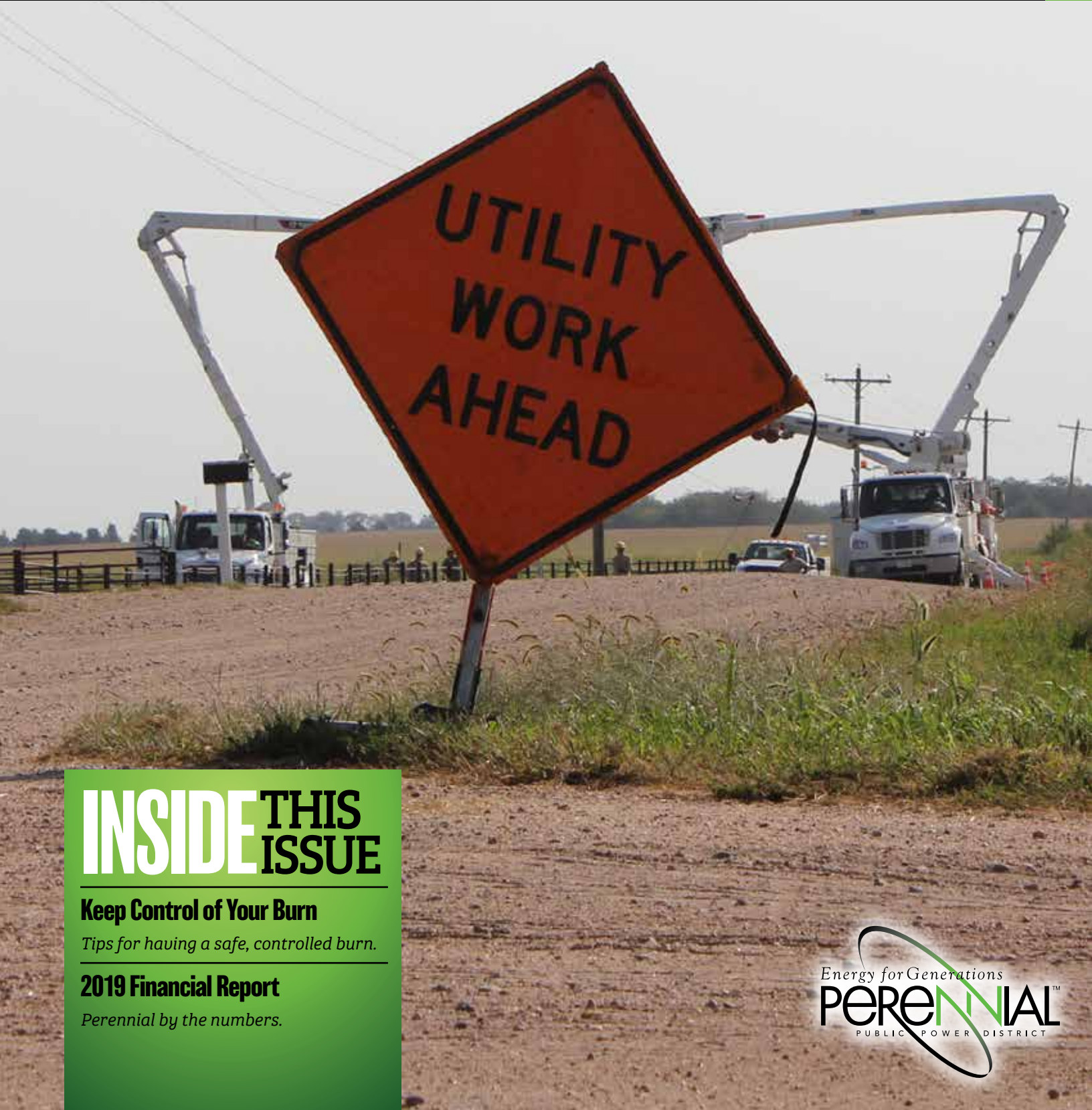


# Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Vol. 21  
No. 1

April 2020



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*Tips for having a safe, controlled burn.*

### 2019 Financial Report

*Perennial by the numbers.*



## Only Pay for What is Needed



**Jamey Pankoke**  
General Manager

Every time I see Liberty Mutual's television commercial about customizing car insurance to only pay for what you need, I'm reminded that a public power district basically works the same way. You only pay for what is needed to cover operating expenses. As a public entity, we don't have stockholders who invest in the company and expect to receive annual dividends.

This means that we don't have profit as a line item in the cost of service studies that we conduct to determine the rate that we use to calculate your bill. Granted, at the end of each year, we have an amount left over after we have met

all of our financial obligations, or at least we hope there is something left, and we aren't in the red. We refer to this remaining amount of cash as Margin and, instead of it being sent off to far-away investors, it is used to replace aging facilities and make upgrades to the electric system.

Our board of directors has provided us with clear financial goals that are defined in a Financial Policy Statement. We review this document from time-to-time to make certain that we are on track in meeting our

financial targets. Of course, one objective is to extend the time between retail rate increases as much as possible, while still maintaining the financial health of the district. And we have been successful at doing this. We have seen a steady rise in equity, now to the tune of about eighty-one percent. We have easily met all the

covenants required by the holders of the revenue bonds that we have issued over the years to raise money to help pay for projects. And largely due to a stable supply of wholesale power, we haven't had a rate increase since January

2013, while at the same time we have added a couple of million dollars of capital improvements to the system each year.

The district is in good shape financially and barring some unforeseen catastrophic event; there is no reason to believe it won't remain that way in the future. Yes, on occasion, there will be a need to raise rates. But rest assured, there will never be a desire to maximize profits. You will only pay for what is needed.

Public power utilities are **not-for-profit**. Meaning they don't have stockholders who invested in the company and are expecting to receive annual dividends. Therefore public power utilities only pay for what is needed to cover operating expenses.



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**www.perennialpower.com**

**email: perennial@perennialpower.com**

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With the start of the new season, it's time again to think about all those to-do list items you put off last fall until the weather improved. This is the perfect time to reflect on your energy efficiency, Perennial offers various energy efficiency incentive programs to help you save money while crossing items off that list. Participation in our 2020 EnergyWise incentive programs will provide opportunities to use less energy, spend less money, and do more!

## Residential Incentives

### Heat Pump Water Heater

Air source heat pump water heaters with an efficiency factor greater than 1.9. .... \$400

Ground source heat pump water heaters with an efficiency factor greater than 2.8. .... \$650

### High Efficiency Heat Pump

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

- 15 - 15.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF ..... \$400
- Ductless Mini-Split 15 + SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF ..... \$400
- Ductless Mini-Split Variable Capacity (inverter driven) ..... \$600
- 16 - 17.9 SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF ..... \$800
- 18+ SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF ..... \$1,200
- Variable Capacity (inverter driven) ..... \$1,200

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

- Any EER ..... \$2,400
- 35+ EER, 5.0+ COP in GLHP-partial load column on AHRI or Energy Star Certificate ..... \$3,300

\* 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

- 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-\$500\*

\* Subject to change depending on grant availability.

## 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.

### Custom Industrial Process

This is a custom 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

Incentives to farmers and ranchers for projects that improve the welfare of their animals and save energy.

- 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.

### Prescriptive Irrigation Program

This incentive will pay up to \$500 for refurbishing all primary outlets on a system. Pivots must be four spans or longer and at least five years must have past since the last time the pivot was refurbished to qualify for this incentive. Irrigator will be required to provide old and new sprinkler charts for verification.

### Custom 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.

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

**Perennial Public Power District**  
**402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288**  
**E-mail: [perennial@perennialpower.com](mailto:perennial@perennialpower.com)**

# Keeping Control of Your Burn

Controlled burns are an effective way to clear brush, debris and weeds, but they can cause costly damage to the electric infrastructure. Accidentally burning a pole could result in a widespread power outage and be expensive for the individual responsible for the fire.



Before landowners begin a controlled burn, they should cut all grass and weeds near power poles to reduce the likelihood of fire damage to poles. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) advises the removal of all dead trees within 20 feet of the blaze. Ideally, property owners should also soak the ground near poles with water. However, they should be careful to keep water streams off power lines.

