

## Seeking candidates for position on the Perennial Board

	YORK COUNTY		
VACANCY			
	FILLMORE COUNTY		

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

Presently, one position is open on Perennial’s Board of Directors and candidates living within the green area are being sought to fulfill the vacancy.

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 also 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, it is important that directors can devote adequate time to these activities.

If you are a residential customer in the green area of the map and are interested in being considered for an appointment to this position, please contact General Manager Jamey Pankoke (402) 362-3355 by February 20, 2012.

## LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!

Nebraska Public Power District announces its second year in sponsoring an energy efficient video contest. This contest gives students across the state an opportunity to learn the importance of conserving energy at home, in school, at work or on the farm. It helps students

gain awareness about the energy-wasting habits while promoting them to think about and propose energy saving alternatives by writing and starring in their own 30 second TV commercial.

All qualifying entries will be posted on [nppd.com](http://nppd.com), and a panel will select first, second and third place winners from the entrants. A “Popular Video Award” will be given to the video with the most views on YouTube per school class division (A, B, C or D).

Contest is open to junior and senior high school students in communities served by Nebraska Public Power District and its wholesale partner utilities, which includes Perennial Public Power District.

Go to [nppd.com/video\\_challenge](http://nppd.com/video_challenge) for contest information. **All entries must be received by 11:59 p.m. CDT, March 2, 2012.**

Last year’s winner was “Energy Saving Kitties,” submitted by Norfolk Junior High. This video can be viewed at <http://v1.nppd.com/videochallenge/>.



**Remember..... Be creative!**

# Electric rates rise 4.3% in 2012

Perennial Public Power District customers will pay an average of 4.3 percent more for their electricity beginning January 1, 2012. The District's Board of Directors approved the rate adjustment at their December board meeting.

The additional revenue from the rate increase will be used entirely to pay for the higher cost of wholesale power Perennial will purchase this year from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), who raised rates 6.5 percent the first of the year. According to NPPD, there were two primary drivers for the wholesale rate increase. About 4 percent of the increase can be attributed to a spike in fuel and transportation costs related to the production of electricity. More specifically, NPPD's cost of transporting coal is increasing 75 percent in 2012. Fuel costs are NPPD's second largest operating expense and have increased 50 percent in the past five years.

NPPD will use most of the remaining 2.5 percent in the wholesale rate increase to pay the debt principal and interest expense associated with capital investments in electric system plants and facilities. The investments are necessary to maintain reliability of the system, as well as to meet current and future environmental policies and regulations.

Perennial's new retail rate schedules were established following an independent analysis of the cost to serve each customer class, e.g., residential, irrigation, industrial, etc. The study looked at Perennial's actual operating expenses for a 12 month period and allocated the expenses, including wholesale power purchased from NPPD, to each customer class based upon such things as usage patterns, equipment necessary to provide service, and types of service.

Although Perennial's average annual increase in rates in 2012 will be 4.3 percent, the rate increases will vary by customer class. The increases among the classes will range from 2.5 percent to 7.9 percent. For an average town residential customer, the increase translates to about \$5.13 per month. However, once again winter rates will increase more than summer rates, as NPPD's wholesale power rate increase will be much higher in the winter billing months than it will be in the summer months.

Even with these cost increases, Perennial's electric rates, in addition to the rates of the other electric service providers in the state, remain a good value when compared with other utilities in the region and across the nation. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Nebraska's average retail electric rate for all customers in 2011 (through August) was 12th lowest in the nation.

Perennial offers several programs to assist customers in dealing with higher costs of electricity. A budget billing program allows customers to pay the same amount every

month, which helps levelize payments during high usage periods. Perennial's EnergyWise energy efficiency programs help customers use electricity more efficiently, thereby reducing energy usage and the charges for electricity. Free residential or business energy audits are also available to customers, to identify how energy consumption can be reduced. Of course, the best way for customers to determine the impact of the new rates is to allow Perennial's staff to apply actual energy consumption from the past year to the new rate schedule. For more information, please contact the customer service department.

## *Description of charges on your bill:*

**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 the wholesale power Perennial purchases from 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.

## New Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Lisa Wurtele was promoted to Marketing and Communications Coordinator on December 1, 2011.

Lisa's new duties include newsletter, advertising, Energy Wise programs, Youth Energy Camp and various other duties. Lisa began working at the district in June of 2004 as the Customer Service Representative after working at the Nebraska Department of Roads for over 13 years.



Lisa is excited about facing new challenges and exploring a different area of our business. She is looking forward to working with customers to help create awareness about energy conservation and helping people find ways to save on their electric bill.

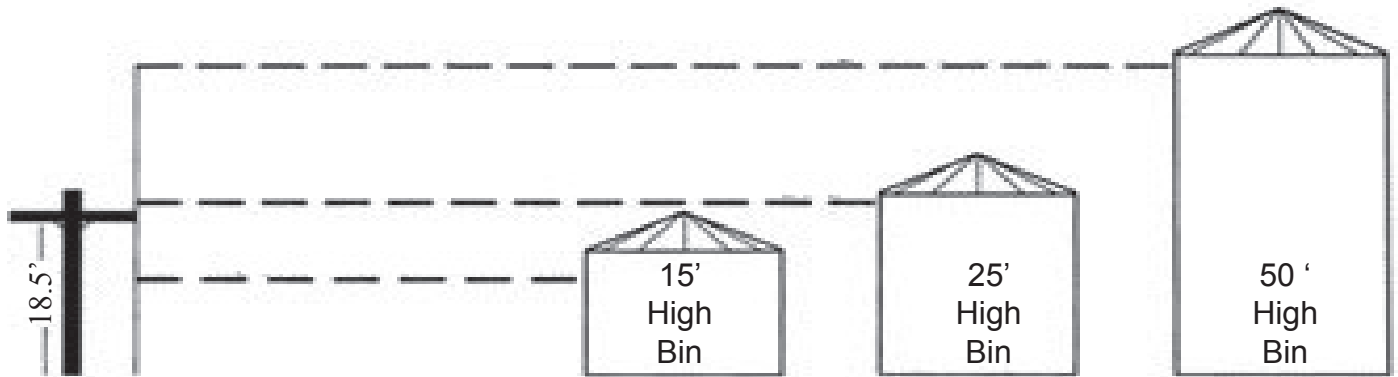
# Call Perennial before building grain storage

Are you thinking of building a new grain storage facility or adding additional storage to an existing site? Before you build it is important to contact Perennial Public Power District to discuss how close a grain bin can be to power lines. This is for your safety, but it is also a requirement of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) which we must follow.

The first step is to call your County Zoning Administrator. Zoning regulations are important when building a new grain storage facility or adding new structures to an existing facility. Including this step can help you avoid ending up in an area that is not zoned for your project which would add additional time and expense.

Second you need to call Perennial's Operations Department. A lot can be done with a phone call. Our Operations Department will evaluate the location and load requirements for your project and coordinate with our Engineering Department. It is important to consider transformer capacities if adding additional load to an existing facility. Increasing load without notifying us could cause a problem with existing transformers. Another thing to keep in mind is additional load could change the rate class on an existing service.

Constructing a grain storage facility too close to an electrical power line is hazardous. The clearance mandated by the NESC lists specific minimum distances both horizontal and vertical that must be maintained between a grain bin and utility overhead lines. Perennial encourages you to contact them before starting your construction.



*Illustration shows larger bins need to be further from power lines. Refer to NESC 234 for details.*

## Installing energy efficient lighting creates more rebates!

Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Heartland Community Schools continued to participate in the Energy Wise Commercial and Industrial Lighting program in 2011.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International has been making lighting improvements to their facility since 2009. Heartland Community Schools have been making improvements since 2010 to their school. Both have been replacing T-12 fixtures and magnetic ballasts to T-8 fixtures with electronic ballasts. Along with their continued lighting upgrades they have been installing occupancy sensors to add even more savings.

Perennial is excited to see Pioneer Hi-Bred International and Heartland Community Schools along with many other customers take advantage of this Energy Wise program. To find out more on how you can save go to our web site [www.perennialpower.com](http://www.perennialpower.com) and take a look at our 2012 Energy Wise rebates.



Lisa Wurtele (L) presenting Doug Papik with Pioneer Hi-Bred International a rebate check.



Lisa Wurtele (L) presenting rebate check to Dr. Norm Yoder of Heartland Community Schools.

# Defensive Driving Tip

## Driving in white-out conditions

Winter can lead to all sorts of difficult road conditions. The best advice is to watch the weather and stay where you are when conditions are bad. But, since you may get caught in bad weather, the following suggestions will help you if you are caught in a white-out.

- Do not stop in the lane of travel; it is extremely dangerous.
- Keep going, but drive at a comfortable, safe speed.
- If you are having problems with visibility, make sure you are following the line on the side of the road that will keep you from going into other lanes or into the ditch.
- Get off the highway as soon as possible.
- Continue to scan the road from side to side while driving through heavy pockets of snow. If you stare right into it the snow, it can mesmerize you and cause you to lose focus on the road.

### \$\$ Energy Efficiency Tip \$\$

Don't let the energy phantoms consume your cash. Start by unplugging cell phone chargers when not in use. Plug electronics into power strips and turn those off when not using, especially overnight. Consider using a 'smart' power strip that stops power draw when items are not in use.

Perennial will be at the  
Henderson Home Show  
Saturday, February 25, 2012  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Stop in and see us!

## ENERGYWISE

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

### 2012 ENERGY WISE Programs

- Residential Attic Insulation
- High Efficiency Heat Pump
- Cooling System Tune-up
- Commercial/Industrial Lighting Efficiency
- Irrigation Pump
- Commercial HVAC
- HVAC System Optimization
- Variable Frequency Drive

Go to [www.perennialpower.com](http://www.perennialpower.com) for more information

## Perennial Public Power District Energy for Generations

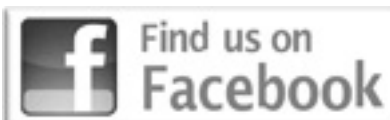
2122 South Lincoln Avenue  
York, NE 68467

Visit us at [www.perennialpower.com](http://www.perennialpower.com)

402-362-3355

800-289-0288

402-362-3357- Outages



Office Hours  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday