

Perennial NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE
PERENNIAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2019
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No. 6



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PERENNIALTM
PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Time Flies

There is an old saying that "Time flies when you are having fun." Well, I must be having fun because it seems like it was just a few months ago that we were scheduling work for 2019 and preparing for the celebration of the District's 80th anniversary. Now, our Work Plan and Budget for next year is already in place, and I know that we will get engrossed in the projects that we need to work on in 2020 to serve you, and we will once again lose the sense of time altogether.

As I reflect on the past year, I realize why it went by so quickly. It was a relatively smooth year as far as the operation of an electric utility is concerned. We did not have to contend with any significant storms. No need to heavily control irrigation wells to keep our summer peak load down. And our crews completed a lot of projects that will increase reliability of service for you. Best of all, they did so while extending the District's record of employees working without a lost-time accident, which now is over 2,450 days.

Even the events that we had in October to promote public power, and to observe the District being in business for eighty years,

flew by rapidly. By the way, I want to thank all of the customers that participated in those events. And for those that have not yet picked up a cookbook, we still have plenty on hand, so stop in the office when you get a chance, and our staff will give you one.

Yes, it seems that time moves faster for me every year. That's probably because the

As I reflect on the past year, I realize why it went by so quickly.



internal clock in my brain is moving slower as I get older, causing the pace of everything around me to speed up. But it could also be that there is so much more to do today than there used to be, and the multitasking makes it difficult to keep pace with time. However, there is one thing that I am confident will remain steady and consistent for me while I continue to have fun. That is, our employees will remain dedicated to providing you safe, reliable, and efficient service. That will not change over time.

*From all of us here at Perennial,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



Jamey Pankoke
General Manager

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Return of Your Money

In 2020 you will see a small decrease in the total price of your electric bills. The reduction will be the result of a 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 October meeting, Perennial's board of directors voted to pass the PCA credit on to you. After all, it's your money.

Idle Services

Perennial Public Power District's Board of Directors approved an idle services policy that requires a minimum charge to be paid on unused services. The idle services policy goes into effect on January 1, 2020. An idle service is any service that has been disconnected for any reason for a period longer than one (1) year.



Perennial will be sending notification letters to property owners of idle services to give them the option to either keep or removed the idle service. If no response is received

within sixty (60) days of the notice, the idle service will be removed by the District as time permits, and no further notification will be sent to the property owner.

A property owner that notified the District that an idle service should not be removed shall be assessed an idle service fee. The monthly fee will be as follows:

Single-phase Service (Rate Code Idle1)	\$10.00
Three-phase Service (Rate Code Idle3)	\$20.00

If payment for an idle service is not received by the due date, the District may remove the service as time permits, and without further notification to the property owner.

If an idle service is removed and service is requested in the future at the same or similar location, the request shall be treated as a new service. All costs associated with the new service will be calculated in accordance with the District's line extension policy in effect at the time of the request.

If you have any questions about an idle service, please contact Perennial's Customer Services Department at 402-362-3355.

Holiday Decor

The holidays mean different things for different people. To some, it is a time of togetherness with friends and family. For those still experiencing their childhood or just young at heart, they may find it a time filled with the magic of the first snowfall and of course, the enchantment of Santa's visit. No matter what the holidays may mean to you, we at Perennial want to help you enjoy your holidays safely.



Photo by Safe Electricity

When it comes to decorating for the holidays, be sure to inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage before use, discard any that are damaged or worn out. Damaged cords can lead to possible electrical shock or even fires. Match plugs to outlets; do not force a three-pronged plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord. Along those same lines, you should never remove the third prong on any electrical device or cord to make it fit into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices as they can overheat and cause a fire. If you find that you're using



extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home. Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights to make one long string. Make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture while decorating, this is a fire hazard. You should also make sure all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations are off before leaving home or going to sleep; this can be done manually or by using an automatic timer.



There are lots of options when choosing a tree for your home. The two big categories, of course, are natural or artificial. When buying a natural tree, look for one well-hydrated with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. Also, try to find a trunk that is sticky with sap. When you get your natural tree home, be sure to put it in a tree stand that holds plenty of water so you can keep it well hydrated. You will want to water it daily, maybe more if you have indoor pets that might sneak drinks from the tree stand.

