dispatched in a timely manner. Linemen will give office personnel the location (911 address), the truck number, a brief description of the situation, the injured party's employee number and the condition of the injured. After the information is exchanged and verified, the lineman can proceed to rescue his partner while the office personnel call the proper authorities. Management is informed so they can contact the injured employee's spouse or other emergency contacts.

This all seems like a long process but all these actions need to take place in a matter of minutes. This stresses the importance of practice so if (hopefully never) a Mayday call comes in for a life-threatening emergency our staff will be ready to handle the situation.

Every year ERPPD takes a morning to give everyone a chance to practice the pole top rescue, bucket rescue, and Mayday call techniques. The training usually will take place in the summer, during a regular safety meeting. Safety for our employees at ERPPD is our number 1 priority for which we are providing SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity for ALL customers."

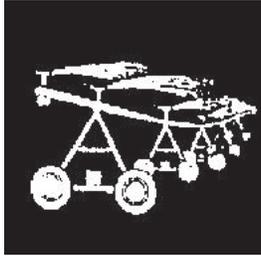


Office Personnel Galen Beckman (l) and Mark Gronau training to take critical information on a Mayday call.

Public Power Fact:
Did You Know?
Public power utilities provide over \$100 million in taxes or in lieu of taxes back to the communities served each year!

2014 Load Control Season in Review

The 2014 Load Control Season for Elkhorn Rural Public Power District saw more rainfall than what we have had in the past few years. Because of this rain, we did not have to control the irrigation wells in the month of June. It was not until July 21st that we controlled wells in the 4-hr, 6-hr, 8-hr, 10-hr, and 12-hr rate classes. We did see some 12-hour control days this year. We ended up controlling a total of 10-days this summer.



The average hours of control for 2014 for the different rates are noted in the table below, along with a 15-year average also noted:

| Control Class | Average hours of control for 2014 | 15-year average hours of control |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rate 38 (12 hour) | 95.57 hours | 169 hours |
| Rate 37 (10 hour) | 51.97 hours | 110 hours |
| Rate 36 (8 hour) | 30.67 hours | 68 hours |
| Rate 35 (6 hour) | 40.90 hours | 67 hours |
| Rate 34 (4 hour) | 16.00 hours | 35 hours |

An interesting note is that the total amount of hours controlled during the 2014 Load Control Season was 52.6% of the average number of control hours over past 15-years.

We appreciate your patience and understanding throughout the load control season. Now would be a good time to think about the 2015 season, and what control schedule will work for your particular system. If it is feasible for your operation, we encourage you to consider one of the load control schedules listed above for the 2015 season.

Making Wind Work

by Scott Gates

Wind doesn't blow everywhere and rarely does so around the clock. Even in areas with strong wind resources, an active wind turbine typically only generates around 30 percent of its "capacity factor"--the total electricity it could generate operating around the clock (*Editor's note: some newer systems are reporting 40-50 percent*).

Because wind is temperamental, it can not be relied on as a steady source of energy. Instead, think of wind as a "fuel displacer", allowing base load power plants relying on fossil fuels like coal and natural gas to burn less when the wind blows.

Moving energy from a wind farm to homes also raises difficulties. Transmission infrastructure may not be available in areas where the wind blows best, and building new transmission lines takes time, money and a lengthy governmental approval process. Before turbines go up, studies must be done to judge the wind's variability in a given area. And although the sight of a tall, white wind tower may not be as intrusive as other types of power plants, environmental and economic impacts must be assessed.

Although great strides have been made in recent years and more wind turbines are built daily, making wind work as a reliable, affordable energy source will take time.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, American Wind Energy Association, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

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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

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
November 2014*