

IRRIGATION NEWSLETTER

Efficiency measures save energy, add value and qualify for incentives

Dawson PPD is partnering with Nebraska Public Power District to offer Energy Wise Irrigation Efficiency programs to help defray the cost of improvements. In 2010, Dawson is budgeting up to \$35,300 for customer incentives that help increase irrigation efficiency.

Incentives of up to 20 cents per kilowatt hour of energy savings are paid to customers making energy efficiency improvements to irrigation systems.

"Irrigators need to talk to their irrigation system contractors to see what improvements would make sense for their business. There may be some low-cost changes you can make that will pay back quickly," explains Dawson PPD Energy Services Specialist, Bernie Svoboda.

Other examples of upgrades include conversion from a high-pressure system to a low-pressure

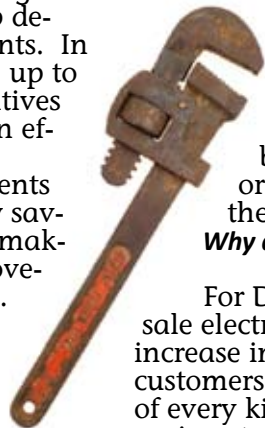
system; use of variable frequency drives; rebuilding or replacing an inefficient pump or converting from gravity irrigation to a center pivot or sub-surface irrigation.

The incentive can be paid to a landowner or a tenant, depending on their agreement.

Why does this benefit my power company?

For Dawson PPD and wholesale electric supplier NPPD, the increase in efficiency means that customers are getting the most out of every kilowatt hour. Energy savings translates to decreased power plant emissions. It also helps delay the costly construction of new generation resources.

Contact Bernie Svoboda at 308-324-2386 or email bsvoboda@dawsonpower.com for more information.



Is it time for an efficiency upgrade?

- The average life of an irrigation pump is 18 years. If the pump you depend on each growing season was installed prior to 1992, it may need to be refurbished or replaced.
- Improper use of choke valves can cause pumps to use many more kilowatt hours than necessary.
- In some cases, improvements in energy efficiency can also improve the efficiency of water use.
- Contact your irrigation system contractor to inquire about efficiency testing and possible upgrades.



IMPORTANT DATES

March 31

Load management changes due

March 31

New load management contracts due

April 27

Demand charges due

June 1 - August 31

Load management announcements available

November 29

Energy charges due

GETTING LOAD CONTROL INFORMATION

KRVN AM 880 radio

Messages begin at 8:20 a.m. and are updated throughout the day

Text messaging

Receive control start and release times throughout the day. Dawson PPD is group H. Call 308-324-2386 to sign up.

dawsonpower.com

Click on the load management link on the right to access the day's control status. Monthly and annual control data is also available.

Rate increases are in effect for 2010 season

Irrigation rates are increasing by an average of 7.4 percent for 2010.

“Our rate increase is driven by increased costs. Wholesale power rates increased. Transmission costs for delivering wholesale

power to our substations have increased as well,” explains Dawson PPD General Manager, Robert Heinz.

One of the increases that impacts irrigation rates is a dramatic rise in wholesale power rates

from the Western Area Power Association or WAPA.

WAPA sells power produced by federally owned hydroplants. Low-cost WAPA power has been a key factor in keeping electric irrigation rates low. However, due to the recent drought in the Missouri River basin, there wasn't enough water to run through the hydroplants to produce the full amount of contracted power. To make up for the shortfall, WAPA had to buy power on the open market to fill the power contracts it holds with mid-western power companies. WAPA was forced to raise wholesale rates 21.6% to cover the cost of these purchases.

Not using the service this year?

Dawson PPD does offer customers the option of putting an electric service on standby if they will not be using it during the 2010 season. The “standby charge” increased to \$16 per horsepower. If the service is no longer needed, the property owner can sign a retirement form to have the poles, transformers and wire removed from their property.

2010 IRRIGATION RATES

Six-Day Control	
Demand charge	\$19.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0579/kilowatt hour
Four-Day Control	
Demand charge	\$25.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0754/kilowatt hour
Three-Day Control	
Demand charge	\$30.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0784/kilowatt hour
Two-Day Control	
Demand charge	\$35.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0824 kilowatt hour
One-Day Control	
Demand charge	\$40.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0864/kilowatt hour
Uncontrolled	
Demand charge	\$45.91/horsepower
Energy charge	\$0.0954/kilowatt hour

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Please refer to the meter number when you call about a specific irrigation service. This helps Dawson PPD access your account information.

Waiting list continues for new services

Dawson PPD continues to have a large number of customers who would like to have new electric services built to serve irrigation systems. Customers who contact Dawson PPD about a new irrigation service during the spring of 2010 will not have their service built until the irrigation season of 2014.



Dawson PPD has committed to building approximately 35 miles of line for irrigation services each year. Depending on the types of services, this represents 60 to 120 installations. For fairness, the District tries to stick to the order in which names are entered into the waiting list, even if the new service would be from an existing power line.

“We have to control our growth so that we can support

it properly with substation and line upgrades,” explains Rob Ecklund, Manager of Engineering. He explains that each new service is studied to ensure that there is enough capacity on the lines where it will be connected. If there is not enough capacity, the irrigation service is delayed until upgrades can be completed.

Dawson PPD currently offers irrigation customers a credit of \$35 per horsepower for aid to construction. This credit helps offset the cost of building new lines.

When new irrigation services are staked, an engineer’s estimate of costs will be given to the customer. These cost estimates are good for 30 days. All construction costs, less the aid to construction credits, must be paid before a project is released for construction.

Access to DPPD equipment and lines

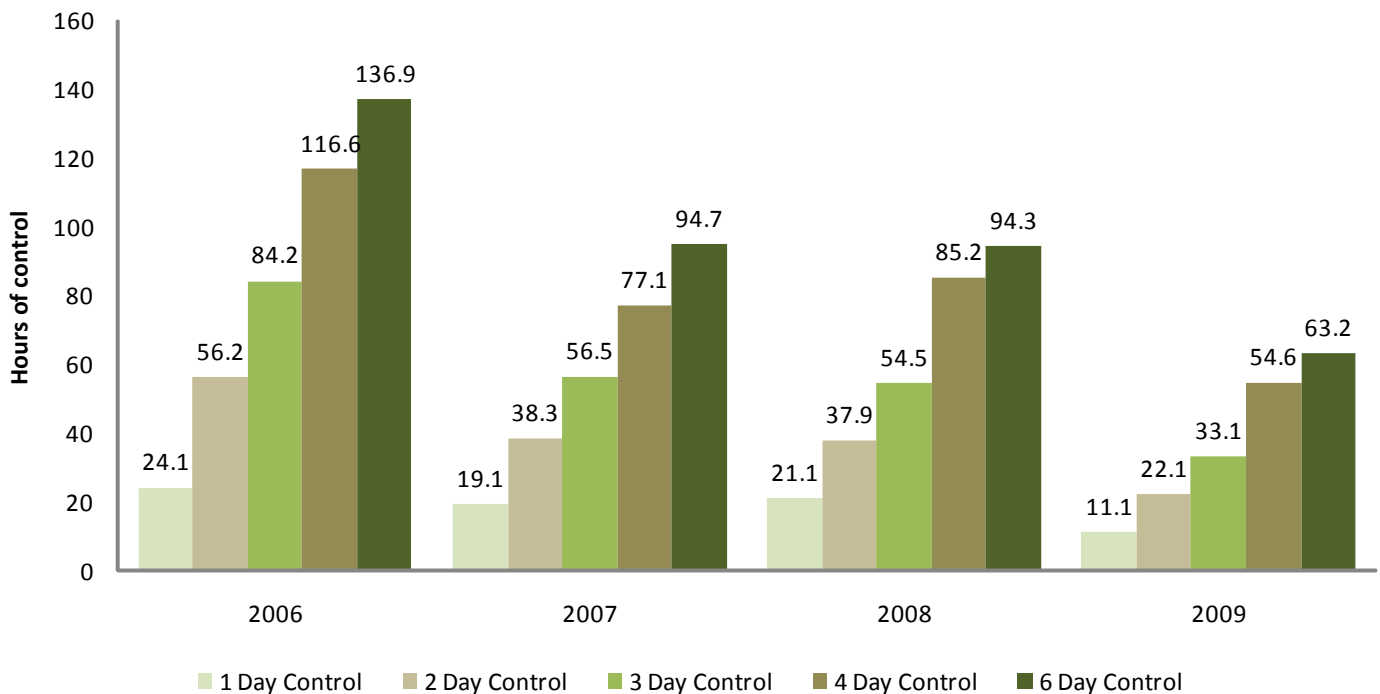
Dawson PPD personnel need to be able to access our lines and meters during the irrigation season. This can be a problem if there is no access road or it is only wide enough to accommodate an ATV instead of a full sized truck. If repairs need to be made, service personnel require a road or path accessible by truck.

Are you interested in green power?

Several ag producers are looking at wind power, solar panels and methane capture as a way to power a portion of their farming operation.

Dawson PPD welcomes the opportunity to discuss any plans you may have for installing renewable generation. There are established standards that allow customers to sell excess electricity to the District. These standards also include information about safety equipment, liability and rates.

Annual hours of load control by group



Call DPPD before removing soil near poles



Dawson PPD is asking landowners to call before starting a land leveling or dirt moving project near power lines. Removing the topsoil around a pole will significantly reduce its reliability, allowing it to lean or fall in windy or stormy conditions. This could cause power outages.

“The poles are placed into the ground at a certain depth, based on the size of the pole and engineering specifications. The dirt around them is then tamped to ensure their stability,” explains Rob Ecklund, Manager of Engineering. “When you remove the soil around the poles, they aren’t able to withstand the same level of environmental conditions. In addition, disturbing the ground can lead to erosion problems and pole

rotting issues that can make the situation worse.”

Landowners who remove soil around poles will be billed for the expense of resetting the poles to the proper depth. Dawson PPD also urges caution when anyone is using large equipment near power lines. Be aware of your surroundings and call if there are any clearance problems. The district’s distribution lines are energized to 7,200 volts and contact with them can be deadly.

Dawson PPD provides power to over 22,000 meters serving homes, farms, irrigation wells and businesses from Sutherland to Shelton. The district’s electric system includes over 5,700 miles of line and approximately 100,000 poles.

Removing soil around utility poles decreases the strength of the line and can cause major problems during wind and ice storms. The dark portion of the pole pictured at left had been underground before the landowner’s excavation project.