

Perennial[®] NEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Be Prepared for Winter Storms

If a storm hits are you ready?

Are you Energy Wise?

*Perennial offers some great incentives
for our customers to save money.*



Storms Can Wreck Work Plans

For my article this month, I initially thought I would write about the construction, maintenance and customer service activities that we have in this year's Work Plan and Budget. But then I remembered something that I told staff as we were in the planning stage of preparing the Work Plan. That is, no matter how well we plan, we most likely won't be able to finish all of the projects, as something unexpected will come up that will take time away from being able to complete everything in the Work Plan. It might be new services for customers that we didn't know about when we were putting our plan together. But it most certainly will be the time it will take during the year to restore power and make repairs following storms, even if the storms are small and it only takes a day or two to put everything back together.

Knock on wood; we've been pretty lucky for quite a few years. We haven't had the type of weather that can cause major storm damage to electric distribution systems, such as the historic snow storm that hit North Carolina this past December which left thousands without power. Or worse yet, a storm like Hurricane Michael which resulted in almost a half a million Floridians being without power in October.

Of course, if you are in the electric utility business long enough, chances are you will experience an event that creates major storm damage. The most prominent event for us occurred on March 29, 1976, when in a matter of hours rain changed over to ice and heavy wet snow. Then came the wind. I remember the day well. I had just settled in to watch Indiana and Michigan play in

the college basketball national championship game when the lights went out, and I hoped that the power outage would be short lived, so if nothing else I could at least catch the end of the game. Little did I know the devastation caused by the storm. In our service territory fifty percent of the power lines, mostly the east and west lines, were either on the ground or severely damaged. Think

about that. Fifty percent of the power lines in York and Fillmore County! Every customer in the district was without power, with some for as long as a month!

As far as this year's Work Plan is concerned, most of the projects that we plan to work on are those left over from previous years, which we didn't have time to complete because of unexpected events. Even though minor storms can cause a major hassle, let's keep our fingers crossed and hope that we don't experience the type of weather that can totally wreck a Work Plan.



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

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Damage from the storm of 1976

2019 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 2019 EnergyWise incentive programs will provide opportunities to use less energy, spend less money and do more!

Residential Incentives

Heat Pump Water Heater

Incentive amount: \$300 - \$500

Air source heat pump water heaters with an efficiency factor greater than 1.9 \$300

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

High Efficiency Heat Pumps

Incentive amount: \$300 - \$2500

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

- 15 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$300
- 16-18 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$600
- 18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF \$900
- Variable Capacity \$900

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

- Any EER \$1800
- 35+ EER, 5.0+ COP in GLHP-partial load column on AHRI or Energy Star Certificate \$2500

***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. \$30

Smart Thermostat

A new incentive introduced in 2019 available to all homeowners.

- Primarily Electric Heat (Professionally Installed) \$100
- Primarily Electric Heat (Customer Installed) \$75
- Primarily Fossil-Fuel Heat (Prof. Installed) \$50
- Primarily Fossil-Fuel Heat (Cust. Installed) \$25

Residential Attic Insulation

Available to all residential homeowners who add additional attic insulation. An incentive of \$0.15/square foot with a maximum incentive of \$300 per existing residential dwelling.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Incentive

Available to all residential homeowners who install a ChargePoint 240 Volt, 32 Amp, WIFI enabled charging station at their home. The station needs to be activated with the ChargePoint app..... \$200

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.

Customer Industrial Process

This is a customer 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.

Customer Irrigation Pump Efficiency

Incentives are available to any eligible electric irrigation pumping account holder for refurbishing/replacing inefficient pumps 20 horsepower or greater. Additional incentive that covers 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 energy cost with minimal risk.
- Maximizes current assets long term (delays the need for future power generation).

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

Perennial Public Power District
Courtney VanSkiver
402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288
E-mail: courtneyv@perennialpower.com

Be Prepared for

WINTER

Winter storms can cause power outages that can last for days. These storms can make roads and walkways extremely dangerous and also negatively affect childcare and health programs. Injuries and death may occur from exposure, dangerous road conditions, carbon monoxide poisoning, and other winter storm conditions. Be better prepared this winter by following these tips.

Before the Storm/Prepare

- ☐ Signup for local alerts and warnings.
- ☐ Create and test emergency communication plan(s).
- ☐ Stock emergency supplies and install battery-powered or battery backed-up carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors.

Winterize your home.

- ☐ Review your property insurance and safeguard critical documents.
- ☐ Identify a place nearby where you can safely warm-up should you lose heat in your home.

During the Storm/Survive

- ☐ Stay indoors and off the roads. If you must drive, keep emergency supplies in your car.
- ☐ Close off rooms to consolidate and retain heat.
- ☐ Dress in layers, and use blankets to stay warm.
- ☐ Bring pets into a warm place and out of the storm or severe cold.
- ☐ NEVER use a generator, camp stove, charcoal grill, or gasoline or propane heater indoors as these items can start accidental fires, cause electric

shock and/or cause deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

- ☐ NEVER heat a home with a cooktop or oven.
- ☐ Limit your time outdoors, and stay dry.

After the Storm/Be Safe

- ☐ Only drive if necessary. Remove snow and ice from your tailpipe before starting your car, and check regularly if idling. Clean all snow and ice from your car before driving.
- ☐ Dress in warm clothing, stay dry, prevent prolonged exposure to cold and wind, and avoid overexertion clearing or shoveling snow. Overexertion can lead to a medical emergency.
- ☐ Monitor local news and alerts for emergency information and instructions.

What should be in your Winter Storm Preparedness Kit at Home?

- ☐ Water - one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation.
- ☐ Food - at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food, as well as a three day supply of infant formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, diaper rash cream (if you have an infant or toddler) and Pet food and extra water for your pet.
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.
- ☐ Flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit, and a whistle to signal for help.
- ☐ Dust mask to help filter contaminated air, plastic sheeting and duct tape so you can shelter-in-place (seal off the room and stay put).

All photos of storm damage from storm on March 29, 1976

STORMS

- ❑ Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- ❑ Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- ❑ Manual can opener for food.
- ❑ Local maps.
- ❑ Cell phone with chargers and a backup battery.
- ❑ Prescription medications and non-prescription medications (such as pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication, antacids or laxatives).
- ❑ Glasses and contact lenses solution (if you wear glasses or contacts).
- ❑ Cash or traveler's checks (as ATMs or other forms of payment may not be working in an emergency).
- ❑ Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records saved electronically or in waterproof, portable container.
- ❑ Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person, (remember warm clothes and blankets can help prevent hypothermia. Do not forget warm, waterproof, and protective footwear as well as gloves).
- ❑ Complete change of clothing appropriate for your climate and sturdy shoes.
- ❑ Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper to disinfect water.
- ❑ Fire Extinguisher and matches in a waterproof container.
- ❑ Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items.
- ❑ Mess kits, paper towels, cups, plates, and plastic utensils.

- ❑ Paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles or other activities for children.

Remember to maintain the kit so it's ready when needed. Keep the canned food in a cool, dry place. Store boxed food in tightly closed plastic or metal containers and replace expired items as needed. While creating this kit, ask yourself, "What would I need for myself and my family if a winter storm struck?" and "What would I or my family require if we did not have access to a grocery store or pharmacy for at least three days?" Add any of these specific items to your Winter Storm Preparedness Kit.

What should be in your Winter Storm Preparedness Kit for your car?

- ❑ Something red to hang out your window or tie on your antenna if you get stuck in the ditch.
- ❑ Heavy coat and blankets for protection from the cold.
- ❑ Snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
- ❑ Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- ❑ Jumper cables, tools, flashlight, and warning devices such as flares and emergency markers.
- ❑ A cell phone with charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas).

For more tips on how to be safe when severe weather strikes visit www.ready.gov. If you happen to lose power during a winter weather storm please contact Perennial at 402-362-3355.



PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Mark Becker

Board Member



Megan Cash Photo

Mark Becker has served on Perennial's Board of Directors for ten years. He was elected to the Board of Directors in 2009 and his first meeting was January 20, 2009. While not present in the office every day, the Board is a very integral part of Perennial's day to day operations. The Board of Directors is responsible for establishing our electric

rates, as well as all of the policies under which the district operates.

You could say Mark was raised in the district he serves, as he graduated from Exeter High School. Becker lives with his wife, Meg, on a farm southeast of Exeter. They have three children: Chase who lives in Omaha with his wife Laura,

Ashley who lives in York, and Kayla who lives in Omaha with her husband Paul and their two year old daughter, Aria.

Mark not only serves his community by being an elected board member, he is also the President of the Fillmore County Ag Society and President of the Exeter Rural Fire District. Besides being involved in his community, Becker's hobbies include traveling and spending time with his family.

After 10 years on the board, Becker stated, "Watching the line crew and staff handle the day to day challenges and meeting the different people in the industry, not only from around the state but also from around the Nation, has been a really rewarding part of serving on the Perennial Board." If you see Mark, be sure to thank him for his service to the community!

Operations Report February 2019

Distribution Projects:

As we start a new year, Perennial PPD will continue to upgrade the infrastructure in York and Fillmore Counties. Work that is planned for 2019 will include rebuilding 4 miles of an existing 3 phase power line west of York with new poles and installing a larger wire size. The larger wire will increase the current carrying capacity of the line for increased load growth and backup capacity to other substations in the area. We will be replacing poles listed in the pole replacement schedule that have been tested and are showing deteriorating strength. Crews will also be constructing new services, trimming trees, and upgrading

substations. Spring field work will be starting soon so please remember to be aware of your surroundings and be safe. A quick look up and out for power lines or poles can be a life saver!

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.

Randy Martin

Manager of Operations

Retiring line over
Nebraska Interstate 80
on December 13, 2018
with the help of the
Nebraska State Patrol.



Celebrating the Engineer

Spotlight on the Perennial Engineering Department

Most people think of hearts and chocolates when they think of the month of February, here at Perennial we think of National Engineer's Week which falls on February 17-23rd this year. National Engineer's Week always falls on the week that encompasses George Washington's birthday, February 22nd. Washington, most noted as the Nation's first president, known to others as that guy on the one dollar bill and quarter was also an engineer. Washington excelled in the field of mathematics and became a successful surveyor, which had to prove useful when he acquired his own land. Later, he designed and expanded his country estate; Mount Vernon. Washington also created new farm tools, invented a new plow to rotate and dispense seeds. He promoted construction of roads, canals, the Capitol, docks, and ports, water works and new efforts to extract coal and ores and develop manufacturing resources. Washington also promoted engineering education which led to the establishment of many of the institutions that are still around today.

The celebration of National Engineer's Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers. The purpose of National Engineer's Week is to call attention to the contributions to society that engineers make. It is also a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of learning math, science and technical skills.

Perennial Public Power District has an Engineering Department that consists of four people.



Brandon Lehman – Manager of Engineering

Brandon is a graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He oversees the design of all of our electrical facilities and structures, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), and also manages our supervisory control and data acquisition system (SCADA) and load control system.



Jim Rumery – Staking Technician

Jim is a graduate of Northeast Community College with a degree in Utility Line Work. He started his career at Perennial as an Apprentice Line Technician in 1993 and after advancing to Journeyman Lineman Technician he was promoted to Staking Technician.



Chad Hoebeleinrich – Staking Technician

Chad is also a graduate of the Utility Line program of Northeast Community College. Hoebeleinrich began his career in 1994 at Perennial as an Apprentice Line Technician and after advancing to Journeyman Lineman Technician he was promoted to Staking Technician.

Perennial's Staking Technicians are responsible for field staking services to help insure that Perennial's system is a well-designed system in compliance with construction specifications of Rural Utility Services (RUS) and the National Electric Safety Code. They also aid in updating continuing property records and system maps.



Jeremy Styskal – Systems Technician

Jeremy is a graduate of Central Community College – Hastings with an Associate's degree in Applied Science- Electrical. Styskal began working for the District in 1993 as an Apprentice Line Technician. He was promoted to Journeyman Line Technician in 1997 and then Lead Line Technician in 2005. In 2008 his career changed significantly when he accepted the position of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Technician. In 2015 his title was changed to Systems Technician to include the responsibilities being the expert in field communications and keeping the SCADA, AMI, and load control systems working effectively.

The engineering department is a vital and important part of our Perennial office and we are lucky to have such a great team. If you see Brandon, Jim, Chad, or Jeremy help us recognize our Engineering Department by thanking them for all they do for Perennial and our customers.



Henderson Home Show



Energy Tip: Insulated Hot Water Heater

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Use caution when installing insulation on a gas water heater as improperly installed insulation can cause a fire hazard. *Source: energy.gov*