

# Irrigation Newsletter 2012

## Alliance is concerned about the future of Nebraska's water

The Nebraska Water Balance Alliance believes that we need to consider adding new tools to the state's water management strategy to ensure a strong economy for our future.

"Current strategies focus on limiting irrigation to maintain stream flows, however irrigation represents only 10% of the water consumed in our state," says Robert Heinz, DPPD General Manager and NEWBA President.

The Alliance believes there are risks to the current strategy: 1) Reducing groundwater irrigation may have minimal impact on stream flows. 2) Reducing irrigated acres will have a negative impact on the economy. 3) Reducing irrigated acres does nothing to address drought or flooding problems.



### Why is Dawson PPD involved?

Dawson Public Power District began thinking about the practice of retir-

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## Construction of new irrigation services

Dawson PPD has been building more irrigation services per year in an effort to reduce the wait time for construction.

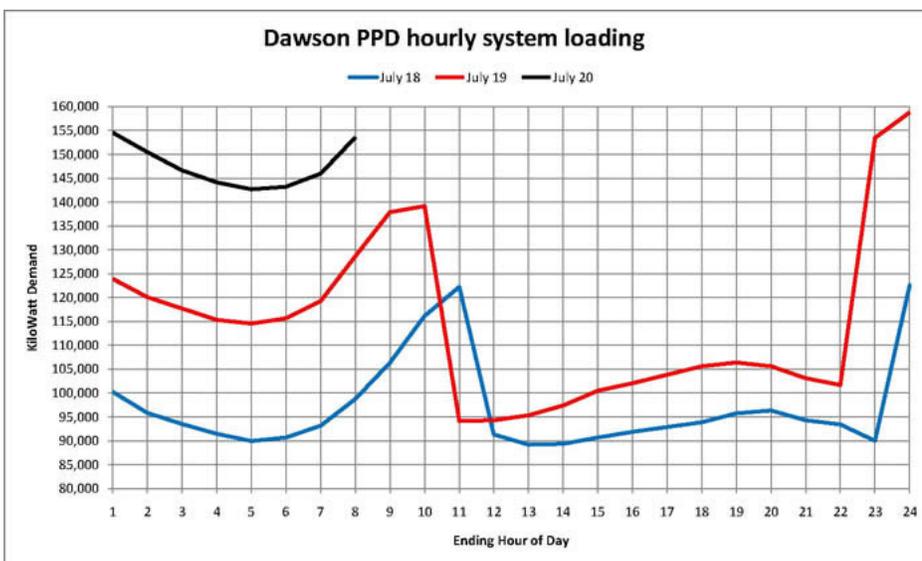
Several in-line services, those that do not require additional poles and conductor, have been installed for use during the 2012 season.



Irrigation services requiring line extensions (additional poles and conductor) are also being expedited. There still is a waiting list for services requiring a line extension.

If you would like to request an estimate for the construction of a new irrigation service, please contact our engineering department.

## Load management shapes DPPD's electric load



The electrical load on Dawson's system rises in the early hours of the morning. The drop in usage is the point when load management began on these days in July. As air conditioners turn on in the afternoon, there is a small rise in demand. When load management control is released at the end of the day, demand spikes again as irrigation systems begin to operate.

## New control options are offered

Dawson PPD is giving customers some new options for control days.

Customers on Two-day control can choose from the standard *Monday-Tuesday, Wednesday-Thursday, Friday-Saturday* control days. This year they can also choose *Monday-Thursday, Tuesday-Friday, or Wednesday-Saturday*.

The Three-day control options include *Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday* and a *Thursday-Friday-Saturday* option. A *Monday-Wednesday-Friday* and a *Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday* option are available as well.

Requests for control days are

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# Call before you move soil near power 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 engineer-



Removing soil near power poles can weaken the line, making it more likely to fall down in a storm. Please contact DPPD before moving dirt near our poles.

ing 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.

## 2012 Electric Rates

	<u>FIXED CHARGES</u>	<u>ENERGY CHARGES</u>
Uncontrolled	\$50.85 per horsepower	\$0.0986 per kilowatt hour
One-day control	\$45.85 per horsepower	\$0.0916 per kilowatt hour
Two-day control	\$40.85 per horsepower	\$0.0866 per kilowatt hour
Three-day control	\$35.85 per horsepower	\$0.0816 per kilowatt hour
Four-day control	\$30.35 per horsepower	\$0.0768 per kilowatt hour
Six-day control	\$25.35 per horsepower	\$0.0586 per kilowatt hour
<i>Standby*</i>	\$20.00 per horsepower	

\*Standby charges are assessed when the irrigation service will not be used for the season. If you no longer need the electrical service at the location, please contact Dawson PPD’s engineering department to have the meter and transformers permanently removed.

Regular load management control days are Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays. Accounts can be controlled for a maximum of 12 hours per day. All rate classes are subject to load control on Sunday or holidays if control is requested by Nebraska Public Power District.

## Changing load control options during the irrigation season

Customers can downgrade their load control option once during the season. An example would be changing from six-day control down to three-day control.

A \$100 charge (per account) will be billed if the change is made during normal working hours, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The charge for after hours changes are \$150 per account. In addition to the fees for changing options, the cus-

tomers must pay the difference in fixed charge cost. All energy will be billed at the new load control option’s rate.

### Removing load control completely

Customers also have the option of opting out of the load management program. This would mean the service would be billed on the uncontrolled rate. A \$150 charge

will be billed if the work is completed during normal working hours. The charge is \$200 if the change is made after hours. The customer must pay

the difference in the fixed charge cost and all energy will be billed at the uncontrolled rate.



# ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Who do you call during irrigation season? Dawson PPD's Engineering Department helps customers with new services and load management questions.

The group includes: Rob Ecklund, Manager of Engineering; Mike Kitsmiller, Staking Engineer; Sharyn Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Dave Dobbins, Staking Engineer; Jerry Hobelman, Staking Engineer; Ron Teten, Engineering Technician; and Ben Mitchell, Electrical Engineer.



## Alliance... (Continued from Page 1)

ing irrigated acres during a strategic planning session. At first the Board of Directors focused on the effect on the power district. Calculations show that if irrigation wells within a 2.5 mile corridor of the Platte River from Elm Creek westward were shut down, Dawson PPD would lose \$3.8 million in revenue the first year.

But Dawson PPD knows that it wouldn't be the only one to suffer if irrigation wells were shut down. A study was commissioned from an UNL economist. The preliminary results show that if 3,500 acres in Dawson PPD territory were no longer irrigated, business receipts surrounding communities would drop by \$2 million the first year and 24 jobs would be lost. If 18,600 irrigation acres were retired, business receipts would be reduced by about \$10.8 million and 126 jobs would be lost.

### Joining the Alliance, support the Alliance

The Nebraska Water Balance Alliance members believe that they must work together with all water stake holders to help develop alternatives to current water management strategies. They want to help producers, regulators and others understand the current risks and opportunities for future management. In addition, the group supports research and practical water management solutions.

The Alliance is a non-profit organization. They welcome farmers who want to contribute and join their advisory group. Please contact Lorre McKeone for more information at 308-530-4556 or visit the group's website, [www.nebraskawaterbalance.org](http://www.nebraskawaterbalance.org). You are also invited to follow the group on their Facebook page.

## Big equipment can cause big problems near power lines

Farmers are asked to use caution whenever they work near power lines, especially when using large equipment.

Call Dawson PPD if you think lines are too low to drive under.

If you come in contact with a power line, stay in the vehicle and call Dawson PPD for assistance.



## Tampering with meters or controllers is theft of service



Any changes made to electric metering or load management devices by non-Dawson PPD personnel can be considered tampering. