

PerennialNEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Vandalism Cost Everyone

Help Perennial stop vandalism in your community

The Power Behind Your Power

April is National Lineworker Recognition Month.

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Year in review

Before traveling too far into 2018, I thought it would be beneficial to look back and see what we accomplished in 2017. Call it a brief annual report if you will.

In 2017, we invested over \$1.5 million in power line construction, substation projects, and replacement of poles. Among other work, included in this investment was the rebuild of six miles of distribution line, construction of five miles of new 69 kV transmission line between Grafton and Sutton, installation of fifty new electric services for customers, replacement of approximately 300 poles, and completion of the substation for service to the new Fortigen anhydrous ammonia plant.

Your District remained financially sound in 2017. We ended the year with a Margin of \$2.2 million, in which will be used to further reinvest in the electric system. Making wise investments in the system today will help ensure reliable service for our customers for years to come. By the end of last year, the District's long-term debt decreased from \$14.4 million to \$12.8 million, and equity increased from 74% to 77%. And the rates that customers were charged for electricity remained the same for the fourth consecutive year.

With respect to customer service, in 2017 we began the process

of working on a strategic goal of developing and implementing a plan to improve communications with customers, which led to transitioning from a four-page newsletter to our new *Perennial News* magazine. We also provided nearly sixty-two thousand dollars in payments to customers as incentives for improving the energy efficiency of their residential heating, commercial and industrial lighting, and pivot irrigation systems.

We continued our focus on the safety of our employees and the public last year. At the close of 2017 our employees had worked a record 1,786 days without a lost time accident.

On an administrative front, your board of directors decided to create a smaller board. The number of directors on the board was reduced from seven to six, resulting in a more fair and equal representation of all customers.

Every day the electric utility industry faces new challenges with changing technologies, increasing regulations and other external pressures beyond our control. But just like last year, rest assured that Perennial's directors and employees will continue to work this year and beyond to provide safe, reliable, and customer friendly service at a competitive price.

In 2017

We Invested Over
\$1.5 Million
for Improvements
Including:

6 MILES

of Distribution Line

5 MILES

of New 69 kV
Transmission Line

50

New Electric
Services

Replacement of Approximately

300 POLES



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

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Vandalism costs everyone

Vandalism can compromise the safe, reliable and affordable delivery of electricity to homes and businesses. Utility equipment is designed for a long average working life in spite of the worst weather. Electrical infrastructure equipment is expensive and the cost of installation is significant.

Perennial maintains approximately 2,000 miles of power lines along with over 10,000 transformers, tens of thousands of fuses, lightning arresters, other protective devices and insulators. Additionally, there is a meter installed at every active service, which is over 7,500 meters. Intentional damage to any of these components can cause a needless outage for customers. Furthermore, there is the expense of responding and repairing the damaged equipment.

Intentionally tampering or vandalism to any element of the power infrastructure can also have deadly consequences. Vandals and thieves have died due to contact with high voltage equipment. Acts such as, copper theft or shooting at any component of the electrical infrastructure can also put others at risk of coming in contact with deadly voltage. Copper wires that are safe to touch when properly connected and grounded can create a life threatening hazard when cut by vandals. These cut wires can also cause power outages and trigger fires.

Substations are locked for your safety. Never enter a substation and please dial 911 to report if you witness anyone other than a utility or contract employee in a substation. The vehicles driven by both Perennial's



employees and any contractor are clearly branded with company logos.

We need your help in keeping our linemen and our community safe. Ultimately, electric consumers end up paying more for power because of vandalism and theft. Working together we can prolong the lifespan of the infrastructure that provides all of us with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. If you have questions or concerns, please call Perennial at 402-362-3355.

Utility Line Scholarship Awarded to Kellan Green

Perennial Public Power District has awarded one local student with a utility line scholarship. This scholarship will assist Kellan Green as he pursues his degree in utility line. Green, the son of Chris and Becky Green, currently attends McCool Junction High School where he is a senior. Kellan will be heading to Northeast Community College this fall. The utility line scholarship will award Kellan a \$1,000 per year

scholarship to attend a college with an accredited utility line program.

Congratulations to Kellan, Perennial Public Power District wishes him well as he pursues his career as a utility line technician.



Kellan Green

Photo courtesy Carol Hofmann Creative Images Photography

The POWER Beh

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also marks the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. April is also the month National Lineworker Appreciation Day is recognized.



Find Your POWER

While Perennial strives to provide safe and reliable electricity to our customers, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – public power lineworkers.

One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heaving equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, lineworkers often must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times while working near energized power lines or equipment. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, which limits potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated sleeves and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. While safety gear performs a critical

function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, while reducing manual dexterity, making the job more difficult.

In addition to the familiar tasks that lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to replace an insulator or repair a conductor. They are also information experts in the field - using their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of damage they find and the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Perennial's lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,960 miles of power lines across two counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, any time day or night. During blizzards, severe summer storms, or wildfires, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to "thank a lineworker."

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jim Rumery

Staking Technician



25
YEARS

Jim Rumery will celebrate working 25 years at Perennial in May. After high school Rumery attended the Utility Line program at Northeast Community College in Norfolk. Jim started his career at Perennial in 1993 as an apprentice line technician. Today he has advanced to a staking technician. When asked why he enjoys being a

staking technician at Perennial he said, "I get to do something different everyday." Jim lives in York with his wife Lynn and children Morgan, age 19, Shelby, age 17 and Gunner, age 10. In his spare time Rumery enjoys spending time with his family along with hunting and fishing. Congratulations on your 25 year anniversary, Jim!

Electrical Outlet Safety

The allure of an electrical outlet can be too much for a curious toddler or a young child to resist. Toddlers who stick ordinary household objects in the tiny receptacles of an outlet can

suffer severe or fatal shock. Protect your little ones from being shocked by making sure your outlets are tamper resistant.

Tamper resistant outlets (TRO) or tamper resistant electrical receptacles have shutters that stay closed unless a plug with two prongs is inserted into the outlet. Both springs on the shutters must be compressed at the same time to allow an object to gain access.

Damaged outlet from a toddler trying to stick a household item into outlet.

This spring-loaded shutter system aids in preventing children from inserting foreign objects into an outlet.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), there are approximately 2,850 children injured each year from inserting household items; such as hair pins, keys, paper clips or other items into an outlet. Properly childproof your outlets by installing tamper resistant receptacles.

Although plastic receptacle caps or sliding receptacle covers can help deter children from playing with outlets, they present their own safety challenges. The outlet caps can get lost or once they're off, children can put them in their mouths. Additionally, many children can learn to remove the outlet caps or bypass a sliding receptacle cover by simply watching their parents plug cords into outlets.

Installing a TRO is a fairly simple home improvement project for experienced DIYers. If you do not have a thorough understanding of electricity, TROs should be installed by a professional. As with any electrical project, always make sure to shut off the power at the breaker box before beginning your project.

Preventing electrical dangers or electrical issues in the home will enhance your home and family's safety. Tamper-resistant receptacles are a small investment with a huge return. Saving just one child's life would be worth any additional cost of a TRO.

Operations Report

April 2018

Distribution Projects:

Spring is here which brings us to an even busier time. Perennial crews have been installing new irrigation, commercial, and residential services. Additionally, crews have been removing idle services that are no longer in use. Perennial will continue to upgrade the infrastructure in the Bradshaw and York areas. Perennial has contracted Crowl Tree Service to trim trees in southeast Fillmore County.

Reminder: If you are considering a new service whether it is a house, business, irrigation service, etc. please keep Perennial in mind when considering 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.

Irrigation Load Control Deadline: April 15, 2018

Randy Martin
Manager of Operations



Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Youth Energy Leadership Camp isn't just about electrical education; it is about having fun, making new friends, learning leadership skills and trying new things. All you need is your awesome personality! You could even win a trip to serve as a Nebraska Ambassador to the 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Tour in Washington D.C.

To be eligible you must currently be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and be a Perennial customer. This year's camp will be held July 9 - 13, 2018 at Nebraska State 4-H Camp in Halsey, NE. Space is limited and this popular camp fills up fast. If you are interested in attending this exciting camp, please contact Courtney VanSkiver by phone, 402-362-3355 or e-mail: courtneyv@perennialpower.com. Application deadline is Friday, May 11, 2018.

Important Reminders

April 15, 2018 Irrigation Load Control Deadline

Irrigation load control change deadline is April 15, 2018. If you changed your load control in 2017, you may want to contact our Customer Services department to verify which load management program you are currently signed up for.

May 11, 2018 Youth Energy Leadership Camp Deadline

If you are interested in attending a fun, energetic camp, make sure you contact Perennial by May 11, 2018.

May 28, 2018 Memorial Day

Perennial's office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe Memorial Day.



Don't Let the Cold Air Out!

Is your fridge airtight? An improperly sealed refrigerator wastes electricity because cold air generated by the appliance escapes through small gaps in the door. Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted. If the paper does not easily pull out then your refrigerator door is airtight.

