



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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BENEFITS OF LOAD CONTROL



*From the GM
- Mark Johnson*

Our irrigation load control program is one of the key tools we use to help provide reliable

and cost-effective electricity throughout the summer season. During each summer, ERPPD experiences periods of peak demand on our system. Heavy irrigation load layered on top of the usage from all our other residential, commercial, and industrial services drives our system load to levels substantially higher than other times of the

year. When the demand for electricity spikes during hot summer days, it places strain on the entire system and increases the cost of power. Through our load control program, we can strategically decrease our system load during peak demand periods. Producers enrolled in the program benefit not only from lower electric rates but also from knowing they are contributing to a more reliable power system for the entire district.

The irrigation load control season runs from June 1 through September 15. An extremely dry July drove load

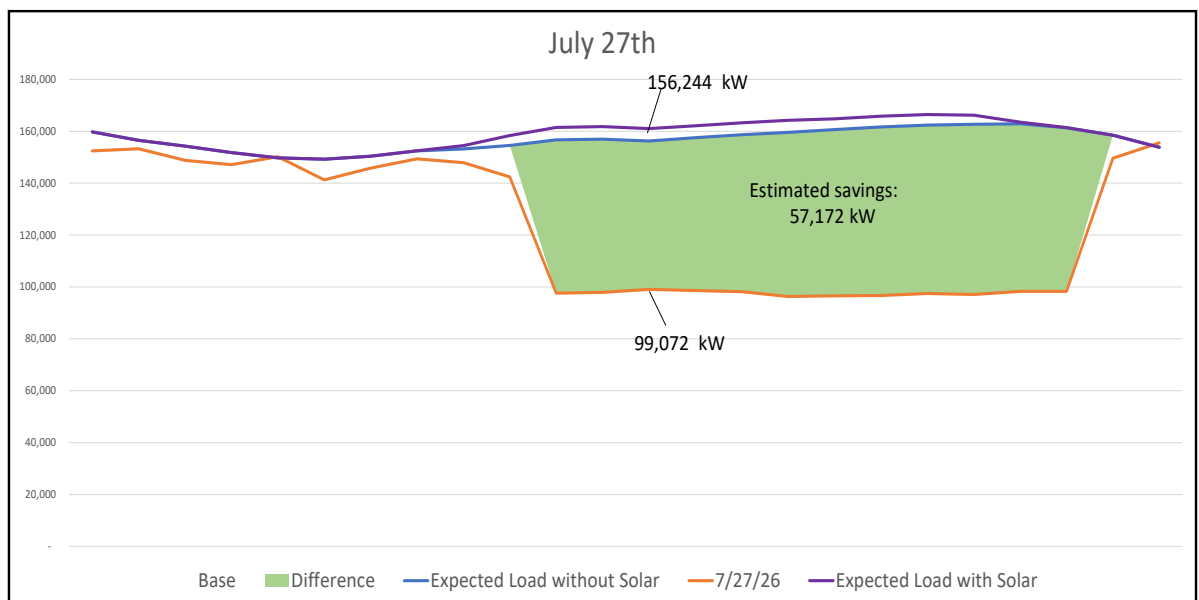
control throughout the month, resulting in all of the season's activity occurring during that period. The system called for load control on 11 days, totaling 91 hours. By comparison, the 2025 season required 24.5 hours of control, the 2024 season involved 65.5 hours, and the 2023 season recorded 100 hours. These figures illustrate how control needs can vary significantly from year to year, largely driven by weather conditions. The 2026 totals fall within the range of recent experience while reflecting the specific demands placed on the system during this summer's prolonged dry stretch.

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The graph to the right shows how much load was dropped during one of the control days in July.

Also included is the estimated savings provided by shedding the load during peak demand hours.

As a summer peaking system, irrigation load control is imperative to regulate our power costs and enables our wholesale supplier to manage its resources and keep our rates competitive.



ENERGY SAVING TIPS FOR GARAGES/SHOPS

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

Usually the garage, shop, or shed is the least energy efficient space at a residence. A typical two-car garage measures 480 square feet, or about 20 percent of the size of the average U.S. home. It is often the least insulated and uses the least efficient heating systems.

Yet, some are taken back in the middle of winter when keeping these areas at 50°F or higher increases their heating costs by 50% or more. Before taking up refuge in your garage this winter and cranking up the heat, consider a few of the following opportunities to keep your energy use from literally going through the roof.

Insulate the walls

While most people insulate their garage attics before heating them, many older homes (and even some newer ones) were not built with insulation in the walls of the garage. While most have outside siding, sheathing and a layer of particle board to keep elements out, these materials do little to retain heat.

Insulating can be as easy as tacking fiberglass insulation between exposed joists. If your garage walls are finished, insulation can be blown in through a small hole in the drywall or paneling. Caulk between the walls and the concrete floor.

Most garages were not built using compressible foam between the lower framing and concrete floor. Over time, the framing can swell, shrink and move, leaving gaps which will allow air from the



outside to leak in. You can either use a foam sealant or a latex/silicone-based caulk to seal this often-overlooked area.

Seal the door between the house and garage

If your garage is attached to the house, the door leading into the home is often a major source of cold air leaking into the conditioned area. If your garage is detached, the passenger door may be letting much of your garage heat escape. Check to ensure weather-stripping is installed around the entire door frame, and that it's intact, pliable and provides a snug seal. Also, ensure your threshold and door sweep are sealing at the bottom.

Insulate the garage door

Even if your garage has properly-insulated walls, you may have uninsulated garage door(s). This negates much of the benefit from insulated walls. A new, insulated door will cost several hundreds of dollars or more, but will provide a clean appearance. A lower cost solution is to purchase foam board insulation and install it on the inside panels of your existing doors. Remember, you must cut the foam board to a size

a little smaller than your garage door's panels so the insulation doesn't smash together as the door rolls up and down.

Switch to LED lighting

Compared to traditional, incandescent lights, LEDs use

only 10 percent of the electricity to produce identical illumination levels. Compared to fluorescent lighting, LEDs use 40 to 60 percent less energy for the same amount of light. More importantly, fluorescent lights produce less and less light as the temperature drops. Many fluorescent lights will not even operate below 10°F. In contrast, LEDs slightly increase their light output the colder it becomes.

Replace older appliances

If you have an older model refrigerator or freezer in your garage, it may cost more money for you to operate it over time than it would to invest into a new unit.

For additional ideas on how you can reduce the cost of heating your garage this winter, call our office at 402-675-2185 and ask for Brian Suckstorf or use the QR code to visit www.erppd.com. You may even find you are eligible for EnergyWiseSM incentives for helping with the cost of other energy-saving home improvements.



Source: (Cory Fuehrer, NPPD Energy Efficiency Program Manager)

LOAD CONTROL- CONTINUED

Highlighting 2026 Performance

During the heavy loading in July, ERPPD experienced historic levels of usage, with overall system demand peaking at 167 MW. For comparison, our previous historical peak demand occurred in 2023 at just over 145 MW. Our load control program operated effectively throughout the season. Control events were managed carefully to reduce peak demand during the most critical periods, helping protect system reliability and limit upward pressure on power costs. Alongside the historic load, we also achieved historic levels of load reduction, dropping 50–60 MW during several control events. These reductions

translated into millions of dollars in power cost savings.

Overall, the 2026 season clearly demonstrated the ongoing value of voluntary load control as a practical and effective tool for managing summer peaks.

We recognize that control events require planning and flexibility from our irrigation customers, and we appreciate the strong participation and cooperation that made the season successful. That partnership is essential to keeping rates as



stable as possible and maintaining reliable service across our territory.

As we look back on 2026, we remain committed to strengthening our programs and operations so we can continue serving our customers effectively in the years ahead. Thank you to every producer who took part in this important effort.



Fall Back
Daylight Saving Time begins
Sunday, November 1.



VETERANS DAY
PROUD TO HONOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED

Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans' Day



RURAL VOTES COUNT

Remember to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 3.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
Our offices will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared.

Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement.

Here are tips to help drivers stay safe in your cars and on the roads this winter.

Before the winter storm

Prepare ahead for cold temperatures, snow and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- The spare tire is inflated.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit is on board (see infographic).
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- The gas tank is at least half full.

Downed power lines

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines,

individuals should only venture outside if necessary.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help. Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety.

Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The

increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure power is safely restored.

Have patience while lineworkers restore power in these adverse conditions, and remember to observe safety precautions and always be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

Preparing for Storm Season?

DON'T FORGET TO READY YOUR CAR

According to the National Safety Council (NSC), every vehicle should have an emergency supply kit onboard. Kits should be checked twice a year and expired items should be replaced regularly. Emergency supply kits should include:



Snowbrush
Shovel
Windshield washer fluid
Cat litter for traction



Warm clothing
Blankets
Drinking water
Nonperishable foods



Properly inflated spare tire
Wheel wrench & tripod jack
Jumper cables
Fire extinguisher



Reflective triangles
Reflective vest
Brightly colored cloth
(to tie on side mirror)



First-aid kit
Flashlight and batteries
Compass
Car charger for cell phone

Safe Electricity.org®

Source: NSC



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WWW.ERPPD.COM



SCAN ME

Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185

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