

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

October 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 10

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.

NATIONAL PUBLIC POWER MONTH

National Public Power Month this year is extra special, since we are



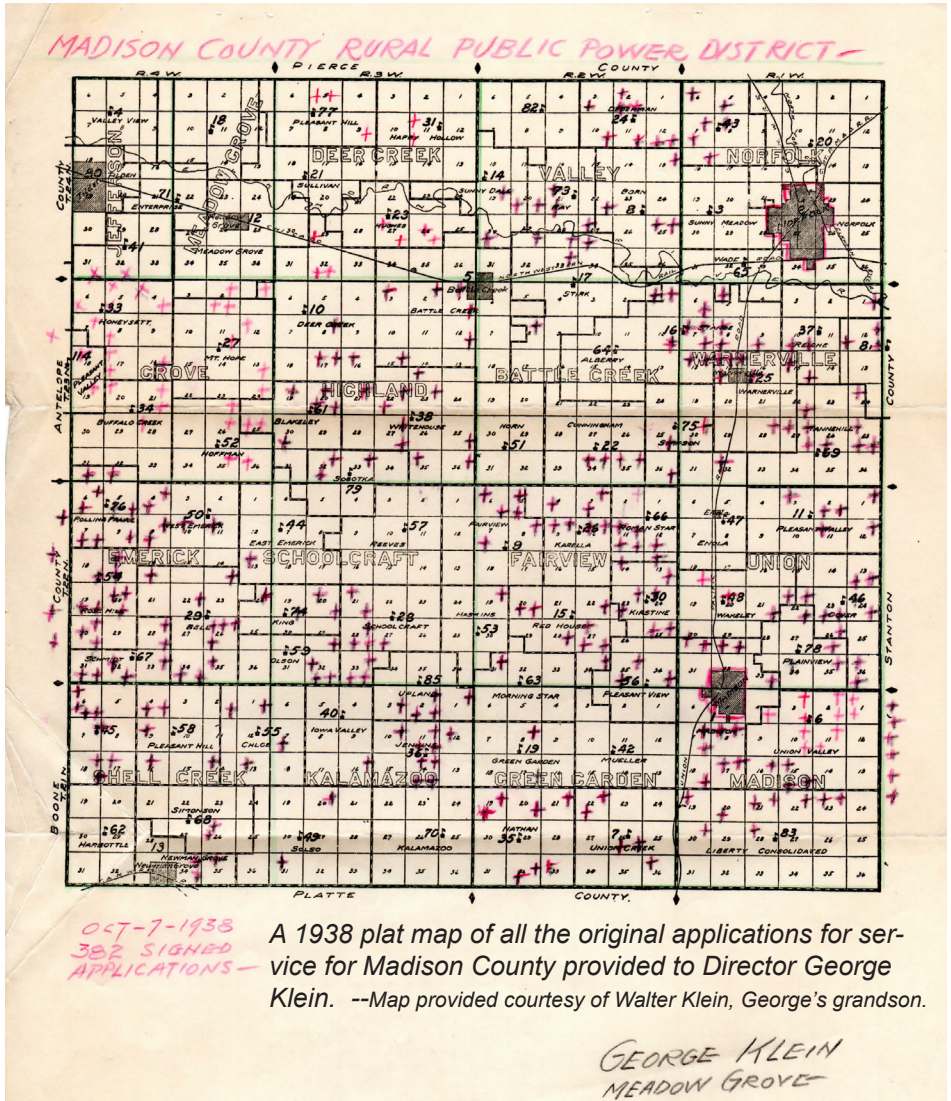
celebrating the 75th Anniversary for providing electrical services to our customers. To the right is a county map

of the original applications for services in 1938, brought in by a customer whose grandfather was one of the founding directors.

My introduction to Public Power came from my interview with Elkhorn Rural Public Power District. Since part of my job responsibilities were to write newsletter articles and promote the public power story, I was asked to write a short essay on the advantages of public power. I would like to share that with you to commemorate Public Power Month.

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” -- Margaret Mead.

In 1938, it was a small group of dedicated farmers that banded together to form the power districts that electrified the Nebraska countryside and brought rural areas into



A 1938 plat map of all the original applications for service for Madison County provided to Director George Klein. --Map provided courtesy of Walter Klein, George’s grandson.

the 20th century. That independence, leadership and can-do- attitude still serves us today and makes rural public power a distinct advantage for our communities.

