THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

November 2021 | *Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940* | *Volume 30, Number 11*

FEMA Grant Awarded

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for $1,758,000.

This grant will pay for 75% of a $2.3 million project that will connect Sub 28 and 31 in the northwestern part of the district to our wholesale supplier's 345 kV substation and 115 kV substation by Neligh. This creates a loop in the northwestern part of the district that will allow for that area to be fed from different directions. This increases our reliability and will mitigate prolonged outages due to natural disasters such as flooding and ice storms.

This project is part of Elkhorn's 10-year sub-T plan that was outlined in the December 2019 edition of *The Wire*. This grant has allowed Elkhorn to accelerate the plan so that 71-(6.0-6.1) will be completed ahead of the 2024 date listed on the original map below.

These funds are granted by FEMA to "reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. . . . Mitigation plans are key to breaking the cycle of disaster damage and reconstruction". *(FEMA.gov)*

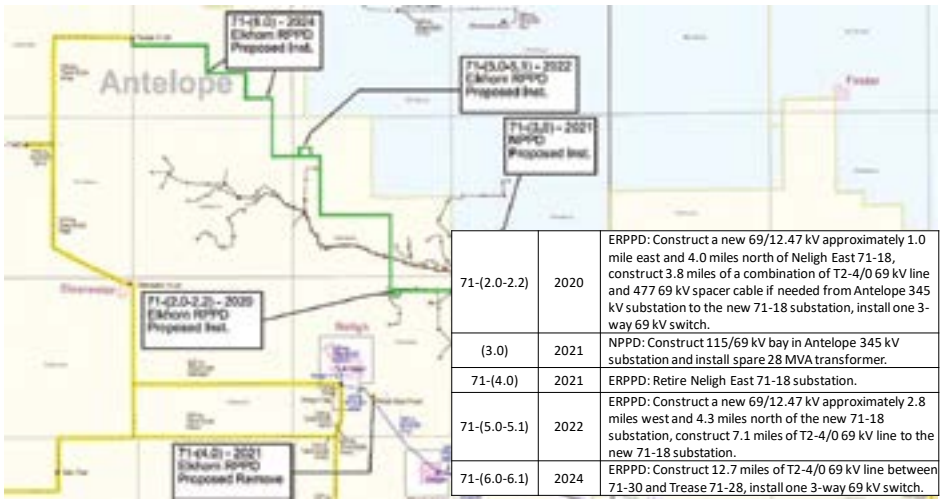
In 2017 Elkhorn successfully applied for and received another grant for a tie line to the city of Madison. That project was a 4.7 mile line build from a substation northwest of Madison to a city substation south of Madison.

That tie line was used almost immediately during the flooding in the spring of 2019. Many customers would have been out of power for a period of time without that line to feed load from a different direction.

Utilizing this type of grant for infrastructure improvements, leverages the money the District is investing in keeping our system reliable.

Elkhorn will be working with customers along the route for easements.

There will be a public comment period opportunity in the future as the project progresses.



71-(2.0-2.2)	2020	ERPPD: Construct a new 69/12.47 kV approximately 1.0 mile east and 4.0 miles north of Neligh East 71-18, construct 3.8 miles of a combination of T2-4/0 69 kV line and 477 69 kV spacer cable if needed from Antelope 345 kV substation to the new 71-18 substation, install one 3-way 69 kV switch.
(3.0)	2021	NPPD: Construct 115/69 kV bay in Antelope 345 kV substation and install spare 28 MVA transformer.
71-(4.0)	2021	ERPPD: Retire Neligh East 71-18 substation.
71-(5.0-5.1)	2022	ERPPD: Construct a new 69/12.47 kV approximately 2.8 miles west and 4.3 miles north of the new 71-18 substation, construct 7.1 miles of T2-4/0 69 kV line to the new 71-18 substation.
71-(6.0-6.1)	2024	ERPPD: Construct 12.7 miles of T2-4/0 69 kV line between 71-30 and Trease 71-28, install one 3-way 69 kV switch.

ERPPD Offices
will be closed
Thursday, November 11,
to observe Veterans' Day and
Thursday, November 25 through
Friday November 26 to observe
Thanksgiving.

Most of us don't think about our water heater. . . until there is no hot water. Your water heater sits in a closet or storeroom unnoticed until you turn your shower or bathtub handle and are met with a burst of unexpected cold water.

The fact is, you should put some thought into your water heater - and your hot water usage - ahead of time. A little planning could save you money, extend the life of your water heater and prevent scalding accidents.

First, realize hot water is money. Water heating accounts for roughly 13 to 18 % of your household's energy cost. If your annual utility costs are $2,000, then between $260 and $300 goes to heat water.

