



Irrigation Newsletter 2022 Edition

IMPORTANT Dates & Deadlines

MARCH 15

**New Service
Deadline**

APRIL 15

**Load Control
Change Deadline**

Services We Offer

**Online Billing and
Automatic Bank Draft**

**Load Control Text or
E-mail Notification**

Irrigation Incentives

Load Control Switches

Perennial crews began updating load control switches in February of this year. The new load control is capable of reporting if the irrigation well is under control. The old load control switches only allowed one-way communications compared to the new switches which allow two-way communications.



Left is the old style and the one on the right is the new load control switch.

2022 Load Control

Load control hours

Potential hours for load control are from 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday through Sunday. However, the maximum amount of time that any irrigation well will be controlled during the 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. time-frame is 12 consecutive hours. The starting and stopping time can and usually will change from day to day. In the past, we have not allowed any load control bypasses during control times. However, we are willing to work with customers during non-peaking times in the event of a situation, such as well repair. Sundays and holidays can be controlled up to 6 hours for every load control group. The maximum amount of time that any irrigation well can be controlled throughout the entire week (including Sunday) is 72 hours, which applies to Anytime control groups.

Outages and After-hours calls

If you do not have power at your well or your meter shows an error, please have a qualified person check the voltage on the top side of the disconnect switch below the meter. This will avoid a minimum service call charge of \$165.00 in the event the problem is on your equipment. If proper voltage is present, this means the problem is on your equipment, and an electrician will need to be called. If the proper voltage is not present, call Perennial for service. All after-hours calls are routed to the NPPD Call Center in Norfolk. Please have your meter number, account number, or well number available when contacting Perennial PPD for service or a question on your account. This helps us locate your account quickly and accurately. It also helps us dispatch service personnel to the correct location. Please remember we need directions to the meter, not the well. Sometimes the well and meter are across the road from each other in different sections.

Irrigation Safety

To ensure a safe growing season, please keep the following in mind:

- Make sure that the irrigation system wiring is properly grounded. Before the start of each irrigation season, have a qualified electrician check the pump and wiring.
- Store unused irrigation pipes far away from power lines or electrical equipment.
- Position irrigation pipes at least 15 feet away from power lines.
- Position the water jet streams so that there is no chance of them spraying onto power lines. If this happens, the entire system could become energized, creating a danger for anyone nearby.
- Stay away from the piping during any lightning activity. Install lightning arresters to protect your equipment. If fuses continually blow or circuit breakers repeatedly trip, have a professional check the wiring. This could indicate a potential electrical hazard.
- Always shut off and lock the master electrical control switch before servicing the machine.
- Avoid moving irrigation pipe and equipment on windy days, as a sudden gust could lift pipes into overhead power lines. This power line contact could prove fatal to a person holding the pipe.
- Before moving equipment look up and around you; note any power lines that could be close enough to come into contact with equipment—and stay away.
- Finally, please notify us if chemicals are sprayed on your fields that might present a health hazard to our linemen when they enter your fields to perform maintenance or repairs. If you flag the field entrance it helps alert linemen that there are hazards.

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Irrigation Incentives

EnergyWiseSM Custom Ag Program: Qualifying irrigators who replace or refurbish their pump, upgrade to a pivot or drip system, or upgrade to a computer-based water management system may qualify. This incentive has to be preapproved.



EnergyWiseSM Prescriptive Irrigation Program: Qualifying irrigators who replace all of a system's outlet components on an all-electric pumping system that is a minimum of four sections in length can receive a \$500 incentive. The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must be at least five years old.

EnergyWiseSM Corner Pivot VFD: Qualifying irrigators receive \$18 per horsepower to help cover costs related to upgrading to a variable frequency drive electric pump on a corner pivot.



Are you installing a new irrigation service?

If you are planning on a new irrigation service or upgrading an existing one, **be sure to sign your application by March 15, 2022.** We must receive your signed application before we will order any material for the job. **Signing your application by March 15th** is critical if you plan to use a new electric irrigation service this year.

Load control change deadline

Irrigation customers that want to have their wells controlled under a different load management option than what they are presently signed up for will need to execute a new Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement **before April 15, 2022.** Customers are allowed to change to a lesser control or no control after **April 15, 2022.** A new Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement will need to be executed to authorize the change. The service charge to change load control after the load control change deadline is \$150.00. The rate change is retroactive, beginning with the June irrigation billing. The difference between the charges already billed and the new load control rate will be billed to the customer. The quickest and most efficient way to change control days is to call our office at 402-362-3355 while you are at the well. This allows us to verify that the correct service is being changed. The agreement is also available on our website (www.perennialpower.com) under the Load Control tab.

Emergency Load Control

In addition to regular load control hours, our power supplier could ask us to control load in emergencies, such as equipment failure. In the event we would need to control on an emergency basis, we would keep you informed on our load control hot-line and our after-hours call center.

Understanding your Irrigation Billing

Perennial bills irrigation services four (4) times per year. Irrigation billing periods are June, July, August, and September. These bills are mailed to customers in July, August, September, and October. Every irrigation service will have four (4) billings per year, regardless of energy consumption. For example, if the irrigation service did not run during September, the last billing period, the customer will still be billed for the facility charge, purchased power demand charge and the distribution delivery demand charge.

The following is a break down of each charge element:

Facility Charge: This charge is the minimum amount that Perennial needs to collect to cover the cost of the ongoing operation of the electric system facilities (i.e., poles, wire, etc.) that are needed to serve an irrigation service, even if there is no billable demand or no electricity consumed by the customer.

Purchase Power Demand and Distribution Delivery Demand Charges: These charges are for the customer's highest measured demand (kW) during the current billing period or the three (3) monthly billing periods preceding the current billing period. For example, June 2022 demand is 55.7 kW; September 2021, 3.5 kW; August 2021, 55.9 kW; and July 2021, 54.3 kW, the demand charge for June 2022 would calculate on the demand of 55.9 kW, because it is the highest measured demand. The rate for demand charges are based on the load control option selected by the customer.

Energy Charge: This is the cost per kilowatt-hour (kWh) used by the customer.

Load Control Notification &

Contact Information

Office: 402-362-3355 during regular business hours. Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

After-hours: 800-289-0288, 402-362-3357, or 402-362-3355, select option 2.

Website: www.perennialpower.com - The load control page is updated as needed throughout the day.

Load Control Hot-line: 402-362-4786 - A recorded message announcing control status is updated as needed throughout the day.

Text or e-mail notifications: Sign up for text or e-mail notifications. Please contact our Customer Services Department to sign up.

KRVN Load Control Messages: Announcements can be heard on KRVN Radio - 880 AM. Load Control messages will be announced at 8:29 a.m. Monday - Saturday. If load control is expected, a "Code Red" announcement will be followed by the load control start time. A "Code Green" announcement will mean there will be no load control that day. Early release messages begin at 4:59 p.m.