



Irrigation Newsletter

2011 Edition

Perennial Public Power District

York, Nebraska

It's time to start thinking about another irrigation season. In this newsletter, we will bring you the latest information about our irrigation load management program, as well as any changes in rates or policies. If you need more information, try our website at www.perennialpower.com. You can also call us at (402) 362-3355, or toll-free (800) 289-0288 during regular business hours of 8am to 5pm Mon-Fri.

Irrigation rates will increase in 2011

Although the energy charge increases will vary among control groups, irrigation rates will increase an average of 3.8%. The major reason rates will be higher again this year, is because purchased power costs are continuing to escalate.

Demand Charge replaces Horsepower Charge

For many years Perennial billed irrigation customers an annual "horsepower charge" based on the nameplate horsepower of their particular motors. The horsepower charge was billed prior to the irrigation season.

In 2011 the annual horsepower charge will be replaced by a monthly demand charge. Using the District's new AMI meters, we will measure the actual load (demand) of each motor while it is running, instead of using the nameplate rating. During each of the billing months (June, July, August, September), the meters will be read. The customer will be billed for kWhs and demand. The demand charge will be based on the highest demand of the current month and the previous three billing months. For instance, to calculate the demand for June 2011, we would look at that month plus the previous months of September 2010, August 2010 and July 2010. This billing methodology matches how we are billed by our power supplier (NPPD).

For several years we have had requests to use demand billing instead of nameplate horsepower, but we didn't have the metering infrastructure in place to do so. With the new AMI meters, we now have that capability. Besides the previously mentioned advantages of demand billing, customers will also be able to take instant advantage of energy efficiency upgrades that lower the demand on their systems.

Are you installing a new irrigation service?

If you are planning on building a new service or upgrading an existing one, be sure to come into the office early and let us know. Once you have met with one of our staking technicians

and gone over your plans at the site, you will receive an application in the mail. We must receive your signed application before we will order any material for the job. Again we ask that you begin this process early.

Load control deadline

Irrigation customers that want to have their wells controlled under a different load management option than what they are presently signed up for, will need to execute a new Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement before **March 15, 2011**. If you would like to sign up for a different load control option, please contact Perennial's customer service department to request a new Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement. The application is also available on our website on the irrigation page.

As a reminder, the potential hours for load control are from 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday. However, the maximum amount of time that any irrigation well will be controlled during the 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. time-frame is 12 consecutive hours. The starting and stopping time can and usually will change from day to day.

Sunday load control

Due to increased load on Sundays, our power supplier NPPD has decided to no longer waive that day. What this means, is that Sundays will again be a day when load control is possible. The good news is that if you are controlled on Sunday, it can only be for 6 hours. Also, the maximum amount that any group can be controlled throughout the entire week is 72 hours. This will only affect the anytime control groups.

Irrigation Billing Change

The billing period for all irrigation rates will be for the months of June, July, August and September. The bills will be mailed to the customer in July, August, September and October. As stated earlier in this newsletter the billing is based on actual load (demand) and kilowatts hours and not horsepower.

The bill make up includes a Facilities Charge, Purchased Power Demand Charge, Distribution Delivery Demand Charge and Energy Charge.

The bill terms are defined as:

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How will the new rates affect my total annual cost of irrigation?

The difference between your 2010 and 2011 irrigation bill will depend on your control group, your demand and your usage. The tables below show the percentage of change based on average horsepower and calculated demand. Individual well motors will vary based on efficiency. The range in the table is intended to show the difference between a wet, mild and dry year, and how usage will determine your over-

all percentage change from 2010. It is important to emphasize that 3-Day and Anytime Control Groups will have a rate decrease in 2011. This is good news for irrigators looking for ways to cut cost! **To find out how much you can save by moving to 3-Day or Anytime Control, call us or stop by the office.**

No Control (ave. horsepower - 35)					1 Day Control (ave. horsepower - 65)				
	2010	2011				2010	2011		
<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>	<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>
10,000 kWh	\$2,319	\$2,890	\$571	24.6%	20,000 kWh	\$3,958	\$4,632	\$674	17.0%
15,000 kWh	\$2,854	\$3,245	\$391	13.7%	30,000 kWh	\$4,881	\$5,342	\$461	9.4%
20,000 kWh	\$3,388	\$3,600	\$212	6.3%	35,000 kWh	\$5,343	\$5,697	\$354	6.6%
3 Day Control (ave. horsepower - 67)					Anytime Control (ave. horsepower - 68)				
	2010	2011				2010	2011		
<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>	<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>
20,000 kWh	\$3,533	\$3,512	-\$21	-0.6%	15,000 kWh	\$2,472	\$2,389	-\$83	-3.4%
25,000 kWh	\$3,948	\$3,867	-\$81	-2.1%	20,000 kWh	\$2,831	\$2,744	-\$87	-3.1%
30,000 kWh	\$4,363	\$4,222	-\$141	-3.2%	30,000 kWh	\$3,549	\$3,454	-\$95	-2.7%
Wheels-Only (10 HP minimum)					Re-Use Pump (ave. horsepower - 11)				
	2010	2011				2010	2011		
<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>	<u>Usage</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>Rates</u>	<u>\$ Diff.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>
750 kWh	\$455	\$545	\$90	19.8%	1,000 kWh	\$459	\$587	\$128	27.9%
1,000 kWh	\$479	\$563	\$84	17.5%	1,500 kWh	\$516	\$623	\$107	20.7%
1,500 kWh	\$528	\$599	\$71	13.4%	2,000 kWh	\$572	\$658	\$86	15.0%

Emergency Load Control

In addition to regular load control hours, our power supplier could also ask us to control load on an emergency basis in the event that some of their equipment failed. If this happened, we would make the information available and keep you updated on our load control hot-line, as well as with our after-hours call center. This could affect all load control groups.

Right to change load control option during season

For every irrigation service that qualifies for the load management program, one time per season customers may cancel their existing Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement, and move to a plan of less control, including getting out of the load management program. All that needs to be done to implement this option, is sign a form authorizing the change, and pay a \$150 service charge and the difference between the respective rates for each account requesting a change. This option gives customers the ability to adjust their amount of irrigation during adverse weather conditions.

New Load Control Switches

The pilot program that began last year is complete and our load control program has been integrated into our AMR system. To the irrigator, the new load control switches won't change a lot, other than they look slightly different and no longer have an antenna. There are still two lights on the switch. The GREEN light indicates that there is power to the switch and it is operational.

The RED light indicates that the well is being controlled.

By utilizing the AMI system which also allows us to remotely read the meters, we will have better ability to monitor individual wells and control load. As always, call us if you have questions about our load control equipment.



Irrigation Rate Schedule

Facilities Charge(per month for 4 months) - \$75.00

Purchased Power Demand Charge (per kW for 4 months)

No Control (Rate Code 13)	\$16.00
One Day Per Week Control- Rate Code 14)	\$12.00
Anytime Control Rate Control 15)	\$ 2.00
Three Days Per Week Control (Rate Code 16)	\$ 6.00
Pivot Wheels-Only (Rate Code 17)	\$14.00
Re-Use Pump (Rate Code 18)	\$ 7.00

Distribution Delivery Demand Charge (per kW for 4 months)

No Control (Rate Code 13)	\$ 2.00
One Day Per Week Control- Rate Code 14)	\$ 2.00
Anytime Control Rate Control 15)	\$ 2.00
Three Days Per Week Control (Rate Code 16)	\$ 2.00
Pivot Wheels-Only (Rate Code 17)	\$ 2.00
Re-Use Pump (Rate Code 18)	\$ 2.00

Energy Charge (all KWh)

No Control (Rate Code 13)	\$ 0.071
One Day Per Week Control- Rate Code 14)	\$ 0.071
Anytime Control Rate Control 15)	\$ 0.071
Three Days Per Week Control (Rate Code 16)	\$ 0.071
Pivot Wheels-Only (Rate Code 17)	\$ 0.071
Re-Use Pump (Rate Code 18)	\$ 0.071

The District allows customer choice of control options in the irrigation program. If the previously agreed upon Interruptible Irrigation Service Agreement is cancelled or altered by request of the customer during the irrigation season, the customer shall pay a \$150.00 service charge and the difference between the charges already paid and charges under the new control rate as selected by the customer.

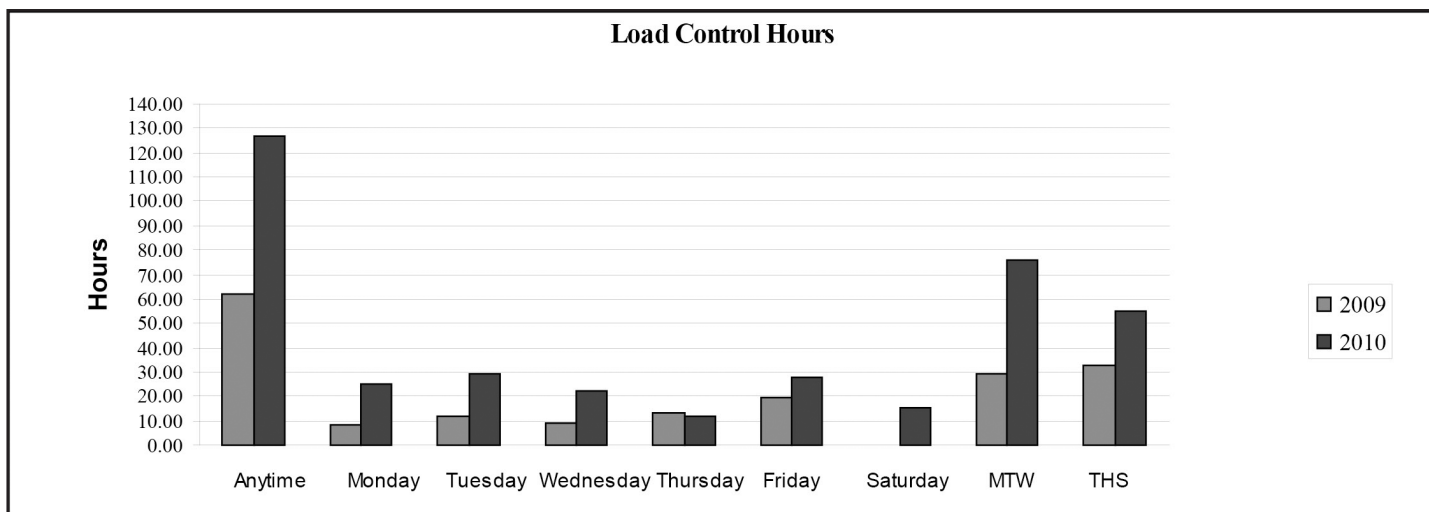
The four months that a customer will be billed are July, August, September and October. The minimum annual irrigation charge will be four months of Facility Charges.

The kilowatt (kW) billing demand for the summer months, June through September shall be 100% of the customer's measured peak demand during current billing period or the three summer season monthly billing periods immediately preceding the current billing period.

Twenty (20) horsepower and larger motors require power factor correction capacitors to correct to 90% power factor.

Load Control Hours for 2009 and 2010

The following chart shows the number of hours by group that irrigation wells were controlled in 2009 and 2010.



Come see us about our Energy Wise Irrigation Efficiency Program

While energy prices and rainfall are beyond anyone's control, irrigation operating costs can be managed better by investing in energy efficient technologies and practices. Many irrigators have found that making energy efficiency improvements to their irrigation systems, not only saves energy and water, but also can lead to improved productivity.

What can be done?

- * Convert a high- pressure system to low-pressure.
- * Rebuild or replace an inefficient pump.
- * Convert gravity irrigation to center pivot or sub-surface drip irrigation.

Call us to find out how we can help you make your irrigation system more efficient and save you money. You can also find out more by going to www.perennialpower.com and clicking on the Energy Wise Rebate Programs "Quick Link."

Irrigation Well Outages

Perennial gets more power outage calls in the summertime, than any other time of the year, primarily because of lightning, windstorms and animals. After a storm, or at the beginning of irrigation season after the wells have been idle all winter, we get flooded with calls about irrigation services that are out of power. If you know some basic troubleshooting techniques, you can possibly fix a problem yourself, if it's on your equipment. At a minimum, you should own a volt meter to check voltage, and an ohm meter to check fuses. Be sure to follow all instructions you read and understand all safety rules, before using these tools.

Many times we are called out because wells won't start, only to discover that the problem is on the customer's equipment. To avoid a \$150 service call, be sure to check the incoming voltage before calling Perennial. Check the voltage ahead of the fuses, in the disconnect switch below the meter. If proper voltage is present, this means that the problem is on your equipment, and an electrician will need to be called. If proper voltage is not present, call Perennial.



Well number on meter pole



Close-up view of well number

Calling Perennial

If you call in with service problems, we need to know some basic information about your well service. Most important is the name on your bill, and remember to mention if it is in a corporate name. Also include your legal description, well number, and meter number. This will help us pinpoint your service and speed up our response time. Remember, we need directions to the meter and not to the well. Sometimes the well and meter are across the road from each other in different sections. It is always a good idea to leave a phone number where you can be reached.

After hours call center

For several years we have employed NPPD as our after-hours call center. Service calls after regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri, are routed to the NPPD Call Center in Norfolk. It is important to remember when you call after hours, that you will not be talking to a Perennial

employee who is familiar with the service area. Because of this, it is important to make sure you supply the call center operator with as much information as possible. Please refer to the previous article (Calling Perennial) for that information.

Load Control Messages on KRVN

880 Rural Radio

Again this year, Perennial will have daily irrigation load control messages broadcasted on KRVN radio. Messages will be read at 8:29 a.m. Mon-Sat. If load control is expected, the radio announcer will say "Code Red" followed by a starting time for load control. If the announcer says "Code Green," this means that there is no load control that day. Early release messages (if necessary) will be scheduled for 4:59, 5:29, 5:59, 6:29, 6:59, 7:29, 7:59, 8:29, 8:59, 9:29 and 9:59.

Billing Change (cont. from page 1)

- **Facilities Charge** - This charge is the minimum amount that Perennial needs to collect to cover the cost of the ongoing operation of the electric system facilities (i.e. poles, wires, etc) that are needed to serve a customer, even if no electricity is consumed by the customer.
- **Purchased Power** - This charge is for the pass-through cost of wholesale power that Perennial purchases from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).
- **Distribution Delivery** - The expense of Perennial's day-to-day operations and other expenses associated with delivering power across Perennial's electric distribution system is recovered by this charge.
- **Energy Charge** - The kilowatt hour (kWh) charge for all energy used.

Contact information

Load Control Hot-line (402) 362-4786 - A recorded message announcing control status is updated as necessary throughout the day.

Office (402) 362-3355 (during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. M-F)

Service Calls 24 hours a day (402) 362-3357 or toll-free (800) 289-0288

Website www.perennialpower.com
Website is updated as necessary throughout the day.