If a power pole should catch fire, landowners should call 911 and alert Perennial Public Power District immediately to handle any possible electrical dangers. Since water and electricity do not mix, landowners should never spray water on a pole to put out a fire. A pole that catches fire can create electrocution hazards. It can also injure or kill those who happen to be nearby if the pole strikes them while falling.

Even if a pole fire appears to have burned out, landowners still need to alert Perennial Public Power District about the fire

because the preservatives used to treat the pole could still be burning from the inside out.

Before beginning a controlled burn, it is also essential to research laws and regulations. Currently, in Nebraska, there is a statewide burning ban on all bonfires, outdoor rubbish fires, and fires to clear land. The fire chief of the local fire department can waive the open burning ban in the department's jurisdiction when the conditions are acceptable to the chief. The local fire department may charge a fee, not to exceed ten dollars for each permit issued. The permit issued by the fire chief to the person desiring to conduct the open burning will be in writing, signed by the chief on a form provided by the State Fire Marshal.

Keep an eye on weather conditions for the day of your burn since wind conditions and relative humidity both come into play when determining if the controlled burn is safe and truly controllable. The USDA advises having someone with burning experience serve as the fire boss during the burn to coordinate the burn.

For more information on controlled burns, contact the local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service or contact your local fire department.

## Burning Safety Tips

- Always follow local burning regulations and contact authorities before a fire is lit.
- Only burn when the conditions of the burn permit are met.
- Clear grass, weeds, and debris around power poles to reduce fire hazards.
- NEVER USE WATER to put out a power pole that is on fire.
- Call 911 and contact Perennial Public Power District immediately if a power pole starts on fire.



# Show them some love

## April is the month to show support for our lineworkers

It seems that some cause or some group is singled out for special recognition every day of the week. Throw in the occasional awareness week or month, and well, it looks like you could celebrate something every day if it were your prerogative. For example, during April, International Pillow Fight Day, Draw a Picture of a Bird Day, and Scrabble Day, as well as a host of other special days, are observed. We want to draw your attention to some other, not as trivial, April observances.

First, as most of you know, April is when we celebrate and recognize all the dedication and hard work of our lineworkers to provide reliable electric service. Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep electricity flowing to our local communities. Whether maintaining infrastructure critical to our electrical system or restoring power after a major storm, lineworkers are the heart of our public power district. They set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't recognize holidays, vacations, and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker. Perennial is proud to honor the fifteen lineworkers who maintain the 2,033 miles of power lines in our service territory. So, on April 13th, please take the time to thank a lineworker for the vital work they do.

The other two April observations we would like to bring your attention to seem to go hand in hand April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month, while Work Zone Awareness Week is April 20th through April 24th.

There are not enough hours in the day for many people. So, they are often tempted to use their drive time to be productive. They may call their boss or a family member, answer that text message quickly, or reach for an item that fell just out of reach.

Recent research has demonstrated that multitaskers have more trouble tuning out distractions than non-multitaskers. When you are behind the wheel, please focus your attention on driving.

According to the Nebraska Department of Transportation Highway Safety Accident Records Section, in 2018, there were 36,117 crashes on Nebraska roadways involving 59,756 drivers. Out of those crashes, 4,369 of those drivers reported being distracted or inattentive. Locally, York County, had 283 crashes, with seven of them being fatal, making York the fourth highest county for traffic fatalities. In comparison, Fillmore County had 46 crashes, with one of them being fatal. The statistics do not break out contributing circumstances on a county basis.

Statewide work zone crashes rose from the previous year's total of 911 to 2018's total of 948, although the fatalities did go down from eight to three. The most common cause of work zone crashes is rear-end collisions due to speeding or inattentive driving. We would like you to help us keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions, including moving over to give them space, anytime you see the orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone.

Vehicles that speed through a work zone are not only endangering workers on the ground, but driving too fast or not moving over can also put an elevated lineworker in extreme danger.

Lineworkers already have challenging jobs. They must be outdoors and at work on the power lines during extreme weather. When the rest of us are told to stay home or not to go out due to the weather and road conditions. Please do not put yours, your family's, or lineworker's lives at risk when you come upon them while you are driving. Please be alert and aware of workers and equipment along the side of the roads.

### PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.

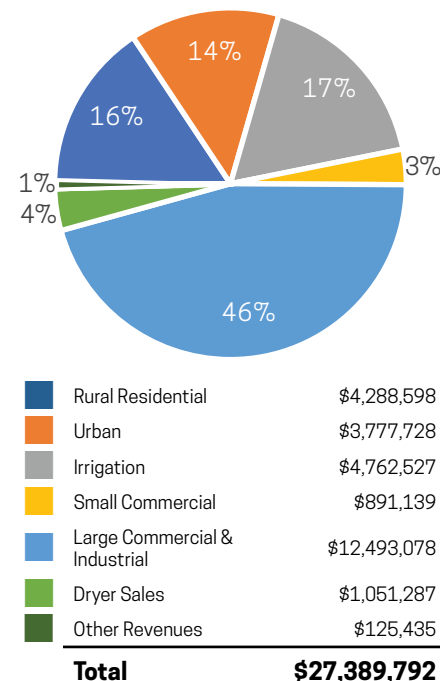


# 2019 Financial Report

## PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET - DECEMBER 31, 2019 and 2018

### Source of Revenues



However, even though energy sales increased slightly, revenue decreased by \$1.16 million from 2018.

### COST OF POWER

The District purchases ninety-one percent of its wholesale power from Nebraska Public Power District. The other nine percent is purchased from Bluestem Energy Solutions, which provides power from three wind turbines. In 2019, a total of 348.28 million kilowatt-hours were purchased at a cost of \$18.62 million. The cost represented sixty-eight percent of operating revenue, meaning that for ever dollar the District collected from customers in 2019, sixty-eight percent was used to pay for wholesale power.

### OPERATING EXPENSES

The District's work plan in 2019 had a greater emphasis on maintenance activities such as the replacement of poles, right-of-way tree clearing, etc.

### ASSETS

	2019	2018
Total Utility Plant in Service	71,130,481	69,326,852
Construction Work in Progress	472,843	743,366
<b>Total Utility Plant</b>	<b>71,603,324</b>	<b>70,070,218</b>
Accumulated Depreciation	18,647,947	17,576,093
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>52,955,377</b>	<b>52,494,125</b>
Cash and Investments	11,729,646	10,819,280
Accounts Receivable	2,912,199	3,036,243
Material and Other	1,055,719	1,236,968
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>15,697,564</b>	<b>15,092,491</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>68,652,941</b>	<b>67,586,616</b>

### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Operating Margins - Prior Years	53,168,767	49,814,297
Operating Margins - Current Year	2,217,642	3,239,725
Non-Operating Margins	233,503	114,745
Other Margins and Equity	483,500	483,500
<b>Total Margins and Equity</b>	<b>56,103,412</b>	<b>53,652,267</b>
Long-Term Debt	9,712,545	11,250,111
Accounts Payable	1,630,810	1,572,690
Consumer Deposits	195,847	157,054
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,010,327	954,494
<b>Total Current and Accrued Liabilities</b>	<b>12,549,529</b>	<b>13,934,349</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>68,652,941</b>	<b>67,586,616</b>

### THE SYSTEM

Perennial Public Power District is a public corporation and political subdivision of the State of Nebraska. The District's transmission and distribution system consists of 1,951 miles of line, which provides power to approximately 7,500 customers in York and Fillmore counties. Perennial employs 31 people and its headquarters is in York, NE.

### SALES AND OPERATING REVENUE

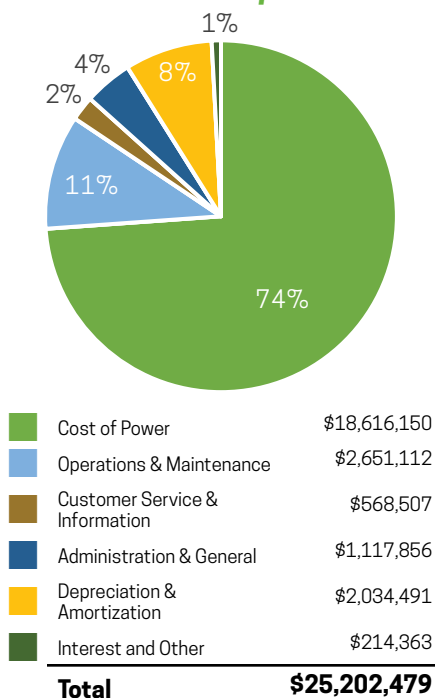
The number of kilowatt-hours (kWh) sold to customers in 2019 totaled 335.0 million. Comparatively, the District's customers consumed 329.0 million kWh in 2018. While energy sales to industrial customers increased by 28.8 million kWh, the District's irrigation customers consumed 21.4 million fewer kWh in 2019 than they did in 2018. Retail rates remained the same in 2019 as they had for the previous five years.

## 2019 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Line Loss – 3.7%
- Total Utility Plant up \$1.803 Million to \$71.130 Million
- Long Term Debt at \$9.713 Million (2018 - \$11.250 Million)
- Equity up from 79.38% to 81.72%
- \$611,831 in Lease Payments Returned to Towns
- \$531,688 in Gross Revenue Payments to York and Fillmore Counties

than it did in the previous year. For this reason, operating expenses in 2019 totaled \$4.34 million, and increase of \$455,722 from 2018.

## Source of Expense



## DEPRECIATION

Depreciation of system and capital assets is the most significant non-operating expense. In 2019 depreciation expense was in the amount of \$2.04 million. As a comparison, in 2018 depreciation expense totaled \$1.97 million. The District's utility plant increased \$1.53 million in 2019 to a total of \$71.60 million.

## LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-term debt decreased by \$1.54 million to a total of \$9.71 million by the end of 2019. The interest expense on this debt for the year was \$213,337. Equity increased from 79.38 percent in 2018 to 81.72 percent in 2019.

## NON-OPERATING REVENUE & MARGIN

With interest rates rising in 2019, the District was able to take advantage of investing \$11.8 million in reserve

funds in short-term higher rate investments, which generated \$56,222 more interest income in 2019 than was earned in 2018. Adding the interest income to the operating margin resulted in the District ending 2019 with a net margin of \$2.45 million. Even though this was lower than 2018's net margin of \$3.35 million, the District's financial position remains strong. If you would like any further information or have any questions, you may contact Mike Haumont, Manager of Finance and Accounting at 402-362-3355.

## 2018-2019 COMPARISON

	2019	2018
Number of Meters	7,514	7,546
Miles of Line	1,952	1,951
Total Revenue (Thousands)	\$28,560	\$27,390
Total KWH Purchased (Thousands)	341,529	348,281
Total KWH Sold (Thousands)	329,011	335,573
Total Plant Investment (Thousands)	\$70,070	\$71,603

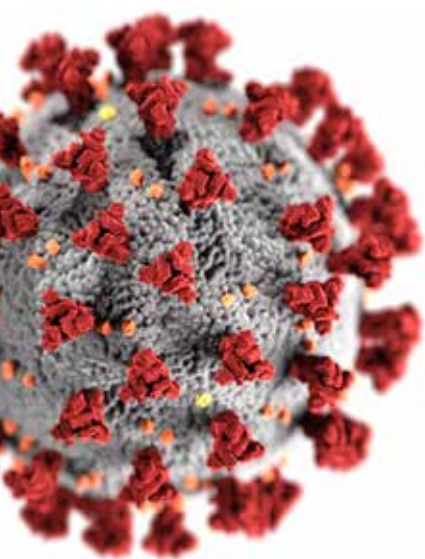
# PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT - DECEMBER 31, 2019 and 2018

	2019	2018
<b>OPERATING REVENUE</b>	27,389,793	28,560,339
<b>Cost of Operations</b>		
Cost of Purchased Power	18,616,150	19,263,784
Distribution and Transmission Expenses	2,651,112	2,185,718
Customer Service Expenses	568,507	553,941
Administrative and General Expenses	1,117,856	1,142,093
<b>Total Cost of Operations</b>	<b>22,953,625</b>	<b>23,145,536</b>
Depreciation and Other Expense	2,035,517	1,973,152
Interest on Long-Term Debt	213,337	250,096
<b>TOTAL COST OF OPERATIONS</b>	<b>25,202,479</b>	<b>25,368,784</b>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<b>2,187,314</b>	<b>3,191,555</b>
Investment and Other Income	263,830	162,916
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b>2,451,144</b>	<b>3,354,471</b>



# Coronavirus COVID-19 Response



- Business continuity plans developed by Perennial are designed to maintain the health and safety of our employees to ensure that business critical operations continue without interruption.
- Planning for a health emergency, such as a pandemic, is unique from other business continuity planning. It requires us to prepare to operate with a significantly smaller workforce, a threatened supply chain, and limited support services for an extended period until an unknown date in the future.
- We are taking steps now to be prepared in the event there is a significant impact from the coronavirus in our communities.
- To limit the potential person-to-person spread of COVID-19, we temporarily closed our office to customers, vendors, and sales associates on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. We felt that this decision was in the best interest of our customers and our employees. This situation will be evaluated on a daily basis.
- Customers are encouraged to utilize Perennial's secure digital payment options via our website: [www.perennialpower.com](http://www.perennialpower.com).
- Additionally, our customers should be on the lookout for suspicious emails, phone calls, or persons impersonating business employees or charitable organizations. Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of opportunities such as this when households are otherwise preoccupied. If you get a call from someone claiming to represent Perennial, and they make threats or demand immediate payment, hang up and call us at 402-362-3355.
- Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or need assistance.

## Stay in the Know

At Perennial, we are continually striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our customers.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows District customers to receive information about other valuable programs, events, and activities.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair, or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected customers through automated phone messages, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the District updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Furthermore, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Perennial has accurate account information.

Many of you have been customers of the District for years, and, likely, your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many customers now use a cell phone as their primary phone, and we might not have that number in our system.

We want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the District, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Perennial to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling Perennial at 402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288 or by mailing in this form. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all customers of the District.

### Perennial Public Power District Contact Information Update

Name on Account

Phone Number

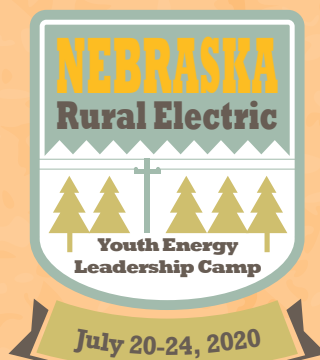
Mailing Address

Cell Phone



# Youth Energy Leadership Camp

Every summer, kids gather from across Nebraska at the State 4-H Camp near Halsey, Nebraska, for a fun and worthwhile experience. Set in the beauty of the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey, Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) is casual, yet educational, personally challenging and free. The camp program offers each participant the opportunity to grow socially and learn something valuable at the same time.



While at camp, students will participate in engaging workshops, facilitating demonstrations, and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program. Students will leave camp with a better understanding of public power in Nebraska and its governmental relations. A tour of Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

While learning is prominent, it's not the only thing we do at camp. The week is intermingled with many fun activities: a dance, banquet, sporting activities, a cookout, and time to make new friends.

To be eligible for the camp, you must currently be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and be a Perennial customer. This year's camp will be held **July 20 - 24, 2020**.

And the fun doesn't end there! While at camp, students have the chance to compete to be one of the three campers from YELC selected by their fellow campers to serve as Nebraska's Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2021 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C. If selected, they'll get to spend a week in D.C. touring all of the historic sites, learning about their government, along with students from all over the nation.

Space is limited, and this popular camp fills up fast! If you are interested in attending this exciting camp, please fill out the application at the bottom of the page and send it back to Perennial or contact Courtney VanSkiver by phone, 402-362-3355 or email: [courtneyv@perennialpower.com](mailto:courtneyv@perennialpower.com). **The application deadline is Monday, May 11, 2020.**

## YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of parents \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsored by Perennial Public Power District**

# P E R E N N I A L EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Cecil Kennel

Board of Directors President



20  
YEARS

Cecil Kennel has served on Perennial's Board of Directors for twenty years and is currently the President of the Board. He was elected to the Board of Directors, and his first meeting was January 18, 2000. 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 electric rates, as well as all of the policies under which the District operates.

After graduating from Shickley Public High School, Kennel served for two years in Government Alternate Service. But at home, the farmland beckoned, so he returned to the family farm in southern Fillmore County near Strang, Nebraska. Kennel and his wife Sharon farmed this land for 52 years before they retired in the fall of 2019. Sharon also recently retired from her Central Pains Church Conference Minister position. They have two married adult children and five grandchildren.

Cecil is a bit of wunderkind when it comes to being involved in the community. He is an

active member of Salem Mennonite Church in Shickley by teaching Sunday School, a past Director at Blue Valley Mental Health in Beatrice, a recent State Director of Church Disaster Service, a past Trustee, and finally, he was also a past Board member of Shickley Public Schools. As a Director on Perennial's Board, he has earned his Certified Cooperative Director Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

After twenty years on the Board, Kennel stated, "Being a Director at Perennial Public Power District has been a rewarding experience. Our Board works as a team alongside management and our excellent employees. Seeing the District grow and serve our customers with affordable energy has been my goal." If you see Cecil, be sure to thank him for his service to the community!

## Luke Gruber

Line Technician



5  
YEARS

To be a line technician, you MUST work in the rain, wind, sleet, snow, and heat during all hours of the day or night, as necessary, to get the power back on for customers. Often even working in less than ideal conditions during their regular workdays as well. But

working with high-voltage electric lines leaves absolutely no room for error. Mistakes from fatigue can be life-threatening in this job. Every day is a different set of challenges, and Luke Gruber enjoys these challenges. Luke is celebrating working at Perennial for five years in May.

Gruber attended the Utility Line program at Northeast Community College (NECC) in Norfolk after he graduated from high school. Luke was a recipient of Perennial's 2013 Utility Line Scholarship.

After completing the program at NECC, he started his career at Perennial in May of 2015 as an

apprentice line technician. Apprentice linemen 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, Luke serves Perennial as a journeyman line technician.

Gruber lives in York, and after work, Luke enjoys jeeping, hunting, and fishing. Perennial is blessed to have employees like Gruber who work outdoors and take pride in serving the public and making sure everyone has safe and reliable electricity. Thank you for five years of hard work and dedication, Luke!



# PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Jeff Obermier

*Board of Directors Secretary*



**5**  
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, but Perennial's rates have not changed the entire time he's been on the Board, and Nebraska has been ranked the best state 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 southwest 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 is the Board of Directors Secretary. He 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. Their son, Brayden, attends the University of Nebraska Lincoln, where he majors in Agronomy.

Along with his commitments to Perennial and his family, he is also an Elder at St. John's Lutheran Church in Waco. Jeff enjoys watching Husker football, golfing, hunting, along with spending time with family, in the free time he has from farming and his commitments.

During his five years on the Board, Obermier said his favorite part of the job is "Working with the Board and Management in adopting new technology in the fast-changing power industry to ensure reliable and competitive power supply." If you run into Jeff, be sure to thank him for his service to the community!

## Scholarship Recipient – Wyatt Hansen

Wyatt Hansen, the son of Henry Hansen, Amanda and Bill Schropfer, who is a soon to be 2020 graduate of McCool Junction High School, will be our scholarship recipient. Hansen became interested in electricity when his Boy Scout troop visited the Cosmosphere in Kansas, where he learned about the power requirements for the space station. Through the Cosmosphere's Scout Program, Wyatt was able to earn three Merit badges while exploring various STEAM programs. Boy Scouts also opened up another opportunity for Hansen. While attending Camp Cornhusker, he was introduced to a Scout leader who invited Wyatt to job shadow him for a day at his career as a Utility Line Foreman for Nebraska Public Power District. After spending time in the field, he knew that utility line was a career path he wanted to follow. His decision was further confirmed after attending the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Youth Energy Leadership Camp in 2017 as a camper and in 2018 as a junior counselor. While at the NREA camp, he was able to meet utility line workers from all over the



*Photo by Images by Jessie of Milligan*

state of Nebraska and learn more about the career path.

In his free time, Hansen enjoys hunting, shooting his bow, bowling, playing guitar, playing the ukulele, as well as spending time with his friends and family. He is also in the process of restoring a 1942 Allis Chalmers C tractor with his grandfather.

Hansen will be awarded a \$1,000.00 per year scholarship to attend a college with an accredited utility line program. Wyatt

is heading to Northeast Community College this fall and plans to make good use of the scholarship. Congratulations Wyatt! Perennial Public Power District wishes him good health and good grades as he pursues his career as a utility line technician.



## Important Dates to Remember

**April** - Dig Safe Month and Distracted Driving Awareness Month

**April 13, 2020** - Lineworker Appreciation Day  
Remember to thank a lineworker today!

**April 12, 2020** - Easter  
Have a safe and happy Easter!

**April 15, 2020** - Load Control Deadline  
Load control changes need to be completed by today.

**April 20-24, 2019** - Work Zone Awareness Week

**April 24, 2020** - Arbor Day  
Remember to look up and look down before planting your trees today.

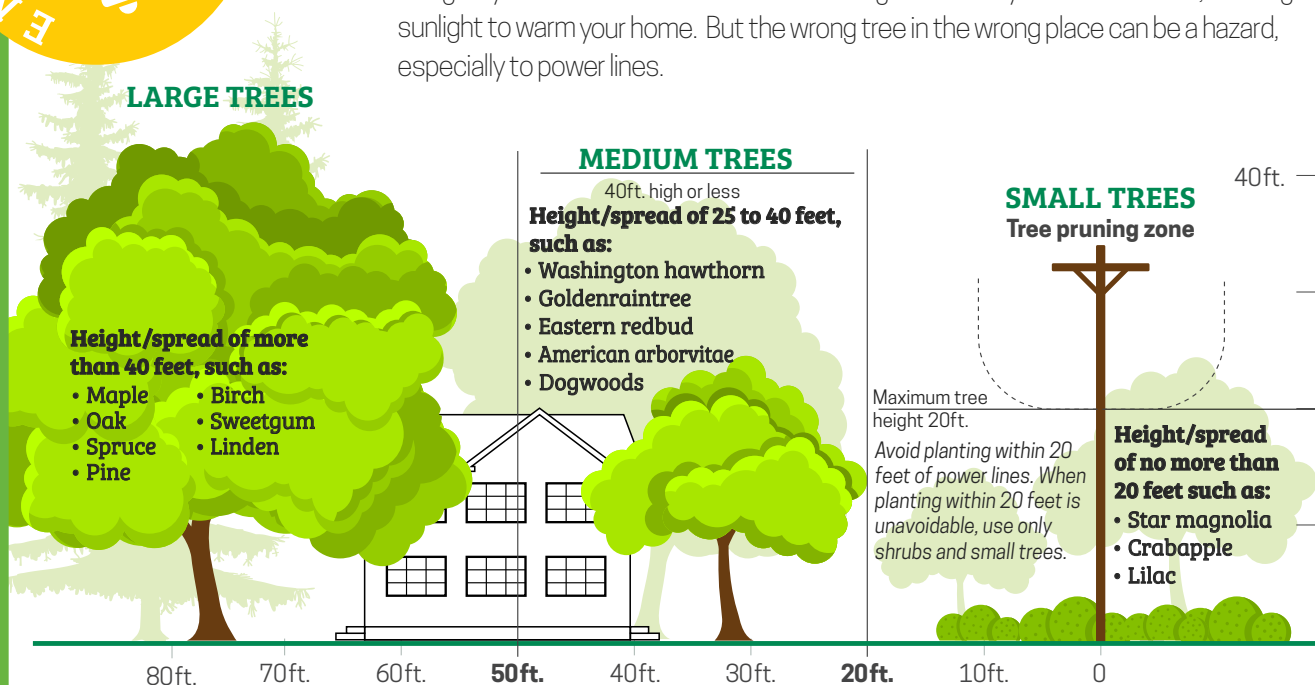
**May** - Electrical Safety Month

**May 11, 2020** - Youth Energy Leadership Camp Deadline  
Applications for Youth Energy Leadership Camp due today!

**May 25, 2020** - Memorial Day  
Perennial's office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.



Arbor Day is April 24<sup>th</sup>, celebrate with energy savings by planting a deciduous tree. Deciduous trees provide extra shade during summer months to keep your home cooler and give your AC a much-needed break. During the fall they lose their leaves, allowing sunlight to warm your home. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard, especially to power lines.



**Be safe!** Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association