A conventional storage tank water heater constantly works to keep water hot and ready whenever you need it. But the water cools down as it sits, which is referred to as standby heat loss. When the water cools, the burner or heating element kicks on to warm it again in a constant cycle.

What can you do to maximize your water heater's energy efficiency? Here are a few ideas:

* Keep the temperature at 120 degrees, which the U.S. Department of Energy recommends. It is hot enough to meet most needs and reduces mineral buildup in tanks and pipes. The 120-degree mark also will save you money, and most importantly, it could prevent scalding or burning, especially younger children.

*Take short showers instead of baths.

*Wash clothes with cold water. Estimated savings are roughly 40 cents per load, which might not sound like much until you do the math. Multiply the number of loads per week by 52 weeks in a year, and you will see the savings really add up.

*Turn off you water heater. If your house will be unoccupied for a long period of time - even for an extended vacation - consider turning off your water heater.

If you are in the market to buy a new water heater, you might want to check out a heat pump water heater and the incentives offered by Elkhorn.

Heat pump water heaters offer improved efficiency and increased energy savings compared to standard units. The benefit of a heat pump water heater is that you get at least twice as much hot water from each kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed as you get from a standard electric water heater.

System Type	*Incentive Criteria*	*Incentive Amount*
Air Source HP Water Heater	***EF > 1.9***	***$400***
Water or Ground Water Heater	***COP > 2.8***	***$650***

For more energy saving tips and the EnergyWise℠ program, you can call the office at (800) 675-2185 and speak with Brian Suckstorf or you can visit our website www.erppd.com, under the Energy tab.

ENERGYWISE℠
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Thankful for Electrical Devices

This Thanksgiving let's take a moment and think about a few of the electrical devices that make our lives safer and more convenient during the holiday season.

Built-in electrical safety devices that work "behind" the scenes to help keep you and your family safe include the following:

GFCIs: Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are inexpensive electrical devices that can either be installed in your electrical system or build into a power cord to protect you from severe electrical shocks. GFCIs are generally installed where electrical circuits may accidentally come into contact with water, such as kitchens, bath and laundry rooms, outdoors or in the garage. Be sure to test GFCIs monthly to make sure they are working properly.

AFCIs - Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) could potentially prevent more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. These safety devices are typically found within your electrical panel or receptacles in the wall. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated or stressed electrical wiring or devices.

Circuit breakers: Usually found in a garage, basement, or laundry room, circuit breaker boxes are an essential safety feature in your home, preventing electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with individual circuit breakers designed to "trip" or shut off when necessary to stop the flow of electricity. Circuits trip for several reasons, including overloaded circuits (too much draw on one circuit) ground faults (abnormal flow in a circuit), and short circuits (when current travels along an unintended path).

We can also be thankful for electrical devices that help us do things more efficiently by providing energy when and where we need it. Using the following items safely, is a big part of avoiding personal or property damage.

Device chargers: Whether for work or personal use, most of us can't go a day without accessing a cell phone, tablet, laptop or other portable essentials. While we rely on our chargers to keep these items running, be sure to treat charging components with care and use them correctly. See the graphic for when and where not to use them.

Some other safety tips for chargers are:

*Replace original charging components with same brand and type whenever possible. Using off-brand or generic versions can be dangerous if they are faulty.

*Do not leave chargers lying around when not in use if you have small children. They might try to plug them in and shock themselves. Or if they are plugged in and a child or a pet puts it in their mouths they maybe shocked or burned.

Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips: Use only as a temporary fix, not a long-term solution. If you do use an extension cord or multi-outlet power strips, use the following tips:

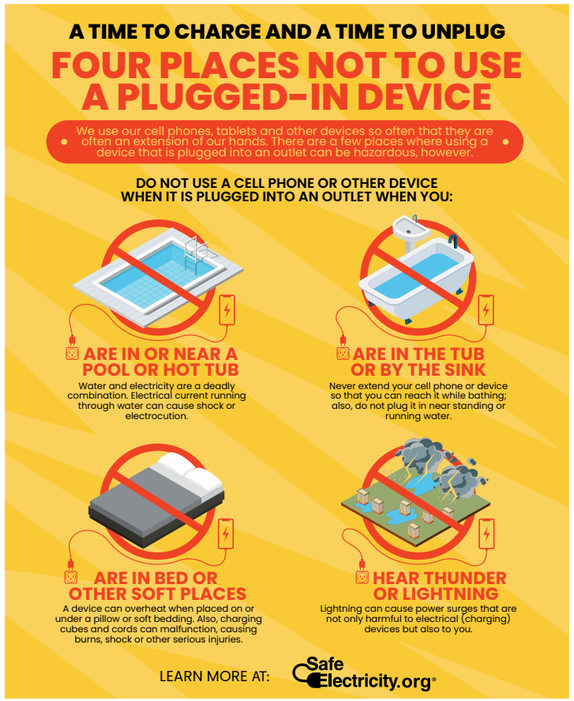
*Inspect them before use for any damage or cracked or frayed cord

*Plug them directly into an outlet, not another extension cord or power strip

*If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.

* Make sure the strip or cord match the wattage rating of the appliance.

We can be thankful for the convenience and safety that these electrical devices provide for us.



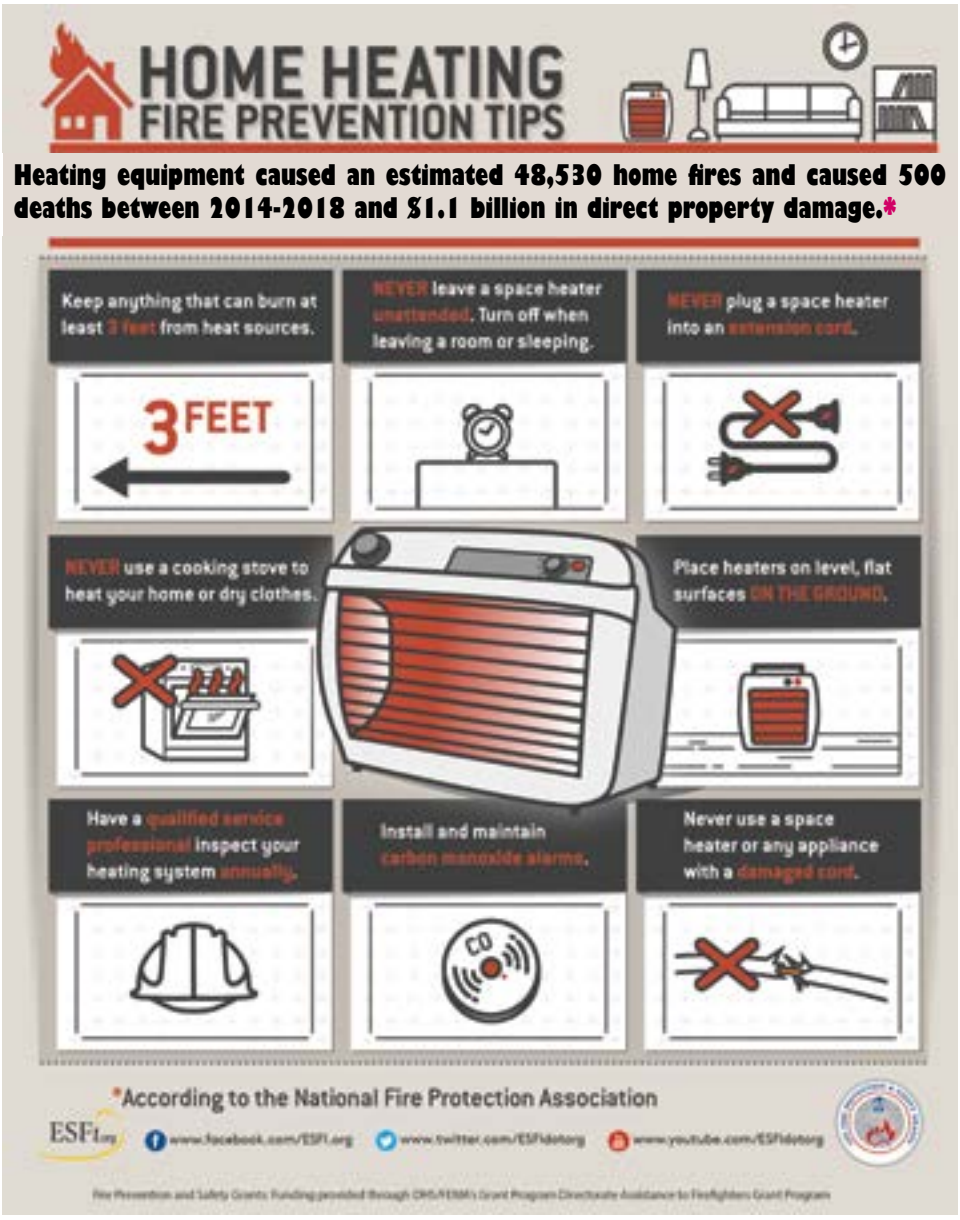
Director Earns Credential

Jerrell (Jerry) Dolesh, director, pictured below right with Mark Miller, board president, recently received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold 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.

Jerry has also earned Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership Certificates through the NRECA since joining the board in 2011.

The Director Gold Certificate recognizes the continued effort to keep up to date on training and issues facing the district.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov