Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

August 2022
Vol. 23
No. 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Energy for Generations
PERENNIAL™
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

PerennialNEWS
CONNECTIONS

Our Interconnected Grid

Brandon Lehman
Manager of
Engineering

Our district made its first distributed generation interconnection in July 2013, and we have grown to 17 sites totaling 226 kilowatts (kW) of customer connected nameplate solar power. We commission test between 2-3 solar installations each year for our customers, following the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1547-2018 industry adopted guidelines. This is to ensure the panels and inverters are operating correctly for the safety of our linemen, the owner, and the public.

Customers who plan to install a solar field at 25 kilowatts or less will want to complete an application, found at our website www.perennialpower.com, before ordering equipment. We will review the application for interconnection and verify the generation is sized to meet their own annual usage, so they are eligible for the net metering rate.

First solar array in Perennial's district.

The net metering rate will remain available until the total installed customer generation exceeds one percent of our average aggregate monthly peak demand for the calendar year. Currently, our average is at 49,319 kilowatts so with 226 kW already installed we have 267 kW remaining for the net metering rate. After this limit is met, installed customer generation may be eligible for a simultaneous buy/sell rate.

Qualified generation above 25 kilowatts and 20 megawatts or less will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the District. The size of the generator above 25 kW that may be allowed to interconnect with the District's distribution system will be based on service capacity size and consumptive usage, as well as on the District's approved interconnection standards. In most cases, installations above 500 kW will require completing the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) Form K450, "Application for NPPD Approval to Connect Distributed or Local Generation." This is required so NPPD can study the impact to the electric sub-transmission and transmission power systems in the area.

In 2018 we completed the interconnection with Bluestem Energy Solutions. This 6.9 MW wind energy resource provides us with local generation to supplement the larger load at the POET Ethanol plant located West of Fairmont. Under our Wholesale Power Purchase Agreement with Nebraska Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Incorporated (NEG&T) we can interconnect up to 10 percent of our Reference Demand and use the generation to offset our current production demand charges from NEG&T up to 50 percent. Currently, our reference demand is 87,768 kW, which represents our highest annual demand average over the previous five years. This leaves a remaining 1,876 kW of qualified local generation interconnection capacity. As we review proposals for renewable energy resources, we will continue to analyze and pursue the best economical, realistic, and reliable energy supply for our district.

On Our Cover:

Perennial General Manager, Matthew Moffitt, delivers meals to crews during storm restoration.

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

Summer Interns

Calvin Price

Calvin is the son of Ernie and Sarah Price, a recipient of the 2021 Perennial Utility Line scholarship interned at Perennial this summer. Calvin is attending Northeast Community College where he is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Price was also on the President's List for his freshman year.

In his free time, Calvin enjoys hunting, fishing, as well as spending time with family and friends. Between his hobbies, enjoyment of heights, and the outdoors, we are sure Calvin will make a great lineman. Calvin stated his favorite part of the internship was, "getting to see what he learned at college in real world situations."

Perennial Public Power District wishes Calvin well as he continues to pursue his career as a utility line technician.

Jason Sanchez

Jason Sanchez is a Metro Community College graduate that interned at Perennial this summer. Sanchez is the son of Dolores and Zepeda Sanchez of West Point.

In his free time, Jason enjoys video games, watching movies and hiking. With his enjoyment of the outdoors, we are sure Sanchez will make a great lineman. Jason stated his favorite part of the internship was, "getting real work experience and getting advice from the Perennial linemen."

Perennial Public Power District wishes Jason well as he pursues his career as a utility line technician.

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, 2022**. Scholarship applications and applicant guidelines are available on our website, ***www.perennialpower.com*** or contact Courtney Giesenhagen at ***cgiesenhagen@perennialpower.com***.

Looking Back at the M

Storm restoration kept Perennial line crews very busy during this past May and June. The rains associated with the violent weather were welcome, but the high winds and hail were unwanted additions. Forecasted thunderstorms promised a welcome break from the abnormally dry conditions. Unfortunately, the May 12th storm was more than showers, the dry conditions mixed with the high winds produced a "haboob" (i.e., dust storm) on the leading edge of the thunderstorms.

According to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the haboob produced winds speeds of nearly 80 mph near the York Interstate 80 interchange, while wind speeds measured 70 to 75 mph around Henderson. Vehicles were blown over on the interstate in the Henderson and York areas. In Fillmore County, a wind gust of 58 mph was measured at Geneva.

The leading edge of a haboob produced by high winds from a trailing thunderstorm
Photo by Mitchell Naiman and used with permission by the National Weather Service

"Haboob" outages started affecting Perennial customers shortly after 5:00 p.m. on May 12th. Perennial crews were able to get almost all power restored by 10:20 p.m., although a few customers were without power until May 13th. The damage in Fillmore County consisted of two distribution poles and 3 transformers, while York county received more damage with seven distribution poles, twelve sub-transmission poles, and three transformers.

Another severe storm struck our district on June 7th. This storm also brought wind gusts of 60 – 80 mph and quarter to golf ball sized hail. Besides damaging crops and homes, this storm resulted in Perennial losing an additional seven distribution poles and one sub-transmission pole in York County.

May and June Storms

The last severe weather in June occurred on June 14th and 15th. Unfortunately, a single supercell thunderstorm was not the only storm that was going to hit the area. According to NOAA, multiple supercell thunderstorms producing large hail and high winds struck the area.

Operations and Engineering Departments plan for another day of restoring power.

The first outages caused by these storms occurred around 9 p.m. The first supercell of the storm produced winds in excess of 80 mph and tennis ball sized hail in an area roughly bounded to the North and West by US Highway 34 and US Highway 81. Some locations experienced bouts of hail and wind that lasted for over 10 minutes. This cell caused widespread property and crop damage.

However, the worst was yet to come. A series of severe thunderstorms would "train" (follow each other) through the area during the night. Around midnight, very strong supercell thunderstorms approached from the West. These thunderstorms brought a broad swath of high winds up to 90+ mph and tennis ball sized hail which lasted for up to 45 minutes. An EF-2 rated tornado touched down southwest of Lushton. This tornado had peak winds estimated to be around 115 mph along its 8-mile path. This storm left extensive damage to Perennial's infrastructure leaving a path of destruction from West of Lushton to East of Waco.

The District lost approximately 95 distribution poles, 82 sub-transmission poles, and numerous transformers due to the June 14th and 15th storms. Polk County Rural Public Power District and Southern Public Power District sent mutual-aid crews to help rebuild infrastructure. York and Fillmore County Department of Roads assisted Perennial in closing roads with downed lines over them so people could not drive over the lines. Before and during the rebuilding process of setting poles and putting up wire began, Perennial redirected the power or back feed the power to get as many customers on as quick and safely as possible.

Additionally, crews had to rebuild line to restore power to the Village of McCool Junction, as both distribution and sub-transmission feeds were destroyed in the storm. Furthermore, procuring material for repairing and rebuilding infrastructure was another challenge due supply chain issues. With the aid of several other public power districts Perennial was able to procure the needed materials. By the evening of June 17th, power was restored to all customers who did not have damage to their property or equipment.

Severe storms damaged lines throughout the district and forced the closure of numerous roads.

Perennial would like to thank customers for their patience during the restoration processes. As always, Perennial is ready to respond to outages no matter what the cause. We'd like to remind everyone to remember that limbs and debris may hide an electrical hazard after a storm. 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.

Know the Signs of a Scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up and contact Perennial at 402-362-3355. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.perennialpower.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. Use Perennial's Smart Hub App to check the status of your account day and night. Remember, Perennial will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you overpay on your energy bill, Perennial will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Perennial employees drive logoed vehicles and carry ID badges. When we perform work on our customers' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

LOOK OUT FOR
UTILITY SCAMS

Michael Spellman joins Perennial

Michael Spellman was hired on May 25, 2022, as an Apprentice Line Technician. Spellman will be responsible for construction and maintenance of both overhead and underground lines.

Michael grew up in Aurora where he attended Aurora Public High School, after graduating he attended Northeast Community College where he received his degree in Utility Line.

In his free time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and being outside. Michael said being outside is his favorite part of working for Perennial as an Apprentice Line Technician.

Please help us welcome Michael to Perennial.

Colby Easterberg joins Perennial

Colby Easterberg was hired on June 13, 2022, as a Journeyman Line Technician. Colby will be responsible for construction and maintenance of both overhead and underground lines. Easterberg grew up in Clay Center, Kansas where he attended Clay Center Community High School, after graduating he attended Manhattan Area Technical College where he received his degree in Electric Power and Distribution.

Colby resides in York with his wife Samantha, as well as their three children Tenley, Wyatt and Logan.

In his free time, he enjoys golfing, wood working, yard work, attending his children's sporting events, as well as being a husband and dad. Easterberg said his favorite part about being a part of the Perennial line crew is being a part of a team of such great people. He also finds responding to Perennial's great customers and keeping them fully satisfied very rewarding.

Please help us welcome Colby to Perennial.

Colby Easterberg with his wife Samantha, and their three children, Tenley, Wyatt and Logan, at a recent softball game.

Calendar of Events

Aug. 26-Sept. 5	Public Power Booth Nebraska State Fair
September 5	Perennial Office Closed in Observance of Labor Day
September 8-11	Yorkfest Celebration
September 13-15	Husker Harvest Days - Public Power Booth and Hot Line Demo
September 16-18	McCool Junction Mustang Round Up

ENERGY SAVING TIP

Seal Holes and Gaps

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back. Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.