Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Vol.26
No.3
June 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL™
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

PerennialNEWS
CONNECTIONS

Brandon Lehman
General Manager

Rate Increases Coming in October

Early last year Perennial hired a rate consultant to provide a cost-of-service study and a rate design to ensure cost-correct rates for our customers. Utility Financial Solutions (UFS) worked closely with management analyzing several metrics including financial data, revenue details, historic billings, system asset inventories, load data, and other records. After UFS completed the cost-of-service and rate design, the Perennial Board of Directors and management reviewed the findings and the board voted to make the rates effective, October 1st of this year.

Here is a QR code to the Understanding your rates 2025

What's In the Cost to Serve You?

There are three major components required to deliver power to your service every day of the year and at any given moment. Let's start at the beginning with generation and transmission.

Wholesale power costs can be divided into two components, generation and transmission. The cost for generation, or the production of electricity includes fuel cost, maintenance of generators, and investments in power plants whether maintaining Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland, renewing a nuclear license for Cooper Nuclear Station, or building new generation near Sheldon Station. The other component we can't neglect is transmission costs. Transmission costs are also recovered through Perennial's monthly wholesale bill and cover the costs of building and maintaining transmission lines. These lines deliver energy from the generators to transmission substations. Generation and transmission costs account for approximately 70 percent of your monthly electricity bill.

These costs are shared among the wholesale customers of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and NPPD's retail customers. We expect *substantial rate increases* in Perennial's wholesale power bill in the next two to three years driven by generation additions and transmission improvements. This summer NPPD will publish their rate outlook with the generation, transmission and auxiliary costs. With these rate changes we will review our financial projections and adjust rates to cover costs.

The third and final component is distribution costs, which make up the remaining 30 percent of your power bill. These are the costs associated with the Perennial sub-transmission lines, distribution substations, distribution power lines, trucks, operation

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On Our Cover:

Perennial and Mutual aid crews work into the evening to repair storm damage.
Photo courtesy of Keith Hoffman.

Perennial News **(USPS 21610) is published bimonthly by:**
Perennial Public Power District
2122 South Lincoln Avenue
York, NE 68467
Phone: (402) 362-3355
www.perennialpower.com
email: perennial@perennialpower.com
Subscription Rates: $1.00 per issue
Periodical postage paid at York, NE.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Perennial News
2122 South Lincoln Avenue
York, NE 68467

Understanding Demand

Demand represents the rate at which energy is consumed. Effective October 2025, a new line will be added to your bill labeled "demand." While our irrigation and some commercial customers have been familiar with demand charges, residential customers need to understand demand. You might have heard us talk about the "demand response program" and the importance of load management when talking about irrigation. But what exactly is "demand" when it comes to electricity?

Simply put, demand is like a speedometer.

- Get in the driver's seat of your car for a moment. Energy (kWh) would be what is recorded on your car's odometer – a measurement of total miles. Demand (kW) is like your speedometer – measuring the speed at which the energy flows.
- The demand reading is like the highest recorded "miles-per-hour" speed for that month.

Think of the electrical grid like a freeway.

- It has to be built to accommodate the largest amount of traffic it could see at one time, even if there are only a few cars using it most of the time. During "high-traffic" or high-demand times, energy is more expensive.
- By spreading out your electricity use throughout the day and evenings, you can help the District save on high-demand charges. Those savings keep rates lower and ensure a more reliable and balanced grid for everyone.

Why add a demand charge?

A cost-of-service study showed that we need to better match the cost of peak usage with peak power costs on the grid. The largest component of Perennial's wholesale power bill is the demand charge. The addition of a demand charge reflects the way your district pays for wholesale power. A demand charge accounts for these higher grid costs during times of peak demand, and this change will better align customer rates with wholesale power costs.

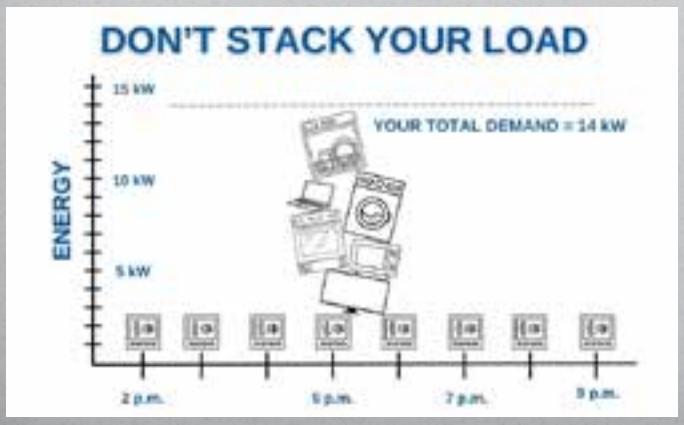
What is the demand, and how am I charged?

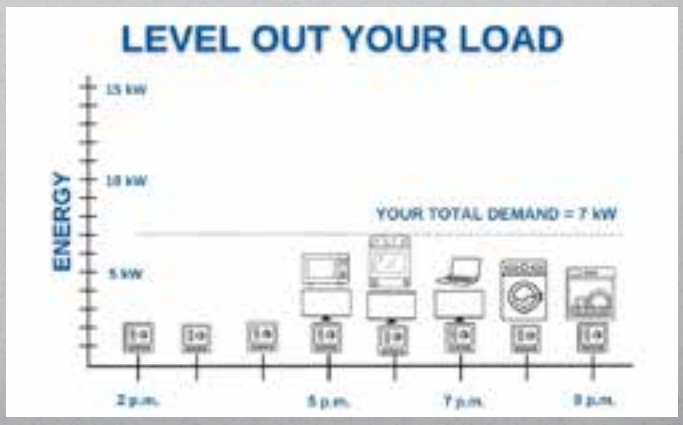
The demand amount charged on your bill will be the highest demand recorded for your service during the billing month.

Demand, measured in kilowatts (kW), is the rate at which power is consumed. 1 kW is equivalent to 1,000 watts. Energy, on the other hand, is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) and represents the total amount of electricity consumed over the billing period.

How can I reduce my demand?

Spread out using major appliances across separate 15-minute periods throughout the day. Major electrical appliances that may contribute to high demand costs include the air conditioner, clothes dryer, water heater, electric range, oven, and electric vehicle charging.





WINTER STORM NYLA BRINGS

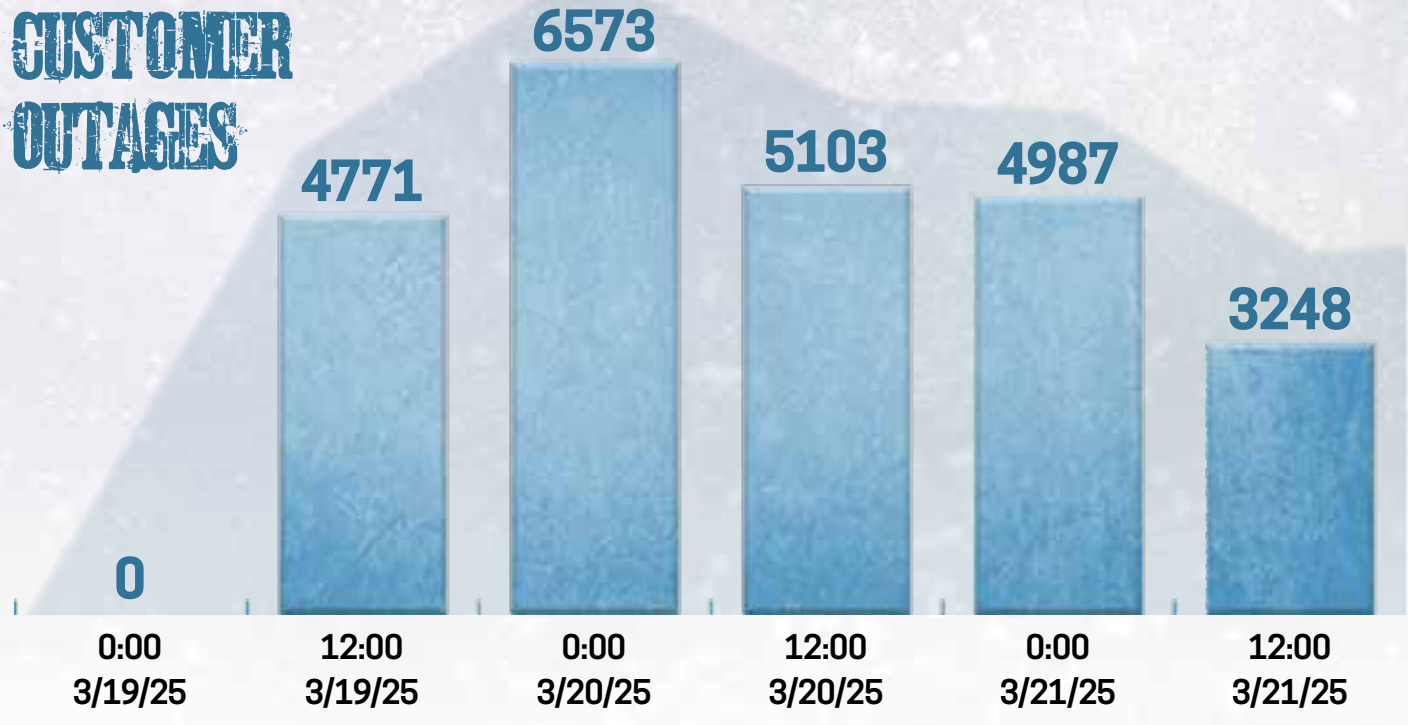
March Madness of a Different Kind: Snow, Ice, and Wind

During the early hours of March 19, 2025, a powerful storm, named Winter Storm Nyla by the Weather Channel, moved into central Nebraska, bringing blizzard conditions and widespread damage to Perennial's service area. Heavy, wet snow with high winds caused near-zero visibility, which resulted in widespread power outages in central Nebraska. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, all precipitation types (rain, hail, sleet, and snow) were observed. Within the first 12 hours, rain and hail transitioned to graupel, tiny snowballs, then changed to heavy, wet snow. Snowfall amounts of 5 to 12 inches were common in York and Fillmore counties. The combination of heavy, wet snow and strong winds led to widespread power outages, affecting thousands of residents. Interstate 80 was closed for a time due to the treacherous conditions, and many roads were also impassable. Crews were stranded while attempting to restore power. High winds downed trees, power lines, and even snapped utility poles, contributing to the power outages and property damage.

Damaged Sub-T line from the March 19th blizzard. *Photo credit Rick Gerken*

Storm Damage

At one point during the storm, Perennial had outages that accounted for 98 percent of our service territory. During the storm, crews worked alongside customers with heavy equipment and county maintenance operators in an attempt to restore power to urban and rural customers. Perennial customers were faced with the challenges of no electricity, impacting their essential needs.



WINTER BACK TO NEBRASKA

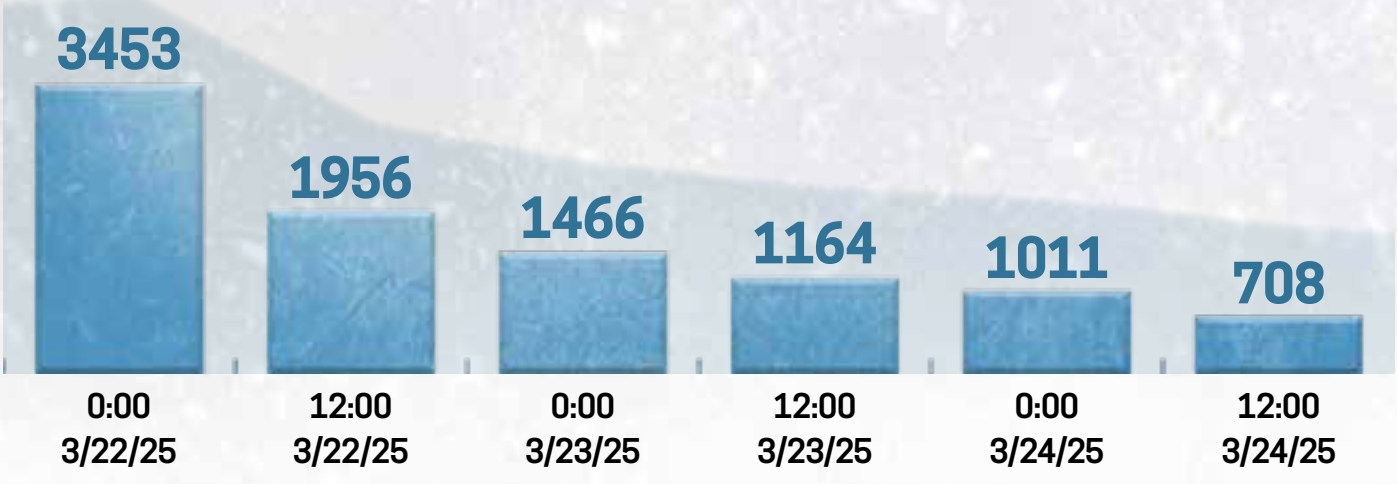
Mutual aid crews arrive at Perennial headquarters. Preparations are made to begin repairs.

As the winds subsided, crews worked to begin assessing the devastation of miles and miles of wire, poles, and transformers on the ground. Perennial's Operations Department reached out to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA), our statewide association, to begin finding out the availability of mutual aid crews from other public power districts across the state. NREA needed to know what equipment, material, and manpower would be required to restore power to the District.

As the sun rose on March 20, 2025, approximately 48 percent of Perennial's residential customers were still without power. Perennial crews loaded up to begin another day of power restoration. Mutual aid crews from Wheat Belt Public Power District from Sidney, NE and High West Energy Cooperative, headquartered in Wyoming were enroute to York. The following day, March 21, 2025, more mutual aid crews arrived from Midwest Electric Cooperative Corporation located in Grant, NE.

Mutual aid trucks lined up outside of Perennial headquarters

As the days continued into the weekend and the following week additional mutual aid crews from Southern Public Power District based out of Grand Island, NE; Elkhorn Rural Public Power District from Battle Creek, NE; and Polk



WINTER STORM NYLA

Poles being unloaded in Perennial's pole yard. Over 1,000 poles were replaced in a 30 day period.

Jared Hain, Shelly Parker, and Evie Barrett pack up lunches for crews.

Crews eating breakfast and preparing for another day on the line.

Crews gathering supplies and loading trucks for another day of restoration.

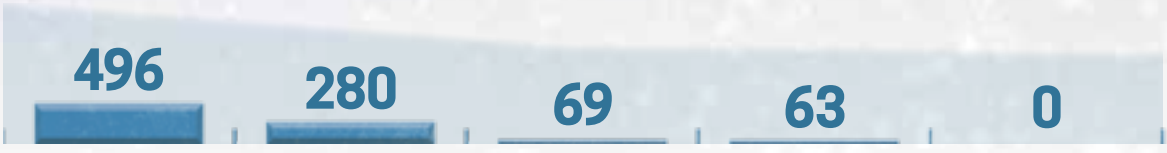
County Rural Public Power District from Stromsburg, NE arrived to assist with the restoration efforts. On a normal day, Perennial has 16 line workers, at one point, there were 46 linemen working to restore power in Perennial's service area.

Loads of poles and other material began to arrive to keep the crews supplied with the materials needed to rebuild services. Crews continued to repair the infrastructure, while towns and villages were restored fairly quickly, some rural areas took longer which can make the progress appear slower. Perennial and mutual aid crews worked hard to get power restored to every residential service. Routine jobs that were not storm related were pushed back due to rebuilding non-residential services such as irrigation services. Everyone worked as a team with one goal, safely restore power.

Most days began with crews being fed breakfast at Perennial's office, taking a sack lunch and snacks and then an evening meal would be delivered to the crews in the field by office employees, board members and customers. Many customers brought snacks into the office or even delivered them to crews in the field.

Perennial support staff worked diligently to update job requirements daily for the crews, this involved

Tom Hansen, Keith Hoffman, and Luke Gruber discuss work for the day on Perennial maps.



Brandon Lehman, Jeff Burk, and Steve Gerken prepare for a day of restoration.

Wheat Belt crews making repairs.

Southern Public Power District and Perennial Public Power District crews frame a pole.

coordinating job locations, materials needed, meals and lodging for mutual aid crews. Over 1,000 poles were replaced throughout the District in approximately 30 days. For comparison, last year we replaced approximately 500 poles total. The March 19th blizzard was the most destructive weather event in Perennial's service area since the March 29, 1976, blizzard. Outage response technology played a crucial role in the restoration process, the use of geographical information system tracking and advance metering infrastructure technology helped pinpoint outages with greater accuracy and helped increase efficiency. Steve Gerken, Manager of Operations, stated, "The modern advancements helped the line workers stay aware of the current line feeds and where other crews were working to keep everyone safe."

This blizzard brought many challenges to the customers of Perennial Public Power District. We could not have restored power as quickly as we did without the help of our customers, lending a helping hand to open roads for crews, patrol line, or to deliver meals to crews. This was neighbors helping neighbors, and the foundation in which public power is built on. We are incredibly grateful to everyone that played a role in restoring power after the March 19th blizzard. Thank you for your kind words, continued support, patience and understanding during the restoration process.

Restoring Hope, One Line at a Time — Thank You, Mutual Aid Crews

Backyard safety

Stay safe this summer: Backyard electrical safety

As the weather warms and you spend more time outdoors, it's essential to prioritize electrical safety. Hidden hazards can pose serious risks.

Here are some critical safety tips to keep your loved ones safe in your backyard.

Stay away from power lines

Overhead power lines can be closer than they appear. Teach children never to climb trees near power lines, and never to fly kites, drones, remote-controlled toys, or balloons in areas where lines are present. If you see a downed power line, stay at least 50 feet away and report it to your local utility company immediately.

Trampoline safety

If you're considering an above-ground trampoline, remember to look up for power lines. Children jumping high into the air could come dangerously close to overhead electric lines, which pose a serious risk of shock or electrocution.

Thinking about installing an in-ground trampoline instead? Before you dig, call 811 to have underground utility lines marked. Digging without knowing the location of buried electrical, gas, or water lines can result in dangerous utility strikes. This simple step can prevent accidents, service interruptions, and costly repairs.

Water safety

Water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Keep these tips in mind to prevent electrical hazards and create a safe space for swimming, soaking, and outdoor fun.

Ensure pool lights, filters, and outdoor outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection and inspect them regularly. GFCIs are designed to quickly shut off electrical power if they detect even a small change in electrical current.

If you notice flickering lights or feel a tingling sensation in the water, exit immediately and contact a professional. Faulty wiring can cause electric shock drowning.

Avoid using plug-in devices, like radios, speakers, or chargers, near water. Opt for battery-operated, waterproof devices to reduce the risk of shock.

Know what to do in case of an electrical emergency. If someone is shocked, do not enter the water. Turn off the power source, call 911, and use a non-conductive tool, like a fiberglass pool pole, to assist.

If it starts to rain, unplug electrical equipment, such as string lights, radios, speakers or power tools. Teach children not to touch electrical appliances with wet hands.

Outdoor sports

Sports and play areas are a haven for children, but they can also contain hidden electrical hazards. Here's how to protect your loved ones:

- Ensure swings and other tall play structures are far from overhead power lines.
- If you have outdoor lighting for night games, ensure the fixtures are weatherproof and properly installed. Have a professional check for frayed wires or loose connections.
- If kids are playing with a ball and it goes inside a substation fence, teach them never to touch or climb the fence to attempt to retrieve it or any other item. Instead, call Perennial Public Power District to safely take care of it.
- Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, seek shelter inside.
- Supervise children around electrical equipment
- Children are naturally curious, which is why they should be kept away from outdoor electrical equipment like utility boxes, transformers, and air conditioning units. If you have an outdoor generator, make sure it is stored in a secure, ventilated area that children cannot access, and never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system.
- Avoid DIY electrical work
- If you're planning a backyard upgrade, such as installing landscape lighting, sports lighting, or poolside outlets, leave the electrical work to licensed electricians. DIY electrical projects can pose serious safety risks to you and your family if done incorrectly.

From poolside play to backyard sports, it's important to be aware of electrical hazards and how to avoid them. By following these guidelines, you can create a home oasis that is both fun and safe.

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

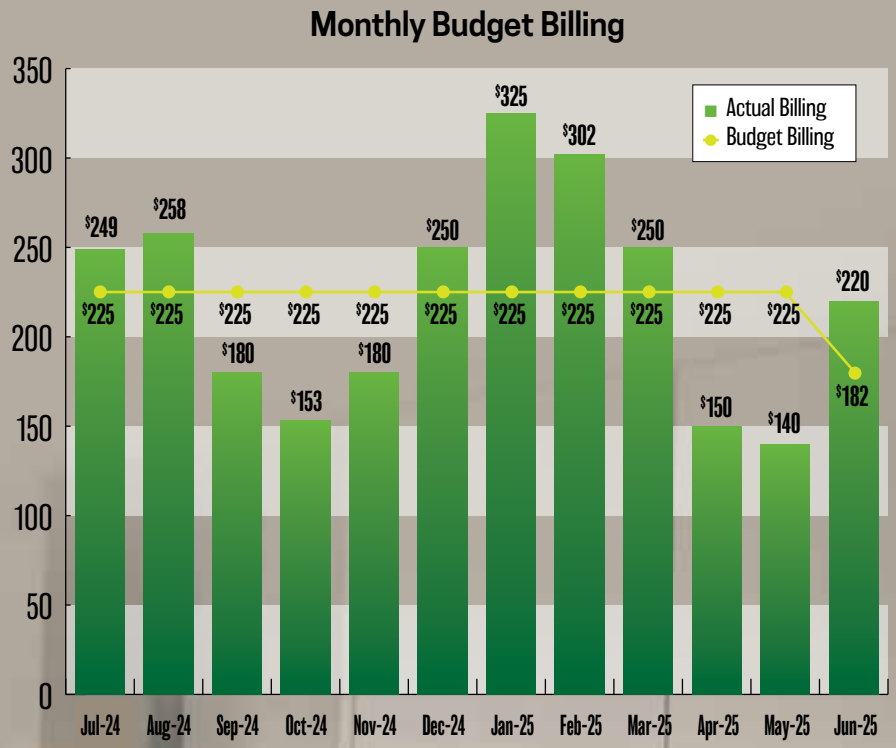
Keep Your Electric Bills on a Budget

Budget billing eliminates dramatic ups and downs in your electric bill due to weather. Residential customers may find their monthly bills vary greatly during the summer and winter months. Perennial's Budget Billing Plan can help you keep your electric bill on a predictable and consistent budget.

With Perennial's Budget Billing Plan, customers will be billed a fixed budget amount for 11 months of the year based on their usage history. The budget settle-up month is June. The settle-up billing will reflect your actual usage less your budget payments for the prior 11 months. Periodically, we review budget accounts and, if necessary, recalculate your monthly budget payment based on your actual usage.

To enroll in budget billing, you must pay your entire account in full and have a usage history greater than twelve months. Budget billing is only available to residential customers.

If you think Budget Billing may be right for you, please contact Perennial's Customer Services Department at 402-362-3355.



Hardworking Summer Help

In May, Perennial welcomed three students to our workforce for the summer. Jackson Snyder will be completing his internship. Emmett Hoffman and Gunner Rumery were both hired as summer help.

Jackson Snyder, Perennial's summer intern.

Jackson graduated from Millard South in 2023 and has been attending Metro Community College for their Utility Line Program. Snyder's parents are Dan and Roxanne Snyder of Omaha. Jackson has two siblings, a brother who lives in Idaho and an older sister who lives in Omaha. Snyder enjoys camping and playing sports. When asked what he is looking forward to about working for Perennial this summer, Jackson said, "I am excited to learn through real-world experiences and grow my name in the industry."

Emmett Hoffman, Perennial's summer help.

Emmett is a 2025 graduate from York High School, he plans to attend Northeast Community College in the fall for the Utility Line Program. Hoffman is the son of Charles and Lisa Hoffman of York. Emmett has two younger siblings, a brother and a sister, who both still live at home with his parents. Hoffman enjoys working out, running, fishing, and golfing. Emmett also helps set up and run the York County Fair. When asked what he is looking forward to about working for Perennial this summer, Hoffman said, "I am looking forward to learning lots about line work, getting to know new people, and getting hands-on experience.

Gunner Rumery, Perennial's summer help.

Gunner will be a 2026 graduate of York High School, he also plans to attend Northeast Community College after he graduates from high school. Gunner is the son of Jim and Lynn Rumery of York. Gunner has two older sisters, Morgan and Shelby. Gunner enjoys hunting and trap shooting. When asked what he is looking forward to about working for Perennial this summer, Gunner stated, "I am looking forward to learning about the skills of the trade."

Perennial employees are looking forward to helping all three learn about the industry and prepare for joining the utility world. Please help us welcome all three to the area for the summer.

Rate Increases continued from pg. 2

overheads and the employees that keep all 7,800 meters energized and serving our customers.

In the last 7 years Perennial has seen transformer costs increase 140 percent, poles have increased 76 percent, and total operations costs have increased 37 percent. As you might have expected, inflation has been the main driver of these increases.

How Do these Costs Change My Electric Bill?

Rates can only follow the costs to keep your power reliable. The combined average rate increase for Perennial customers this October will be 4.9 percent, residential rates will range from a 5 to 9.5 percent increase and the highest increase of 15.1 percent is required for irrigation re-use pump services. Your percent increase will depend on the amount of energy consumed and your peak demand each month.

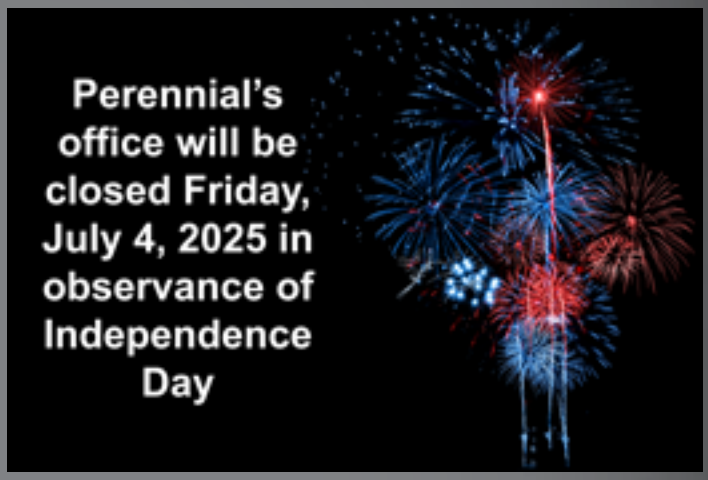
Why is There a Charge for Demand?

As our electric grid evolves and the need for electric power increases it is necessary to consider the demand required to serve each customer. Demand is a measurement of power and is commonly expressed as a kilowatt (kW), and equal to 1.3 horsepower. The peak demand is the highest average demand for one 15-minute interval during the billing period. When you receive your residential, general service, or commercial electric bill for the month of October you will see an additional line showing a demand charge of $0.50 per kW. So, if your peak demand was 11 kW then you would pay $5.50 for the demand charge that month. Demand charges are a more accurate way to assess costs related to wholesale power supply and it also reduces subsidizing other types of services.

Increasing rates to cover costs helps us serve you. Through the recent spring blizzard, or hot summer weather, remember that we're committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to your homes and businesses.

Calendar of Events

June 13-15	Milligan June Jubilee
June 13-15	Ohiowa Days
June 27-28	Waco Days
July 4	Perennial Office Closed In observance of Independence Day
July 17-21	Fillmore County Fair
July 11-13	Henderson Community Days
July 25-27	Exeter Days
July 31-August 3	York County Fair



ENERGY SAVING TIP

Fire Up the Grill and Cut Down Your Power Bill

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov