

Energy for Generations

# 75 PERENNIAL NEWS

Years 1939 2014

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

VOLUME XV • NUMBER 4

PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT • YORK, NEBRASKA

AUGUST 2014

## 75th Anniversary Celebration

By: Lisa Jacobsen, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

If you lived in rural York or Fillmore counties 75 years ago, you would have experienced complete darkness once the sun went down. The only light available was the orange glow emitted from a lantern. Families read by kerosene lamps that often burned so dim you could barely see. There were no street lights along the roads to light your way. No yard lights or porch lights to brighten the farm yard. This made life very difficult for people living in rural areas. This was all about to change.



courtesy photo: NRECA

Acting under the terms of the Rural Electrification Act, the Petition For The Creation of the District was filed and approved on December 31, 1938. At the board's first legal meeting on January 4, 1939, the by-laws were approved, and a resolution was adopted to borrow funds from the Rural Electrification Administration in Washington, D.C. for line construction in York County. In September 1939 the board voted to purchase power from Seward County Rural Public Power District. During the months following, engineers and a construction company were hired to build power lines. On February 6, 1940, it was announced that 130 miles of line had been constructed, and that 118 customers were receiving power from the District.

The District continued to grow steadily, even through the long years of World War II. On October 2, 1945, the Board of Directors adopted a reso-

lution to add Fillmore County to its service area.

What started in 1939 with a single phase line crossing the Seward and York county lines has grown into a power grid that now lights the way for over 8000 residential, agricultural, large and small commercial and industrial services. This infrastructure consists of 22 substations and almost 2000 miles of distribution and transmission line serving York and Fillmore counties.

Please join us on August 6, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. to celebrate lighting the way for 75 years. Activities will include lunch, prizes, informational booths, a live-line electrical demonstrations and you will have an opportunity to try your hand at what it is like to do line work. We will even have a glimpse into what life was like before electricity. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, August 6th.



# Who Will Be Hurt Most by EPA's Proposed Carbon Rules?

By: Jamey Pankoke, General Manager

On June 2, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed regulations to limit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions at existing power plants. If approved, the regulations will no doubt lead to increases in consumers' monthly electric bills. The only question is, how much?



Jamey Pankoke

The proposed rules, which require a 30 percent reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions nationally from power generation sources by the year 2030, are unprecedented in terms of their scope. They set a carbon intensity reduction target for each state. Each state's target is different based upon EPA's assumption of the number of coal plants that will be closing; the ability to convert coal plants to natural gas; the availability of natural gas supply; the potential for adding renewable resources; and the potential for energy efficiency gains.

Based on EPA's calculations, Nebraska will have to cut its carbon emissions by 26 percent of what the state was emitting in 2012.

The rules don't provide specific direction for individual utilities or power plants. Everything will be left up to each state to determine how to meet the target. Obviously, this means that all utilities operating power plants in Nebraska would need to agree to solutions that result in compliance with the regulations. By the way, Nebraskans get about 60% of their electric energy supplied by coal-fired power plants.

The EPA concedes that the new regulations will cost billions more every year. Some states have estimated that the price of electricity in their state will increase by as

much as 50%, as a result of this enormous cost of compliance. Of course, the actual increase will depend on each state's current level of carbon emissions, and what it does to meet the reduction target. The EPA's own analysis projects an increase in the cost per kilowatt-hour of electricity of up to 11.7%. Remember - this is the government's prediction.

High energy costs are especially harmful to small businesses, as well as to manufacturers. Even before the proposed new rules, energy costs ranked as one of the three biggest challenges facing small businesses. They need affordable electricity not only to stay competitive, but to stay open. Essentially, EPA's proposed regulations mandate higher energy costs, which the businesses will have no choice but to pass onto their customers.

Who will be hurt the most by EPA's carbon rules? The poor and those on fixed incomes - those who are already struggling to make ends meet. There are folks who are 'up against the wall' with respect to being able to

pay their bills, including their electric bills. That is why we are concerned about EPA's proposed regulations. We're concerned that EPA has made a decision that could substantially increase the cost of electricity and quite possibly erode the reliability of power supply. And as an electric consumer, what frustrates you the most? Rate increases and power outages.

We believe that a diverse mix of fuel sources for electric generation is the best way to keep electric bills affordable. Whether our electricity is generated by coal, natural gas, solar panels or wind turbines, we take our responsibility to provide

you reliable and affordable electricity seriously, while at the same time doing our best to protect the environment.



Learn more and express your concerns at  
[www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop)

Tell the government you can't afford costly regulation

America's Electric Cooperatives

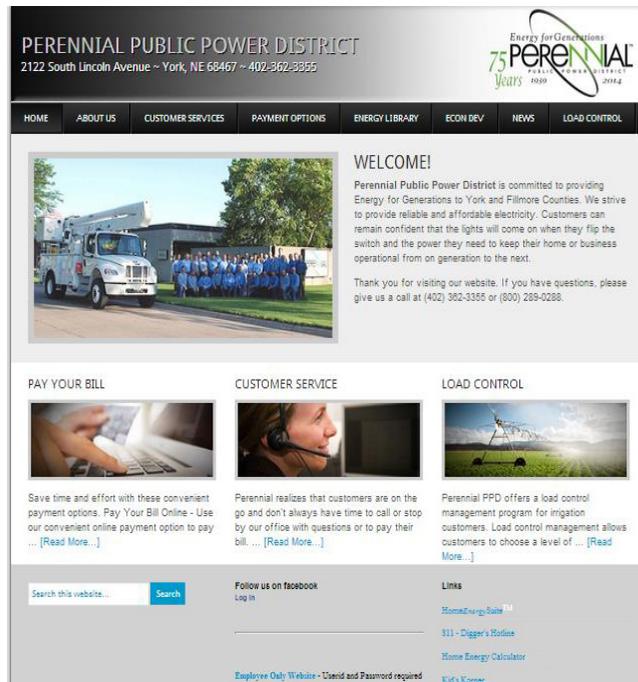
Visit [Action.coop](http://Action.coop)

## Perennial Announces Redesigned Website

Perennial Public Power District is excited to announce their redesigned website, [perennialpower.com](http://perennialpower.com). The redesigned website was launched the end of June.

Technology has come a long way since Perennial introduced their first website in 1998. Today, [perennialpower.com](http://perennialpower.com) features a cleaner look and feel, reduced clutter and search features. The website offers payment options, billing information, news articles and safety information. Changes have been made to help customers navigate and find the information they need faster. The

redesigned website is now mobile device friendly, allowing the customer the ability to do business when and where they want.

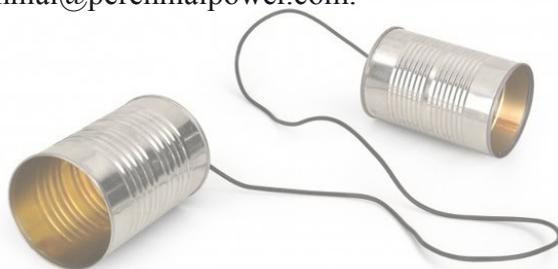


## Perennial needs your current phone number

Have you recently cut the cord to your land line or changed your phone number? Everyday more and more people are making their cell phone their primary telephone. It is important to keep your Perennial account information up to date. Here are just a few reasons why we need your current phone number:

- **Planned outages** - we contact the customer prior to a planned outage due to maintenance work or a building move.
- **Tree trimming** - we will call to request permission to trim trees away from a power line.
- **Emergency situations** - sometimes during emergencies we may need to contact you.

If you have changed your telephone number, please contact our Customer Services Department at 402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288. You can also send us an e-mail at [perennial@perennialpower.com](mailto:perennial@perennialpower.com).



## New Employee

On May 19, 2014, Perennial hired Jeremy Coffey as an Apprentice Line Technician.

After graduating from McCool Junction High School in 2011, Coffey attended Northeast Community College (NCC) in Norfolk, NE to pursue an associates degree in utility line. While attending NCC, Coffey worked as a summer intern for the District. Jeremy graduated from NCC in May of 2014. Please help us welcome him to Perennial.



Jeremy Coffey

## Youth Energy Camp

Two area teens will represent Perennial PPD at the Nebraska Rural Electric Association 2014 Youth Energy Camp.



Rachel Mertz from McCool Junction is the daughter of Roger and Mindy Mertz. Broc Mueller from Exeter is the son of John and Anita Mueller. This year's camp runs from July 14-18 at the Nebraska State 4-H camp in Halsey, NE. Rachel and Broc will learn how public power districts operate and they will tour Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland, NE. They will also have the opportunity to compete in the ambassador contest for a trip to attend Youth Tour in Washington D.C.

Look for pictures from camp in our October 2014 Perennial News.

# ENERGYWISE™

Use less. Spend less. Do more.



## It PAYS to tune up your cooling system

COOLING SYSTEM TUNE-UP PROGRAM

### A \$30 incentive

is available to qualified customers who have their current cooling system inspected and tuned-up by an HVAC contractor.



Click on [www.perennialpower.com](http://www.perennialpower.com) for more information or contact our office at 402-362-3355.



### Energy Efficiency

## Tip of the Month

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### Community Calendar

~July 31 - August 3~

York County Fair

~August 6~

Perennial Public Power District

75th Anniversary Celebration

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Location: 2122 S. Lincoln Avenue, York

~August 3 - September 1~

Public Power Booth

Nebraska State Fair

~September 9 - September 11~

Public Power Booth

Husker Harvest Days

~September 12 - September 14~

McCool Mustang Round-up

~September 13~

Henderson Heritage Day

### Perennial will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2014.



402-362-3355  
800-289-0288  
402-362-3357- Outages

Perennial Public Power District  
2122 South Lincoln Avenue  
York, NE 68467

Office Hours  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

### Kool - Aid & Jello Popsicles

- 1 envelope unsweetened Kool-Aid powdered drink mix
- 1 (3 ounce) box Jello gelatin
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 cups cold water

In a 2-quart glass large bowl, combine the Kool-Aid, Jello powder and sugar. Add hot water and stir until completely dissolved. Stir in cold water. Pour into popsicle molds and freeze. Or you can use Dixie cups and place popsicle sticks into them when they are partially frozen.