

Perennial NEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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A run down on all the rebates available this year.

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Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL[™]
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Preparing for a Productive Irrigation Season

Spring may still feel far away, but it will be here before we know it. With warmer weather just around the corner, farmers will be busy preparing their equipment for spring tillage and planting. If you haven't already thought about it, now is a good time to start discussing new irrigation services for the 2025 growing season.

Over the last few years, you may have heard that Perennial would need to limit the amount of new irrigation services built due to transformer availability. I'm happy to report that we have a good supply of transformers for irrigation services, and we don't expect to limit the number of new services built in 2025.

If you are considering converting a well to electric or adding a new pivot service, you'll need to call the operations department at Perennial. You will need to know the location of the service along with the total horsepower that you'll be running off the new service. After gathering the information, our Engineering Technicians will complete a site visit and design the new service. Once the design work is done, an estimate is sent to the customer along with a Service Application and Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement. It

is important to note that the new irrigation service deadline is March 15th. This means customers will need to return the Service Application along with the estimated payment by that date. This allows Perennial time to procure the material and ensure the new service will be complete by the time irrigation starts.

One tool that Perennial utilizes to maintain reliability and keep costs down is our load control program. Irrigation season is typically a time when there is the most demand on the electric system. Our load control program allows us to reduce system demand during peak periods. Customers enrolled in the program benefit from lower electric rates. The deadline to sign up a new well for Perennial's

load control program or to change an existing well to a different load management option is April 15th.

If you have any questions regarding a new irrigation service, upgrading an existing irrigation service, load control, or any of our irrigation incentives, please call our office at 402-362-3355. Be watching for Perennial's 2025 Irrigation Newsletter which will be coming out towards the end of this month.



Irrigation well bank



Steve Gerken

Manager of Operations

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On Our Cover:

Winter weather can bring its own set of challenges. Snow and ice on the roads can create serious hazards. Learn how you can be safer in these colder temps. See pages 4 and 5.

2025 Incentive Programs

Saving energy and money go hand in hand, which is why Perennial Public Power District, in partnership with Nebraska Public Power District, provides agricultural, commercial, lawn and garden and residential incentive programs to save both energy and money.



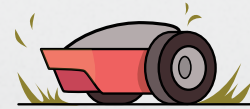
AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

- » **Agriculture**
Projects that improve the welfare of animals and save energy
- » **Automated Grain Aeration**
- » **Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)**
- » **Custom Ag**
Projects that are unique and do not fit a particular program
(Pre-approval is required)
- » **Irrigation Moisture Sensors**
- » **Prescriptive Irrigation**
Replacing all outlet components on an all-electric center pivot or linear tower system



COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS

- » **Commercial Conduit**
New commercial construction conduit for a future public electric vehicle charging station
- » **Electric Vehicle Charger**
For the installation of a public electric vehicle charging station
- » **Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)**
- » **Heat Pump Water Heater**
- » **HVAC System Optimization**
- » **Industrial Process Improvements**
Projects that are unique and do not fit a particular program
(Pre-approval is required)
- » **Prescriptive Lighting**
- » **Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)**



LAWN & GARDEN PROGRAMS

- » **Electric Chainsaw, Tiller, Snow Blower, Blower, Trimmers, Edgers, Pruners or Lawn Mower**
(\$1,500 maximum)



RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

- » **Attic Insulation**
- » **Electric Vehicle Charging Station**
- » **Cooling System Tune-Up**
- » **Heat Pump Water Heater**
- » **High Efficiency Heat Pump**
- » **Induction Cooking**
- » **Pre-Wiring To Install An Electric Vehicle Charging Station**
- » **Smart Thermostat**

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

For program details:

 perennialpower.energywisenebraska.com |  800-289-0288 |  perennial@perennialpower.com

Federal Income Tax Credits and Incentives for Energy Efficiency

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides federal tax credits and deductions that empower Americans to make homes and buildings more energy-efficient to help reduce energy costs while reducing demand. Credits are available through 2032 providing up to \$3,200 annually to lower the cost of energy efficient upgrades. Improvements such as installing heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, insulation, electrical panel upgrades and more, are covered by the tax credits and can help families save money on their monthly energy bills for years to come.

Source: energystar.gov

In 2023, Perennial credited customers' accounts a total of \$60,952.49 for those customers who chose to participate in EnergyWiseSM Incentive Programs and contribute to a more sustainable future for all Nebraskans.

Stay safe on winter roads

Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, which create additional hazards for drivers.

Should an accident occur, it is important to be prepared. Automobile crashes always present danger, but when electricity is involved, decisions made in the moments after the accident are especially crucial.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Highway Administration, 24 percent of weather-related vehicle crashes occur on snowy or icy pavement.

Here are tips to help drivers stay safe on the roads this winter.

Before the winter storm

Prepare ahead for cold temperatures, snow and ice with seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- The spare tire is inflated.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit is on board.
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- The gas tank is at least half full.

Create a car emergency kit

Be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle, which should include:

- Blankets
- Flares
- Ice scraper

- Portable shovel
- Sand or kitty litter for traction
- First aid kit
- Phone charger
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Warm hat
- Non-perishable snacks
- Bottled water

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, watch for signs of frostbite or hypothermia. Observe the following precautions:

- Do not stay in one position for too long.
- Stay awake.
- Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

Downed power lines

Due to the potential for a winter storm to bring down power lines, individuals should only venture outside if necessary.

Slow down when driving in icy conditions, and always keep your eyes out for hazardous conditions or downed power lines. Also, watch for debris near down poles and lines, as it may be energized as well.

If you see a car in an accident with a power pole, your first instinct may be to rush toward the vehicle to offer help.

Always remember to keep your distance from the vehicle and all

electrical equipment that has been damaged. Instruct those in the car to stay inside until the power has been shut off.

If you must exit the vehicle because it is on fire, jump clear of it with your feet together and without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or “bunny hop” to safety.

Doing this will ensure that you will not have different strengths of electric current running from one foot to another.

Keep in mind that a downed line does not need to be sparking to be energized. It is best to assume that all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous.

Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down a pole or other equipment, causing additional hazards.

If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside your vehicle. Contact 911 to notify the utility immediately.

For utility crews, repairing damaged power lines is especially dangerous during storm conditions. The increased hazards mean that extra time and attention must be dedicated to ensure power is safely restored.

Have patience while linemen work in these adverse conditions to turn the power back on, and remember to observe safety precautions and be prepared for driving in dangerous winter conditions.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Stay Safe on Winter Roads



Winter months can bring snow, ice and windy conditions, creating hazards for drivers. It is important to be prepared in case there is an accident.



Safe
Electricity.org®

Before a winter storm

Perform seasonal maintenance on your car to ensure:

- Batteries are charged.
- Tires have sufficient tread.
- Spare tire is inflated.
- Jumper cables are in good condition.
- A winterized car emergency kit.
- Windshield wipers work.
- Headlights, brake lights and turn signals work.
- At least a half-full tank of gas.

Prevent frostbite and hypothermia

If you are stranded in your car after an accident, observe the following precautions:

- Do not stay in one position for too long.
- Stay awake.
- Do not overexert yourself to avoid strain on your heart.
- Watch for signs such as a change in skin color, numbness, shivering, slurred speech, loss of coordination or confusion.

Winter storms and power lines

Always treat sagging and downed power lines as energized and dangerous. Keep at least 50 feet away from the area.

- If your vehicle hits a power pole, stay inside.
- Contact 9-1-1 and wait for the power to be shut off by utility workers.
- If your vehicle is on fire, jump clear with feet together, avoiding contact with both the vehicle and ground simultaneously.
- Shuffle or "bunny hop" away from the vehicle, keeping feet together to prevent different electric currents through your body.
- Never drive over a downed power line, which can cause additional hazards.



Orie Friesen Retires from Perennial Public Power District

After a dedicated 13-year tenure, Orie Friesen has retired from the Perennial Public Power District Board of Directors. Friesen was sworn in to the board in March 2012 and has since made significant contributions to the district. As a board member Friesen saw how the District's publications transformed from an insert in the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's *Rural Electric Nebraskan*, and then to a standalone magazine, *Perennial News*.

During his time on the board, Friesen achieved the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served on the Nominating Committee for Nebraska Generation and Transmission and he has held various positions within the board.



Perennial General Manager, Brandon Lehman, congratulates retiring board member Orie Friesen for his many years of service to Perennial.

"I've enjoyed learning all the behind the scenes operations of Perennial Public Power District. The family atmosphere of the employees is a real strength of Perennial, and working with the other Board Members has been great."

Perennial Public Power District is grateful for Orie Friesen's commitment and dedication. He was a dedicated and engaged board member who was always eager to learn about the electric industry and offer valuable insights.

Orie and his wife, Linda, will always be considered part of the Perennial family. The district's directors and employees extend their heartfelt thanks to Orie for his many years of service and leadership, and wish him and Linda all the best in the future.

Grant Schmidt Joins Perennial Board

Grant Schmidt of Henderson took the Oath of Office as a new board member at Perennial Public Power District's January board meeting.

Schmidt represents Subdivision One, which includes the majority of York County, along with portions of Hamilton and Seward Counties.

Grant was raised in Henderson and currently resides on a farm East of Henderson with his wife Jami along with their two children, Austin and Taylor. Austin is a senior at Heartland High School, while Taylor is in the 6th

grade. Schmidt enjoys serving his community by serving on numerous community and church boards. Grant stated, "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve my community by representing them on the Perennial board. I look forward to being part of the process of keeping our electrical service reliable and affordable while getting to know about a new industry and building new relationships."

In Schmidt's free time, he enjoys golfing, exercising, as well as spending time with family and friends.



Jami and Grant Schmidt

PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Obermier

Board Member



10
YEARS

A lot has changed since January 20, 2015, when Jeff Obermier attended his first board meeting, while at the same time, a lot of things have stayed the same. Perennial has continued to use technology to keep up with changes in the industry, and Nebraska has been ranked one of the best states for grid reliability (thanks to being the only

all public power state). All of these circumstances are thanks to the Board; the Board establishes Perennial's rates and District policies.

Jeff grew up on a farm southeast of Waco that was homesteaded in 1885 by his great grandfather. In 1987 he graduated from Centennial Public High School and headed to Southeast Community College to study Ag Business Management, he graduated from Southeast in 1989. Currently, Obermier lives with his wife, Danik, on the same family farm where he grew up.

Jeff and Danik have two children, their daughter McKenna lives in Utica with her husband, Keaton Kucera along with their two daughters, Rowyn and Raegan.

Their son, Brayden lives in Utica with his wife Lauren.

Along with his commitments to Perennial and his family, he is also a council member at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waco and he volunteers for various projects. Jeff enjoys golfing, and hunting, along with spending time with family, in the free time he has from farming and his commitments.

During his ten years on the Board, Obermier said his favorite part of the job is "Working with the management and staff to ensure reliable and affordable electric service for everyone in the district, now and for the future." If you run into Jeff, be sure to thank him for his service to the community!

Jared Hain promoted

In January, Jared Hain was promoted to Manager of Finance and Accounting at Perennial Public Power District.

Hain began working for the District on November 15, 2021 as a financial accountant. With this current promotion Jared will be responsible for developing financial plans and strategies on behalf of the District. He will also establish and direct the accounting for district financials, ensuring accurate and compliant financial management.

Hain attended high school at Aquinas Catholic in David City, Nebraska. After graduating, he went on to receive a Bachelor's in Finance from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jared lives in York with his wife Elizabeth, they have two daughters, Layna and Brynn. In his free time, he enjoys following the Huskers, golfing, and spending time with his family. Congratulations Jared!



Jared, Elizabeth, Layna and Brynn Hain

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Never make a utility bill payment to anyone calling you on the phone, coming to your door (unless that is a verified bill payment method used by your utility company), texting you or emailing you. Always call your utility company at the number provided on your bill or on the utility's website if you have a question about payment or billing information. Know your utility bill payment options—online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



SPRING FORWARD

Daylight Savings Time Starts Sunday, March 9, 2025!
Don't Forget To Turn Your Clocks Forward One Hour!

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

3 out of 5 home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms (38%) or no working smoke alarms (21%).



Energy Efficient Office Space

If you have a home office, look for opportunities to save energy in your workspace. Use ENERGY STAR®-rated equipment, which consumes up to 50% less energy than standard models. Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save energy in your home office is to use efficient lamps for task lighting. Replace any older bulbs with energy-saving LEDs.



Source: energystar.gov.