If you are considering an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire-resistant, you may also decide

Decorating Safety Tips

that a pre-lit tree better fits your lifestyle. Make sure to purchase one that has been approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Intertek (ETL), or Canadian Standards Association (CSA). One of the most significant advantages of an artificial tree isn't that you get to use it year after year. It is that you can buy the tree you need to fit your space. There is a tree in every color, shape, and size you can imagine.

When setting up your tree or other decorations, make sure you keep them at least three feet away from all heating equipment and open flames. If you're setting up your tree outside, be sure to exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your decorations at least ten feet from power lines.



If putting lights on the exterior of your house, be sure not to staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords. Instead, use plastic or insulated hooks to hang lights. Do not attach lights, cords or any decoration to utility poles as this creates a dangerous situation for our utility line workers. Avoid decorating outside on windy or wet days, as both can lead to an electrical accident. Instead choose

to decorate in favorable weather conditions and during daylight hours. Never use indoor extension cords and electrical décor outside. Make sure all outdoor electric lights and decorations are plugged into outlets that are protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI can protect you from electrical shock if a cord is damaged, decorations are defective, or accidental electrical contact with moisture.

While shopping for electrical equipment, before buying, always make sure that it displays a label indicating it has undergone independent testing by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as UL, ETL, or CSA. Only make purchases from trusted retailers to avoid the risk of purchasing counterfeit products. Since counterfeit devices are not tested against safety standards and are often made from inferior quality materials they can easily catch fire, burn or electrocute you. Always send in warranty and product registration forms to manufacturers in order to be notified promptly in the event of a product recall. Finally, every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas and on every level, including the basement. It is a great time to make sure all the smoke alarms are in good working order before all the relatives arrive.

Following these safety measures while decorating for the holidays can help you and your loved ones have a safe and happy holiday season. From all of us at Perennial, we wish you a holiday filled with happiness, magic, and safety!



Intertek





Beware of Third-Party Payment Sites

When making payments online!

**PERENNIAL
SMART HUB**



Third-party payment sites

**SHOWS YOUR
ACCOUNT BALANCE**



Will ask for your balance

**NO CHARGE
IF PAYMENT BY E-CHECK**



Charges extra fees

**MAKES PAYMENTS
IN REAL TIME**



Takes days to process

NOTE: If you pay through a third-party site and we do not receive your payment by the due date, there maybe late fees charged to your account.



Pay at perennialpower.com,
click on the Payment Options tab
to make a payment.



Utility Line Scholarship

Each year, Perennial Public Power District offers one \$1,000 per year utility line scholarship to a student planning to enroll at an accredited utility line program. Applicants must reside within Perennial's service area to be eligible. Other expectations of the applicant are that they be highly-motivated and safety-conscious.

In addition to meeting those application requirements, all scholarship finalists are interviewed by the Perennial Public Power District Scholarship Committee before being selected as the scholarship recipient.

Students who are considering a career in utility line should apply for admission to an accredited utility line program such as: Manhattan

Area Technical College, Metropolitan Community College, Mitchell Technical Institute, Northeast Community College, or Western Nebraska Community College as soon as possible as enrollment in this program is limited and based on the date of acceptance. Participation in this program offered by Perennial does not guarantee future employment by Perennial.

Scholarship applications for the 2020-2021 school year and personal essays should be completed and returned to Courtney VanSkiver, Perennial Public Power District PO Box 219, York, NE 68467-0219, by December 31, 2019.

For a copy of the Utility Line Scholarship application, visit our website at www.perennialpower.com or contact Courtney VanSkiver at 402-362-3355 or email courtneyv@perennialpower.com.

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PS Form 3526, July 2014 (page 2 of 4)

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Courtney C. VanSkiver *Courtney C. VanSkiver* 9/28/19

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

PS Form 3526, July 2014 (page 3 of 4)



School Thank You

We want to extend our sincere gratitude to the Exeter/Milligan, Heartland Community, and McCool Junction schools for letting us contribute to their regular curriculum with our yearly electrical safety education message. We enjoy and look forward to our visits to your schools every year.



Important Dates to Remember

December 25, 2019

Christmas

Perennial's office will be closed in observance of Christmas.

We wish you a joyous Christmas!

December 31, 2019

Deadline for Applying for Utility Line Scholarship

January 1, 2020

New Year's Day

Perennial's office will be closed in observance of New Year's Day.

Have a safe and happy New Year!

Energy Tip: Choose LED Christmas Lights

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy-efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're easier to install, and you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket! LEDs also have the advantage of being made with epoxy lenses instead of glass, so they are more durable than incandescent holiday lights.