

Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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February 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Looking Ahead

As we look to 2021 we break down how our revenue is budgeted.

Powerless

What happens when the power is out? Here are the steps taken to restore it.

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Busy Year Underway

Last November, your Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 2021 Work Plan and Budget for the District. The plan encompasses capital expenditures and a forecast of finances, including the cost of wholesale power that we purchase on your behalf, as well as the revenue required to cover all expenses.

I could probably summarize the work plan by saying that it is going to be a busy year with respect to projects that our crews will undertake in maintaining and improving electric system reliability in our 1,150 square mile service area. Electric infrastructure and capital equipment additions and replacements are expected to add nearly \$4 million

of improvements to the District's existing \$73.5 million system. In addition, several hundred thousand dollars will be spent on the testing and replacement of poles, and work to clear the power line right-of-way to combat outages caused by trees.

The Budget projects that 383,890 megawatt-hours of wholesale power, including 33,245 megawatt-hours from the Perennial Wind Farm, will be purchased at a total cost of over \$19.3 million. The 2021 Financial Forecast shows that for every dollar that you pay Perennial, approximately \$0.67 will pay for the cost of purchased

power; \$0.09 will be used in operating and maintaining the electric system; \$0.07 will go towards depreciation expense; \$0.07 will be spent on administrative and customer service activities; \$0.01 will pay for finance charges; leaving \$0.09 in an operating margin for future investment in the electric system.

Total revenue this year has been projected at \$29.1 million. This amount will be enough to meet all financial requirements

and budgeted expenses. And except for an increase in the Production Cost Adjustment credit that you will receive each month on your bill, there once again was no change in billing rates this year. In fact, the last time that base

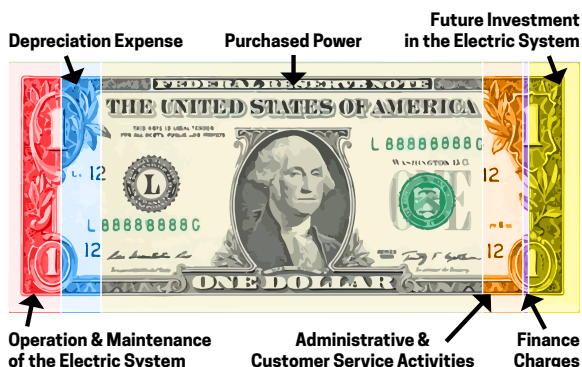
rates were raised was in 2013.

Yes, without question, it will be a busy year, and a substantial amount of investment will be made in the electric system. We would not want it any other way. Providing safe and affordable electricity to you is a priority of your board of directors and the employees of the District. But another core mission of ours is assuring that every customer has access to reliable electric service. The time and investment that will be made in the projects that are in this year's Work Plan will help us to continue to fulfill that mission.



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

2021 Financial Forecast



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2021 EnergyWiseSM Incentive Programs

With the start of the New Year, it's time again to think about New Year's resolutions. This is the perfect time to reflect on your energy efficiency. Perennial offers various energy efficiency incentive programs to help you kick off the new year. Participation in our 2021 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 Pumps

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
- Ductless Mini-Split Variable Capacity (multi heads, 3 ton or greater, inverter driven) \$1,200
- 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 Incentives

Available to all residential homeowners.

Electric Vehicle and ChargePoint Charging Station.....	\$4,500
ChargePoint Charging Station	\$500
Pre-Wiring For Home Charging Station	\$200-\$400

Agricultural Incentives

Hog Heating Mat

Incentive amount:	\$40 - \$80
▪ 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.

Customer 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.

Customer Agriculture Incentive

Incentive for agricultural energy efficiency improvements, as approved by the utility that are not covered by other EnergyWiseSM programs.

Commercial/Industrial Incentives

Commercial rebates are available, please visit www.perennialpower.com or contact the office for more information.

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

Perennial Public Power District
Courtney Giesenhagen
402-362-3355 or 800-289-0288
E-mail: perennial@perennialpower.com

The year 2020 was unique, to say the least, thanks to the arrival of COVID-19. Contributing to the chaos was a record-breaking heat, droughts, rains, cold snaps, and various other inclement weather concerns. What do all these weather phenomena have in common? Unfortunately, they all had the potential to result in power outages, but bad weather isn't the only cause of power outages. Power outages can be caused by tree limbs falling on power lines, animals or birds interfering with power lines, or vehicle accidents.

Here in Nebraska, we are fortunate to have an advanced power grid supported by public power, making our system the most reliable in the nation. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, electricity consumers in Nebraska typically only experience outages for 0.005 percent of the year.

Have you been wondering what happens on our end when your power goes out? After you report an outage, Perennial employees jump into action to get your power restored as quickly and safely as possible.

If you think of Perennial's power lines as the nerves of Perennial's system, then our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system would be its brain. Our Operations Department uses our SCADA system to monitor our substations continually. While they use our automatic meter reading system to monitor the electric system as a whole continually. Using these two systems, they can see power interruptions on Perennial's electrical system and take the necessary action required. If your meter is the only one reported to be offline in the area, the

What happens behind the scenes during a **power out**

lineworker will be dispatched directly to that transformer. Suppose you are part of a more extensive outage. In that case, system analytics will help predict the outage area, and the lineworker will be dispatched to that location to investigate the issue. Fault indicators (status lights) also help operations personnel determine an issue's location by flashing when they sense abnormally high current. If a fault indicator is flashing, it allows operations staff to know where to look for the issue on the line. Once the issue has been identified, additional line crews may be dispatched if needed to fix the issue.

During large outages, you may wonder how Perennial prioritizes its restoration. Repairs are done in a systematic way that starts from the substation and works down the line. Our data can provide an approximate distance from the substation to the problem, but it is less accurate the further the issue is down the line. This process allows us to restore power to the largest number of customers in the least amount of time.

Data is collected from every outage so it can be used to improve our reliability. Knowing which areas are prone to outages and have the longest downtimes helps Perennial discern what areas need improvement.

While calm weather is a rarity in Nebraska, we use those days to maintain our system. Perennial uses longevity tracking to help identify equipment that might be reaching the end of its life so it can be replaced before it causes a problem. We also use load tracking to know what areas have demand that exceeds the equipment's capacity. When the load has exceeded the equipment's capacity, Perennial will upsize the equipment to meet the demand before an outage occurs.

We want to thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore it as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

Source: Safe Electricity.

age?

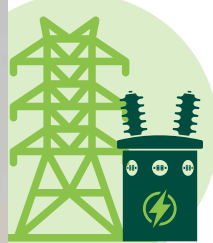
ONCE THE POWER IS OUT HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:



STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines



STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties



If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly.

PERENNIAL EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Jerad Kava

Journeyman Line Technician



10
YEARS

Jerad Kava will celebrate ten years of employment at Perennial in February. Kava, a graduate of Metropolitan Community College with degrees in

Utility Line and Business, was hired by Perennial in 2011 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, Jerad serves Perennial as a journeyman line technician.

When asked about his favorite part of working as a Journeyman, Kava stated "I enjoy being able to work outside every day, doing what I love, with an awesome group of guys." 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.

Jerad resides in York with his wife Aubree along with their children Gavin and Anna. After work, Jerad enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family outdoors. Perennial is privileged to have employees like Jerad who take pride in maintaining a safe and reliable infrastructure. Jerad, we'd like to thank you for ten years of dedicated service.

Evie Barrett

Staff Secretary



40
YEARS

Evie Barrett began her career at Perennial Public Power District in February 1981 working part time in the Accounting Department. In 1986 Evie began working full time as the Staff Secretary. As the Staff Secretary, Barrett is responsible for answering the phone, preparing various reports, and assisting the Customer Services Department.

For over 20 years Evie and her family have sponsored the Jason

Barrett Memorial Shoot which funds the Jason Barrett Memorial Scholarship Fund. Additionally, Evie and her husband, Dan, enjoy spreading Christmas cheer dressed up as Mr. & Mrs. Clause.

Evie and husband, Dan, live in rural York. When not at work, Evie enjoys spending time with family and friends. Perennial would like to thank Evie for her dedicated commitment to the District for the past 40 years.

Board of Directors Election Results

Perennial's Board of Directors elected the following officers at the January 19, 2021 board meeting:

President – Orie Friesen
Secretary – Mark Becker

Vice President – Jeff Obermier
Treasurer – Steve Wright

Dean Due Retires

After 32 years of serving Perennial Public Power District as a board member, Dean Due announced his retirement at the November 17, 2020 board meeting. In an interview recognizing him for his 30 years of service on the Board, Dean said "being a Perennial board member has been a great experience and I have enjoyed working with the employees of Perennial and the customers served by the District. Furthermore, I revel at the growth of the District over the last three decades."



Dean Due is retiring after serving for Perennial Public Power as a board member for 32 years.

Due's first meeting after being elected as a board member was on February 16, 1988.

During Dean's first year on the Board, the District was going through a service area exchange with Nebraska Public Power District after the city of York annexed the area south of York. This service exchange wasn't the only change Due would see the District through. While on the board, York County Rural Public Power District changed its name to Perennial Public Power District. As a board member Due saw how the District's publications transformed from the *Rural Extra*, to an insert in the Nebraska Rural Electric

Association's *Rural Electric Nebraskan*, and then to a standalone magazine, *Perennial News*.

In his tenure Dean attained his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Due also served as Perennial's representative on the Nebraska Rural Electric Association's (NREA) Board of Directors for several years, along with serving on several of the various committees within the NREA. On Perennial's own board he has served Perennial through all of the various Board Officer positions several times over.

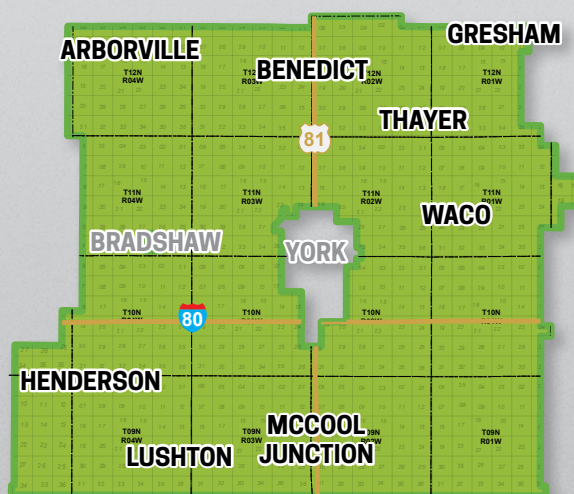
Perennial was fortunate to have Dean serve on the Perennial Board of Directors as he was a dedicated and engaged Board member. Due was committed to learning the electric industry and very willing to ask questions and offer suggestions in a professional manner.

Dean and his wife Kathy, will always be a part of the Perennial family. Fellow directors and Perennial employees would like to thank Dean for his many years of service and leadership, as well as wish them the very best in the future.

Seeking Candidates for Seat on Perennial's Board

A Board of Directors that you elect governs Perennial Public Power District. As a customer, one of your most important roles is to participate in the election of directors.

Presently, one seat in Subdivision One is open on Perennial's Board of Directors. As shown on the map, Subdivision One consists of voting precincts within York County, except the territory within the corporate limits of the City of York and the Village of Bradshaw. Subdivision One also includes a portion of voting precincts 1, 3, and 7 in Hamilton County and a portion of voting precinct E in Seward County. Candidates living within any of these areas are being sought to fulfill the vacancy.



Service area excludes the City of York and the Village of Bradshaw.

To be eligible, a candidate must be a qualified elector of the District. In addition to this requirement, a board member is expected to attend monthly board meetings, generally held on the third Tuesday of each month, and is encouraged to attend various other meetings throughout the year.

Because the Board of Directors is responsible for establishing electric rates and the policies under which the District operates, candidates for the open director seat must have and be able to devote adequate time to these activities.

If you are a residential customer in Subdivision One and are interested in being considered for an appointment to Perennial's Board of Directors, please call the District office at 362-3355 by February 25.

Return of Your Money

In 2021 you will see a small decrease in the total price of your electric bills. The reduction will be the result of a change in the Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate credit that we will apply to the kilowatt-hours that you purchase each month. PCA is a mechanism that allows for the truing-up of the difference between the cost of producing and transmitting electricity, and the revenue generated from the sale of electricity. Recently

Perennial's power supplier, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), has received more revenue from the operation of its power plants and transmission system than what it cost to operate those facilities, and NPPD has returned some of the excess revenue to Perennial and other wholesale customers. At their September meeting, Perennial's board of directors voted to pass the PCA credit on to you. After all, it's your money.



Electrical Safety Myths

Don't always believe what you hear

MYTH

- ▶ A power line will automatically de-energize when it falls or is damaged, if still energized, the power line will "arc" (display a flame), spark & make noise.
- ▶ A downed power line can be moved with a stick or other object to get it out of the way.

vs

FACT

- ▶ Always assume every downed power line is energized. A live power line may not have any unusual characteristics. Stay Away!
- ▶ Never touch a power line, with your hand or an object, for any reason. Stay away and call Perennial.

Online Energy Audit

Are you spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit <https://perennialpower.com/energy-library/homeenergy-suite>, then click on "home energy suite" to get started. From there, use our Energy Advisor to do an online energy audit.

