

Perennial NEWS

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Why Public Power?

Public power utilities across the country celebrate Public Power Week the first full week of October every year. A question that may come to mind is why celebrate it? What's so special about public power? Low rates, high reliability, customer responsiveness, community focus, and economic development are all excellent attributes. But from my perspective, there are two main reasons to celebrate public power. One is local control and the other, somewhat related, is public power's not-for-profit status.

Our Board of Directors is comprised of locally elected customers from York and Fillmore counties, that have deep roots in our communities. This means they know you and that they can be trusted to make decisions that are in your best interest and not that of some far-away investors. Moreover, it means that you are included in the decision-making process. Open public meetings allow you to voice any concerns that you may have about the service that we provide. As customers that receive the same service, our directors understand these concerns and make determinations based upon the benefit of

all customers. At the same time, they know that they are accountable to you. We take pride in this governance structure.

Public power utilities are not-for-profit entities that provide electricity at the lowest possible rates. Nationwide, homes and businesses that are powered by public power utilities pay nearly fifteen percent less than those powered by private utilities. That makes sense, right? Whereas private utilities focus on producing profits for people that own its stock, public power utilities provide service at cost. At the end of the year, after all revenues have been collected and all expenses have been paid, any funds left over are reinvested in improvements to the electric system.

As long as we remain a democratic organization controlled by customers who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions, and as long as we continue to operate under a structure that isn't concentrated on producing large profits, there will be good reasons to celebrate. Join us in celebrating public power!



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

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POWERED LOCALLY

With public power, governance

**BEGINS AT THE
BALLOT BOX**

and is carried out through city
or town councils or utility boards



Business is conducted in the

OPEN

so you know where your power comes from
and how and why decisions
affecting your utility bill are made



UTILITY BOARD MEETING

Hidden Dangers of Auto-steer

Auto-steer has improved efficiencies in the agriculture world in many ways. It has helped farmers not pass over the same section several times with their large

machinery, reducing soil compaction, helping them get the field done faster and fighting farmer fatigue. The hazard of auto-steer is that farmers are almost more distracted in the field than ever before. Statistics show distracted driving is slowly becoming more dangerous than drunk driving, while that statistic seems more related to the road than the field, keep in mind, being distracted in the field can have deadly consequences.

While auto-steer seems to plot everything you need to know and need to see, or think you need to see, in your field, it leaves out a deadly danger, your utility poles, and wires in or near your field. If you are distracted and using auto-steer, you just might be steered into a utility line or catch a pole as you go by, which could energize your equipment and stop your harvest in its tracks.

During harvest always be aware of the location of utility lines and poles. Keep your equipment at least ten feet from

lines at all times in all directions. Inspect the height of your farm equipment to determine clearance. Look up, use care, and use a spotter when moving any

equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines. Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved. Never

attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If you do come in contact with a utility pole or a utility line, stay inside your equipment and call 911, let them know the power is not disconnected so they can contact Perennial and we can come disconnect power. Once we have the power disconnected and it is safe to exit, we will let you know.

If you must exit, only do so if the equipment is on fire, jump from the vehicle without touching the outside of the machine. Land with your feet together, then bunny hop until you are approximately fifty yards away.



Automatic Guidance Systems warn the operator about roadways, but they do not remind you about other hazards such as power poles.

THEN & NOW

It is difficult today to imagine life without electricity and the benefits it brings at the flip of a switch. Living without electricity meant lanterns to light the way and wood stoves to provide a semblance of warmth. The benefits of electric generation in Nebraska began in the late 1800s. Today, it powers the good life in Nebraska!

The Nebraska Legislature granted the state's municipalities the authority to govern local electric and water service in 1885. By 1902, there were only 11 municipal electric plants. By the mid 1920s the total increased to a little under 300, with about 80 percent of those owned by the municipality.

Many smaller communities could not afford their own generators. In many cases, power lines were built out to smaller towns from larger ones, but that left the small towns vulnerable. Storms could leave small towns without power for days. Most farms were still without power. By 1929, approximately 5.8 percent of Nebraska farms had electricity. Farms with electricity were either near a municipality or located by lines that ran between communities.

Actions taken by the state and federal governments during the 1930s would make it possible for electric service to be extended to rural areas. The Enabling Act

for Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation

Districts was enacted in 1933 by the Nebraska Legislature. The

Federal Rural Electrification

Act of 1935 and the

creation of the U.S.

Rural Electrification

Administration (REA)

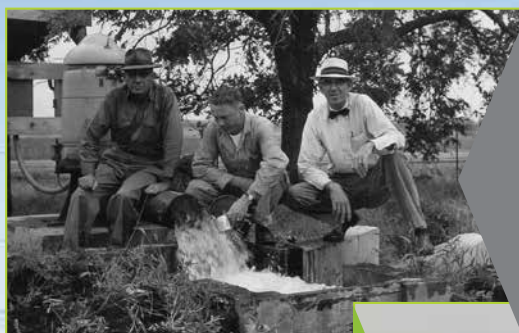
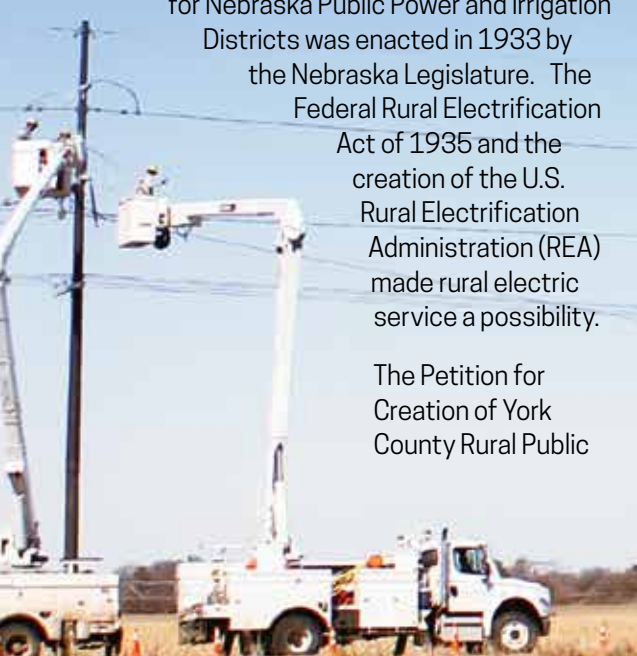
made rural electric service a possibility.

The Petition for Creation of York County Rural Public

Power District (CRPPD) was approved on December 31, 1938. During the first board meeting, on January 4, 1939, by-laws were approved, and a resolution was adopted to borrow funds from the REA for line construction. Engineers and construction companies were hired to build power lines. By September 1939, the District began purchasing power from Seward County Rural Public Power District. On February 6, 1940, York CRPPD announced that 130 miles of line had been constructed and that 120 customers were receiving electricity from the District. On October 2, 1945, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution to add Fillmore County to the District's service area.

During the early years, the work was hard and dangerous. Men set poles and strung wire without the aid of digger-derrick and bucket trucks or any modern equipment. By the early 1950s, 78 percent of Nebraska farms enjoyed the benefits of having electricity supplied by rural public power districts.

By 1955, farmers began irrigating with electric wells. Electricity was starting to become commonplace, and it wasn't just a single bulb hanging in the middle of the room anymore. People had electric appliances in their home; electricity was starting to make everyone's lives easier.



THEN:

One of the first irrigation wells in the York County Rural Public Power District service area, pictured with the well left to right, Richard Stephens, Board Member at the time; Roy Speece; and Paul James, Manager of the District at the time.

NOW:

Irrigation has become a mainstay of modern farming.



Perennial Public Power District Celebrates 80 Years of Providing Electricity to Rural Nebraska



THEN:

1953 York County Rural Public Power District Board of Directors pictured in front of the 1010 Lincoln Avenue office. Back row left to right: Elmer Cocke; N.L. Parsons; Paul James, Manager; Richard Stephens; and John Riddell, Attorney. Front row left to right: C.C. Litchenberger; Curtis Reed; Raymond Samson; and Oscar Nelson.

NOW:

Perennial Board Members from left to right: Jeff Obermier; Mark Becker; Orie Friesen; Dean Due; Cecil Kennel; Steve Wright; and Jamey Pankoke, General Manager.



served by Nebraska Public Power District. To better serve customers, Perennial launched their website.

Today, the district employs 31 employees; the infrastructure has grown to include 2,025 miles of line with approximately 8,000 customers. Crews have bucket and digger-derrick trucks as well as safety gear to make their job safer and more efficient.

Advances in technology have improved efficiencies. The implementation of smart meter technology, online billing, and other services have made doing business with Perennial more convenient.

A lot has changed since the first board meeting in 1939, and there are bound to be more changes in the future, but Perennial looks forward to providing you energy for generations to come.

Change and industry grew throughout the 20th century. As irrigation, grain handling and storage increased on the farm, the need for more electricity increased as well. Many homeowners chose to install electric water heating and space conditioning.

Perennial's peak load, also known as peak demand, was under 10 megawatts (MWs) in 1950. Today, it's over 100 MWs. For example, the peak load of most of the towns served by the District is less than 1.5 MWs. Increasing demand for electricity required the construction of heavier substations, subtransmission and distribution lines. More sophisticated communication and billing technologies were implemented.

York CRPPD changed its name to Perennial Public Power District in 2000 to better reflect the District's mission and service area. Additionally, the District also began providing service to consumers in several communities previously

Please stop by the office during Public Power Week, October 7th – 11th, to help us celebrate our 80th anniversary. There will be prizes, refreshments, the Public-Powered car, and the friendly smiles you've come to know at Perennial.



LOOK OUT FOR UTILITY SCAMS



Scam artists continue to do what they do best, scamming customers. Scam callers are often threatening in nature and often their phone number appears to be coming from Perennial Public Power District. Follow the tips provided to help prevent you and your family and friends from becoming their next victim.

SPOT THE SIGNS!

Perennial, as a business practice, **does not** call to ask customers for a credit card number.



WATCH FOR PAYMENT METHODS

Perennial does not demand payment with a pre-paid card or gift card.



BE WARY OF IMMEDIATE PAYMENTS

Any customer receiving such a call should not attempt to make payment over the phone using a credit or debit card.



RESEARCH & INVESTIGATE

Write down the call back number or consider asking where the caller is located.



REMEMBER TO REPORT!

 **1-800-289-0288**
402-362-3355

Contact law enforcement and let Perennial know about the call.

CONTACT YOUR POWER PROVIDER



If served electrically by a rural public power district or municipality, customers should contact that organization before providing any type of payment.

Cooking Through the Generations
POWERING THE GOOD LIFE

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

FOR 80 YEARS 1939-2019



Celebrate 80 Years of Great Service with Great Food

Present this coupon at the Perennial Office to receive your copy of *Cooking Through the Generations*, Perennial's 80th Anniversary Cookbook.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

***One cookbook per customer.**



Utility Line Scholarship

Perennial Public Power District is offering a \$1,000 per year scholarship to a student planning to enroll in an accredited utility line program. Applicants must reside within Perennial's service area to be eligible.

This scholarship program is aimed at highly-motivated and safety-conscious individuals who want to become a line

technician. Participation in this program offered by Perennial does not guarantee future employment by Perennial.

The application deadline for this scholarship is December 31, 2019. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney VanSkiver at courtneyv@perennialpower.com.





**ATTENTION
HUNTERS!**

NEVER
use
POWER POLES
to support a
tree stand.

Important Dates to Remember

October 7-11, 2019

Public Power Week/Perennial's 80th
Celebration at Perennial's Office

October 27, 2019
3:00 p.m.

Lazy Horse Pumpkin Carving Contest
Lazy Horse Brewing & Winery

November 3, 2019

Daylight Saving Time End

November 11, 2019

Veteran's Day
Perennial's Office Will Be Closed
in Observance of Veteran's Day

November 28-29, 2019

Thanksgiving
Perennial's Office Will Be Closed
in Observance of Thanksgiving



Energy Tip: Prepare Your Home for Winter

Colder weather is on the way! Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42 percent of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill. Source: Energy.gov

Don't forget Perennial has the EnergyWiseSM Residential Attic Insulation Incentive Program. The program offers eligible customers a \$.15/square foot with a maximum incentive amount of \$300 per existing residential dwelling. Call Perennial at 402-362-3355 or 1-800-289-0288 for more information.