

Perennial NEWS

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Smart usage of your home's electrical system can keep disaster at bay.

Wind, Snow and Ice...Oh My!

The winter season is upon us. Here are some things to keep your family safe.

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Your investment in the District



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

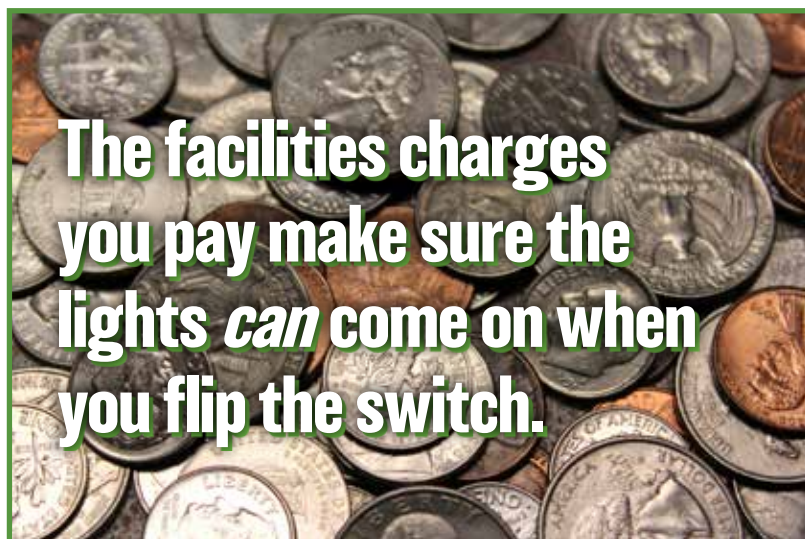
As a customer of Perennial Public Power District, you make an investment in the district every time you pay your bill. The facilities charges that you pay are an investment that helps your district defray the cost of maintaining the overall electric system, and make sure that the lights will come on when you flip the switch.

The cost of maintaining poles, wires and substations is significant. Likewise, the expense of keeping Perennial's fleet of trucks operating, restoring power after outages, producing bills and processing payments, and doing everything else needed daily to keep the system running is substantial.

Last year over \$4 million was spent on work projects and equipment needed to maintain the District's 2,000 miles of line. This year will be no different. Our 2018 Work Plan and Budget includes an investment of approximately \$4.2 million in the annual maintenance programs of pole testing and replacement, tree trimming, substation maintenance, replacement of meters, upgrading of older power lines, and replacement of vehicles and equipment.

Because the dollar amount of a facilities charge is fixed and not dependent on how much electricity that you use, we realize that in months, or even years, when you consume

less energy these fixed charges cause the average cost per kilowatt-hour that you pay for the electricity that you use to be greater than it is in periods of high consumption. We hear that, for example, when we send out irrigation bills for the month of September, and have customers tell us that they didn't



run the well at all that month. Or when a customer with a small crop drying service informs us that they only use that grain bin every now and then. Nevertheless, we need to make certain that your electric system is in good operating condition and ready to go when you need it. And your investment makes that possible.

We truly appreciate the value of the investment that you make in the district. And we will use it wisely so that you continue to have access to safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it.

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Preventing Electrical Overloads

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 47,700 home fires in the U.S. are caused by electrical failures or malfunctions each year. These fires result in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage. Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.



Example of an overloaded outlet

Overloaded circuit warning signs:

- Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights.
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses.
- Warm or discolored wall plates.
- Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles.
- Burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles, or switches.

How to prevent electrical overloads:

- Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.

- All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.
- Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 50 percent of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). Only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture, using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.

If you've added additional electrical load, such as a welder, switched to an electric hot water heater or a new building, you could be overloading your transformer. Please call Perennial so we can make sure your transformer is the correct size to prevent overloading the transformer.

Operations Report

February 2018

Distribution Projects:

With the New Year Perennial Public Power District will be starting several distribution line upgrades. The line upgrade work is scheduled to begin around the first part of February. These projects will be located northeast of Bradshaw, west of Henderson, and east of York. We will also continue with the pole replacement program in York County. There are several towns that will see pole replacement completed in the coming months. Some of the work in the towns will be completed by working jointly with a Windstream Communications contractor. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support working with us during these planned outages, which are needed to complete these pole replacements.

Are you considering a new service? Please contact Perennial prior to the start of your project. It is very helpful

if we are involved from the onset to plan the work and to have time to order special materials that may be needed to complete your project.

Important irrigation deadlines:

March 15, 2018

The deadline for new irrigation services in 2018 is March 15. Please notify Perennial before March 15, 2018 so the new irrigation service can be scheduled.

April 15, 2018

The deadline to change Irrigation load control options is April 15, 2018. Load control agreements need to be completed prior to the April 15, 2018 deadline.

WIND SNOW AND ICE —OH MY!

It's the time of year to be concerned with severe winter weather, which can cause problems from bad road conditions to galloping power lines and power outages. Power lines gallop when high winds mix with icy conditions causing ice buildup on one side of the lines, which causes the lines to bounce.

Additionally, it's important to know the different types of watches and warnings before storms even occur.

Winter Storm Watches – signify that stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain, or sleet, are likely within the next few days. You should be alert, as this means adverse conditions could begin within the next 12 to 48 hours.

Winter Storm Warnings – call for stormy conditions to begin within the next 24 hours. Persons in this range of the warning should be mindful of the impending conditions and consider canceling plans to travel outside of the home.

Blizzard Warnings – warn individuals in the affected areas to seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow and strong winds, creating near-zero visibility. Travel is not recommended due to white out conditions.

Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter storm:

- Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call Perennial to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during clean-up and restoration activities. In case outages do occur, you should have at least one telephone in the home that does not depend on electricity to work.
- If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. Fuel and wood-burning heating sources should always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources. Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located. Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home.

- Prepare a winter survival kit before the storm that contains food that does not require cooking, such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends five gallons per person. Be sure to refill all prescriptions when a severe storm is forecasted. Other important items are identification, first aid kits, blankets, flashlights, and a battery-powered radio with extra batteries.



- If you decide to use a portable generator during an outage, make sure it is placed outside the home for proper ventilation. Be careful not to overload the generator. Use appropriate extension cords that can handle the electric load. Never run cords under rugs or carpets. It is important that your service has a double-throw switch to isolate the generator from the District's power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.
- If your meter display reads that there is an error, it does not mean that the error is on Perennial's side of the meter. Be sure to check your voltage to confirm if the outage is on your side of the meter. The top side of the meter is Perennial's responsibility, the bottom side is the customers.
- Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on. But keep an eye on family members for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness, and mental and physical slowness. The elderly and young children are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. Call 911 immediately if you notice these symptoms.

For more information about how to stay safe during a winter storm please visit us on Facebook or visit safeelectricity.org.

P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Josh Seaberg

Journeyman Line Technician



10
YEARS

Josh Seaberg will celebrate working 10 years at Perennial this month. After high school Seaberg attended the Electrical and Electromechanical Technology program at Southeast Community College in Milford. Josh started his career at Perennial in 2008 as an Apprentice Line Technician. Today he has advanced to a Journeyman Line Technician. When asked why he enjoys being a lineman at Perennial he said, "I get to do something different every day,

from stringing line to working on load control during irrigation season. I've always been an outdoor person and I enjoy the changes of seasons and working in all types of weather." Josh lives north of York with his wife Ashley and sons, Kade, age 6 and Reid, age 4. In his spare time Seaberg enjoys spending time with his family along with hunting, trapping and coyote calling. Congratulations on your 10 year anniversary Josh!

Dean Due

Board of Directors Member



30
YEARS

Dean Due has been a member of Perennial's Board of Directors since 1988. He and his wife, Kathy, live on a farm north of Exeter in York County. The couple has two sons, Jim who lives in Exeter and Robert, who lives in Chaney, Nebraska with his wife Ranae and two daughters. In his free time Due enjoys spending time with his granddaughters, Jillian who is 11 years old and Danica who is 8 years old. Additionally, Dean

also enjoys golfing. When asked what he enjoys most about being a board member, Due said, "being a Perennial board member has been a great experience and I have enjoyed working with the employees of Perennial and customers served by the District. Furthermore, I revel at the growth of the District over the last three decades." Thank you Dean for serving the District for 30 years!

smarthub

The Center of Customer Engagement

Use our SmartHub link to pay your bill and avoid mailing time, and possible penalties. SmartHub can also be used to review your usage, and find ways to save energy and save money! You can find a link on our website: www.perennialpower.com. To set up your account you just need your account number and the name listed on your bill. Download the FREE mobile or tablet app in the Apple App Store or Android Marketplace.

www.perennialpower.com



Download today and manage your account anywhere!

2018 EnergyWise incentive programs

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

With the start of the New Year, it's time again to think about New Year's resolutions. This is the perfect time to reflect on your energy efficiency. Perennial offers various energy efficiency incentive programs to help you kick off the new year. Participation in our 2018 EnergyWise incentive programs will provide opportunities to use less energy, spend less money and do more!

Residential Incentives

Heat Pump Water Heater

Incentive amount: \$200 - \$500

Air source heat pump water heaters with an efficiency factor greater than 1.9. \$200

Ground source heat pump water heaters with an efficiency factor greater than 2.8. \$500

High Efficiency Heat Pumps

Incentive amount: \$200 - \$1700

The following air source heat pump incentives are available for homeowners:

- 15 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$200
- 16-18 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$400
- 18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$600
- Variable Capacity \$600

The following water or ground source heat pump incentives are available for home owners:

- Any EER \$1200
- 35+ EER, 5.0+ COP in GLHP-partial load column on AHRI or Energy Star Certificate \$1700*

* AHRI or Energy Star Certificates are required for all installations. If not provided, the maximum incentive is \$100.

* Heat pump verification application must be completed on all units.

* Low Interest Loan from the Nebraska Energy Office is available.

Cooling System Tune-Up

Available to homeowners who have their cooling system (heat pump or air conditioner) tuned up. Beginning in 2018 this incentive will be offered on an annual basis. \$30

Residential Attic Insulation

Available to all residential homeowners who add additional attic insulation. An incentive of \$.15/square foot with a maximum incentive of \$300 per existing residential dwelling.

Commercial/Industrial Incentives

Commercial Lighting

Available to businesses for upgrading to qualified efficient lighting. Incentives available for both indoor and outdoor lighting.

Commercial HVAC

Incentives are available for installation of high efficiency heat pump and air conditioning equipment in nonresidential buildings including master-metered multifamily buildings.

Custom Industrial Process

This is a custom incentive and all projects must be pre-approved prior to any equipment being ordered.

Variable Frequency Drives

Incentives are available to industrial, large commercial, and municipal customers with annual usage greater than 2000 hours. Variable speed drives are especially effective at reducing power and energy consumption to centrifugal equipment such as pumps and fans. Incentive is \$30 per horsepower.

Agricultural Incentives

Hog Heating Mat

Incentive amount: \$40 - \$80

- Mat >12" x 36" but < 24" x 36" \$40
- Mat >24" x 36" \$80

Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive

Incentives are available for new and existing all-electric irrigation corner systems with pump motors of 20 horsepower and larger. An incentive of \$12 per rated VFD horsepower will help offset the investment.

Custom Irrigation Pump Efficiency

Incentives are available to any eligible electric irrigation pumping account holder for refurbishing/replacing inefficient pumps 20 horsepower or greater. Additional incentives that cover the cost of pump efficiency tests up to \$350. This incentive is designed to provide customers with financial incentives to help assess irrigation system performance and improve efficiency.

Benefits of Investing in Energy Efficiency

- Shows commitment to sustainable energy diversity.
- Reduces avoided energy cost with minimal risk.
- Maximizes current assets long term (delays future generation).

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

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E-mail: courtneyv@perennialpower.com



Each year the Henderson Chamber of Commerce hosts a Home Show the last weekend in February as an opportunity for businesses from Henderson and the surrounding communities to showcase their products and services. Those in attendance can anticipate hourly door prizes, product and services discounts, introductions to new products and businesses. Perennial will be in attendance again this year to talk about our EnergyWise programs and how we can help you save money on your electric bill. Come visit us at our booth Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Stop and see us at the
Henderson Home Show**

Saturday, February 24, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Heartland Community School
North Gym**



Who Controls the Thermostat in Your House?

A programmable thermostat can help you cut your heating and cooling costs. According to the United States Department of Energy, you can save as much as 10 percent a year by simply programming your thermostat for when you are asleep or away from home. The thermostat will do this automatically without sacrificing comfort. You can easily save energy in the winter by programming the thermostat to 68 degrees while you're awake and then letting the programmable thermostat lower the temperature while you're asleep or away from home. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings and you can manually override the temperature without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly programs.