Here are a few of the numerous advantages of rural public power:

- 1) Lower rates. On a national average, customers of publicly owned utilities pay rates that are 10% lower than those paid by residential customers of investor owned utilities.

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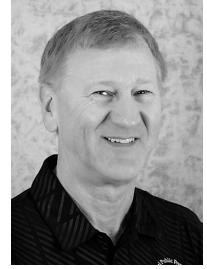
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

2015 Work Plan Completion

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has been working hard this year to complete scheduled construction projects, according to Jim Ridder, operations manager.

Right-of-way clearing, service up-rates, and maintenance on lines are some of the ongoing work being done. Elkhorn has been moving and dropping power lines to enable cranes to move around to set up wind towers southeast of Elgin, and moving some of our facilities to make room for the NPPD 345 kilo-volt transmission line. The NPPD 345 kilo-volt line will allow us to add much more capacity to our system. It will enable us to take on more irrigation and other summer peaking load next summer and beyond. (See article below: "Tour of NPPD 345 kV Line Build"). Crews moved about 5 miles of line for the transmission line starting last fall and ending this summer. Most of this line is now underground to preserve the right-of-way for the transmission lines.

In addition to the ongoing work, Elkhorn also has work plan projects. The work plan projects are system improvements based on the amount of power used at any one time, or loading, and projected growth. The work plans usually include replacing existing lines with larger poles and conductors and adding new lines to better feed highly loaded areas of the district. These improvements increase efficiency and reliability. This year they included the following projects. In March, a half mile of aging underground line was replaced by overhead line. In April, two projects were completed; one was four miles of line north of Meadow Grove and three miles of line south of Ewing. In May, a mile of line northwest of Elgin was completed. In July, two more projects were completed. They included three miles of line southeast of Tilden and four miles of line southeast of Elgin. In August, a voltage regulator platform was installed north of Tilden. Last but not least was a section of aging underground line replaced in Woodland Park in September. These projects were done early this year so crews could get started on building irrigation services for the 2016 season. This helps Elkhorn complete its mission of safe, reliable, cost effective electricity for all customers.



Tour of NPPD 345 kV Line Build

NPPD's Hoskins to Neligh 345 kV project is critical for continued growth in the central part of the state, including the western part of the ERPPD service territory. Construction for this project began last fall.

On September 1, five ERPPD board and three ERPPD staff members were provided with an update presentation and tour of the construction project.

Jedd Fischer, NPPD project coordinator, provided an update on the project, which is still on schedule to be operational June 2016, in time for irrigation season.

The project encompasses building 40 miles of 345kV transmission line and 18 miles of 115 kV transmission line and relocating 13

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Clockwise from upper left - board members from left to right, Rod Zohner, Joe Thiele, Greg Weidner, Dennis Kuchar and Mark Miller attended the tour; setting a structure on a base; structure staged on ground for setting; foundation being jacked and framed ready for concrete.

SAFETY NEWS

miles of 115 kV line. Much of the relocation of the 115 kV line was done by ERPPD. There were also 2 substation upgrades and a new substation built in Antelope County.

Right now Brink Construction -the contractor hired by NPPD to construct the line- is working from the Antelope County substation; east to the Hoskins substation. They are drilling foundations, setting bases and erecting the structures. The foundations range from 7 - 11 1/2 feet in diameter and 25 - 71 feet deep. They are filled with an average of 62.1 cubic yards of concrete and have an average of 8,242 lbs of rebar. The total amount of concrete projected for the project is 10,740 cubic yards. That is enough concrete to fill 3 Olympic sized swimming pools!

The structures range in height from 110 -175 feet. There are 174 total structures that will be erected for the 345 kV transmission line. Forty -six structures are erected; 77 structures are jacked and framed and 87 bases were set as of the tour date. The wire or "conductor" will be strung, starting in September.

The 18 miles of 115 kV line will be built this fall. That will take 222 Douglas Fir poles. There will be a total of 300 miles of conductor strung for this project.

We appreciate everyone's cooperation on this project. NPPD worked with land owners to minimize impact by placing most of the structures in pivot corners or in other out of the way areas of the fields. Landowners gave 100% easement to the project.

It is by working together that we can continue to make this area a great place to live and work.

Very recently in Columbus, a man was electrocuted when a cement pumper truck bumped a 7,200 volt power line. The man was standing near the truck as he was cementing a driveway. He was taken to the hospital. No further information was available as of the date this was written.

This is a reminder to be aware of power lines as we move into harvest and pruning season.

"Look Up and Live" reminds you to take a few simple precautions to stay safe around power lines.

*Take a quick inventory: Have you purchased taller equipment? Have you changed travel patterns through the farmstead? Have you added bins in new locations?

*A daily check should be made of where equipment will be moving to ensure that it will clear power lines. But don't take matters into your own hands, always use a spotter, someone with a broad vantage point, when working in the vicinity of power lines.

*Maintain a 10-foot separation completely around a power line, whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it.

*Employers should obtain safety information from utility companies for the benefit of their workers, if the lines are to remain energized.

*Where possible, install electrical safety warning signage to prevent equipment and personnel contact with power lines. This will also be beneficial to your suppliers, who may be making deliveries to your farm.

ERPPD can supply you with "Look Up and Live" stickers. These free stickers should be placed on any equipment, such as grain augers, tractors with loaders, dump trucks, etc., that are capable of reaching the power lines. These stickers will serve as a reminder to operators to check out the surroundings for overhead power lines and to lower the equipment before moving, if necessary.

You can stop by the office to pick up stickers, or call (402) 675-2185 and we will mail the stickers to you.



▶ LOOK UP
AND LOOK
OUT FOR
POWER LINES

Overhead power lines are common on the farm or in the field. However, failure to notice them can be a deadly oversight. Look up and look out for overhead power lines whenever you operate augers, move irrigation pipe or any other farm equipment.

This message brought to you by the folks at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District. For more electrical safety information, please contact us at

1-800-675-2185.

Energy Efficiency - Vampire Loads



The average U.S. household spends \$100 per year to power devices while they are off (or in standby mode). On a national basis, standby power accounts for more

than 100 billion kilowatt hours of annual U.S. electricity consumption and more than \$10 billion in annual energy costs.

See the chart to the right for a look at how some of the vampire loads could be sucking you dry.

The “garlic and cross” for vampire loads is to unplug rarely used electronic items. Also unplug chargers or electronics when they are not in use.

Another option is to use power strips to turn off multiple components with one switch.

Product	Average Monthly kWh use in standby mode	Average monthly cost per unit*
Cable box	10.7	\$ 1.18
Cell phone charger	0.25	\$ 0.03
Computer - desktop	21.6	\$ 2.38
Computer - laptop	4.8	\$ 0.53
Computer - monitor	7.6	\$ 0.84
Computer - printer	5.8	\$ 0.64
Computer - speakers	1.8	\$ 0.20
Clock radio	1.5	\$ 0.17
DVD/VCR player	4.9	\$ 0.54
Garage Door Opener	2	\$ 0.22
Microwave oven	3	\$ 0.33
Router/modem	1.3	\$ 0.14
Satellite box	10.7	\$ 1.18
Surround sound	10.7	\$ 1.18
TV: CRT (<40")	10.1	\$ 1.11
TV: LCD (<40")	6.5	\$ 0.72
TV: Plasma (50")	12	\$ 1.32
Totals per month	115.25	\$ 12.68
*based on \$0.11 per kWh		

75th Anniversary Cookbooks Available

Need a stocking stuffer for Christmas? Elkhorn Public Power District has 75th Anniversary Cookbooks available.

The cookbooks are \$5 a piece.



Cookin' with POWER

Stop by and pick some up or you can call the office to reserve your copies.



National Public Power Month

Continued from front page
 2) Reliability. Nebraska utilizes a mix of different power generation options, state of the art technology and infrastructure to mitigate outages to the customer.
 3) Locally Controlled. Every citizen is an owner of the utility - having the opportunity to have a direct say in policies that affect rates and service. Policy and rates for electric utilities are determined by locally elected officials, who

are your neighbors.

4) Environmentally Friendly. Public power systems are driven by service at the lowest possible cost consistent with community aims, environmental responsibility and sound business practices.

These advantages are why ERPPD can stand by its mission to provide you with safe, reliable and cost effective electricity. It is also why I am proud to be a part of ERPPD and serving you, our customer. --Jennifer Adams, Corporate Communicator

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed

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

and



**Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 26 & Nov. 27,**

to celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend.