

Perennial NEWS

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PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Blown Over

Severe storm in April caused major damage.

Be Safe This Summer

If you go to the pool keep safety in mind.

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Unimaginable Experiences for 44 Years

What an amazing experience my 44-year career has been working for the public power system of Nebraska. In 1977, as I was working in an auto body repair shop in Mitchell, SD, at what I thought would be my lifelong career, I heard about power line work and decided that this would be a very rewarding career. I never could have imagined the events I would experience and the many acquaintances I would meet over the next four decades. In 1978, after graduating from the Utility Line Program in Mitchell, SD, I was hired on as an Apprentice Lineman for Dawson Public Power District (PPD) out of Lexington, NE.

During my first six years at Dawson PPD, I worked out of the Kearney maintenance outpost. While living in Kearney, I married my high school sweetheart, Gayle. This union brought us three children, Jessica, Jennifer, and Kristi. In 1984 I moved to Dawson's main office in Lexington and worked on a construction crew and then as an Apparatus Technician. My career at Dawson PPD gave me a broad knowledge of doing line work and the operation of many different pieces of equipment.

In 1996, events in my life took me to York, NE, to start a career at York County Rural Public Power District, or as we know it today, Perennial PPD. My experiences at Perennial were second to none. I was given a chance to learn a completely different side of the public

power business. My career at Perennial started as the Operations Coordinator. This position required visiting with customers about new services and changes they would like to make to existing services. I worked with the staking technician to get jobs designed and ready for the crews to build. I was also in charge of the load management system for many years. I advanced my career to Assistant Operations

Manager where I scheduled work for the line crews. Some of my other duties were helping write the design specifications for equipment and scheduling the needed repairs for our fleet of equipment.

Later, I was promoted to my current position as the Manager of Operations. During my career I have enjoyed meeting people from many other power

districts throughout Nebraska and around the country. Customer service has always been a major priority for me in my career. I enjoyed being part of the goal to build, rebuild, and improve the strength of the infrastructure for Perennial's customers.

My retirement will be filled with many hours of family events. Our family continues to grow as we now have 7 grandchildren. Not only do Gayle and I plan to be involved in as many family activities as we can, but we will enjoy taking vacations with no time restraints. I would like to thank all the co-workers, customers, and vendors I have worked with during my career.



Randy Martin

Manager of
Operations



Randy sits with his wife, Gayle, and their seven grandchildren. They are looking forward to spending more time with them once Randy is retired.

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On Our Cover:

Perennial Public Power District crews repair electric lines damaged by recent storms on a closed road.
Photo by Mike Haumont.

Steve Gerken Promoted

Perennial Public Power District announces that Steve Gerken has been promoted to Assistant Manager of Operations. Upon the retirement of Randy Martin, Gerken will be promoted to Manager of Operations. As Manager of Operations, he will be responsible for the substations, power lines, new or change service inquiries, vehicles, and outages. Additionally, line technicians, the safety coordinator, and the general foreman report to the Manager of Operations.

Steve began employment with Perennial as an Apprentice Line

Technician in December of 2005. In the sixteen years, Gerken has been employed at Perennial; he has advanced from Apprentice Line Technician to Journeyman Line Technician, then a Lead Line Technician. In 2016 he was promoted to Operations Coordinator and now promoted to his current position of Assistant Manager of Operations.

Steve resides in McCool Junction with his wife Susan along with their four children, Madison, Payton, Braxton, and Dawson. Gerken is involved with the McCool Junction community



Steve enjoys vacation with his family - Braxton, Dawson, Susan, Payton, and Madison.

by serving as the Vice President of the McCool Junction School Board. After work, he spends his time camping, fishing, and watching his children's activities.

Luke Gruber Promoted to Operations Coordinator

Luke Gruber has been promoted to Operations Coordinator at Perennial Public Power District.

Gruber began working for the District on December 5, 2015 as an apprentice lineman. With this promotion, Gruber will be responsible for planning and organizing all district Operations Department activities associated with providing for the

construction and maintenance of distribution, transmission along with substation facilities. He will also be responsible for safety activities in the District.

Luke and his fiancé, Allison Brooke, live in York, Nebraska. In his free time Gruber enjoys long range shooting and jeeping. Congratulations Luke!



Luke Gruber with his fiancé, Allison.



Kandi Gaspar with her daughter, Myrah, husband, David and son, Graidan.
Photo by Megan O'Hare Photography

Kandi Gaspar hired as Billing Specialist

Kandi Gaspar was hired on April 11, 2022, as the Billing Specialist. Kandi will be responsible for customer billing and customer service.

Kandi resides in York with her husband David, as well as their two children Myrah, and Graidan. In her free time,

she enjoys traveling with her family, watching her daughter play volleyball. Additionally, she enjoys watching her daughter at dance team competitions and spending time with family and friends. Please help us welcome Kandi to Perennial.

Looking back at A

While most of April was rather windy, the storm that hit the District at the end of April caused widespread damage in our territory. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Hastings, in Fillmore County there were consistent straight-line winds of 70-85 miles per hour (mph), with pockets

of 90 plus mph wind gusts. York County had lesser wind speeds, with consistent wind speeds at 58 mph and pockets of wind gusts in excess of 60 mph. While there were no tornadoes officially confirmed in either county, the possibility of a brief tornado still exists.

The April 29, 2022 storm affected 5,280 of the District's meters, with approximately 100 broken poles and left nine substations without power. Perennial was able to get assistance to restore power to the territory from three neighboring public power districts; Butler Public Power District, Polk County Rural Public Power District, and South Central Public Power District. With such widespread damage, some customers were without power for over forty-eight hours. Power was retored to the few remaining residential customers without power by Monday morning, May 2, 2022. Even though all of the residential customers were back on by



Outage Management System (OMS) showing outages. On the map, the green dots are the location of substations, and the pink lines are the outages.

Monday morning, there were several wells and grain bins that were still out of power. Repairing the infrastructure took some time since there was extensive damage caused by the storm.

This storm damage created several safety risks which needed to be addressed after the storm. With so many downed power lines, Perennial and Fillmore County Emergency Services needed to make sure they could ensure the safety of everyone the



Broken utility poles dotted the landscape throughout the district as high winds tore through the area.

risks could affect. Fillmore County Department of Roads along with Fillmore County Emergency Services closed roads with downed lines over them so people could not drive over the lines and endanger themselves. Perennial needed to redirect the power, so the lines were no longer carrying electricity.

Restoring power after this storm involved several steps. First our line crews had to assess the damage the storm had caused. Next, they had to address the safety risks and be sure to ensure the safety

of anyone who could possibly come in contact with the lines. After that, line crews start to repair high-voltage transmission lines so the substations can deliver power and the rest of the system can operate correctly. The next step was to inspect all of the substations that could have been damaged in the storm. By inspecting the substation, crews can determine if the problem lies within the substation or if there is a problem further down the lines. If there are no problems with the substation, crews



Butler PPD crews assist with storm restoration.

need to patrol the main distribution lines. These lines carry power to large groups of customers in communities or homes. Once they have fixed the main distribution lines, they start fixing supply lines (also known as tap lines). Supply lines

pril's major storm

deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service. These transformers are usually located outside of businesses, schools, and homes. Finally, if there are still locations without power, Perennial line crews will look for damage along the service lines. These service lines are the lines between a transformer and the meter.

Perennial would like to thank customers for their patience during the restoration process. As always, Perennial is ready to respond to summer outages no matter what the cause. We'd like to remind everyone to remember after a storm, limbs and debris may hide an electrical hazard. Treat all downed power lines as if they are energized and report them to Perennial at 402-362-3355 or toll-free at 1-800-289-0288.



Perennial crews worked quickly to restore power to the 5,280 members that were affected by the storm.

Photo by Anita Haumont.

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of customers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

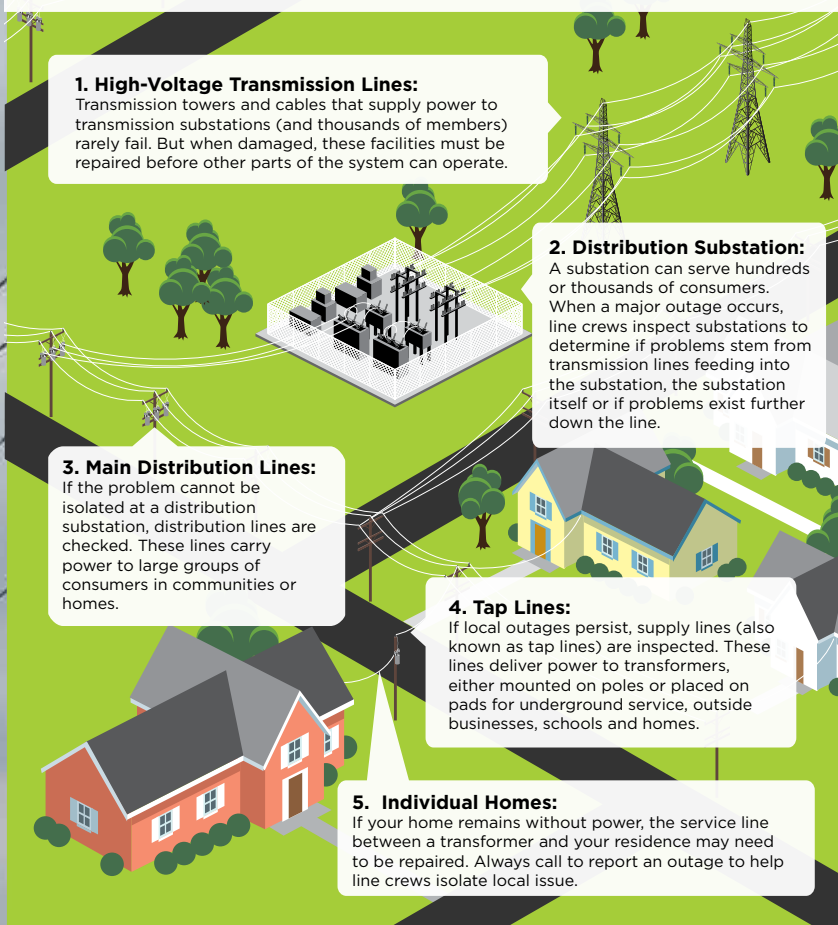
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or homes.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.



P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Shayde Linabery

Journeyman Line Technician



15
YEARS

Shayde Linabery celebrated fifteen years of employment at Perennial in May. Linabery, a graduate of Northeast Community College with a degree in Utility Line, was hired by Perennial in 2007 as an apprentice

line technician. Apprentices must complete Perennial's apprentice line program and perform satisfactorily in the field for several years before they can advance to a journeyman line technician. Today, Shayde serves Perennial as a journeyman line technician.

When asked about his favorite part of working as a Journeyman, Linabery stated "I enjoy restoring power after storms." His love for the job is a must as line crews work outside in all sorts of weather, all hours of the day or night, as necessary to restore power

for our customers. Line crews also rely on each other to get the job done as safely and quickly as possible.

Shayde resides in rural McCool Junction with his wife Katie along with their children Hudson, Pieper, and Leo. After work, Linabery enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family outdoors. Perennial is privileged to have employees like Shayde who take pride in maintaining a safe and reliable infrastructure. Shayde, we'd like to thank you for fifteen years of dedicated service.

Joshua Strope

Lead Line Technician



15
YEARS

In May Joshua (Josh) Strope celebrated fifteen years of employment at Perennial. Strope, a graduate of Northeast Community

College with a degree in Utility Line, was hired by Perennial in 2007 as an apprentice line technician. Strope was promoted to a Journeyman Line Technician, then in 2016 he was promoted again to a Lead Line Technician. Today, Strope continues to serve Perennial as a Lead Line Technician.

When asked about his favorite part of working as a Lead Line Technician, Josh stated "I enjoy working outside every day and chasing outages." His love for the job is a must as line crews work outside in all sorts of weather, all hours of the day or night, as necessary

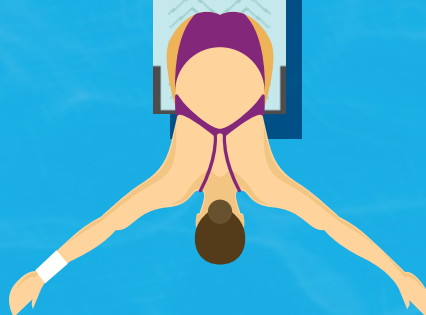
to restore power for our customers. As part of the line crew, Strope relies on his coworkers to work safely and efficiently.

Strope resides in McCool Junction with his wife Brandy along with their children Mason, Jaxon, and Cambree. After work, Strope enjoys hunting, camping, boating, and spending time with his family. Perennial is privileged to have employees like Josh who take pride in maintaining a safe and reliable infrastructure. Josh, we'd like to thank you for fifteen years of dedicated service.

BEFORE JUMPING IN

Know These 6 Pool Safety Tips

Keep these electrical safety tips in mind before and during swimming season. These safety tips also apply to hot tubs.



Keep anything that is plugged in at least 5 feet from the pool. The farther, the better.

Have a licensed contractor inspect the pool/hot tub wiring to ensure it meets code requirements.



Know where electrical switches and circuit breakers are and how to operate them.

Keep pool skimmers and other far-reaching tools more than 10 feet away from overhead power lines.



Make sure all outdoor outlets are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected. Test them once a month.

Do not touch electrical devices when you are wet or in contact with wet surfaces.



Calendar of Events

June 10-12 Milligan June Jubilee

June 17-19 Ohioa Days

June 24-26 Waco Days

July 4 Perennial Office Closed
in Observance
of Independence Day

July 8-10 Henderson Community Days

July 6-12 Fillmore County Fair

August 4-7 York County Fair



Perennial's office will be closed
Monday, July 4, 2022 in observance of
Independence Day.
Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!



Now is the Time for a Home Cooling Tune-up

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save. If it has been a few years since you had your home's heating and cooling system tuned up, now is the time to have your heating and cooling contractor inspect, service, and clean it. Typically, tune-ups on cooling systems that have been neglected for a few years can provide energy savings of 5-15 percent or more. Perennial offers a \$30 EnergyWiseSM incentive to homeowners who have their cooling system tuned up, regardless of the type or age of cooling system. Contact Perennial at 402-362-3355 or perennial@perennialpower.com for more information.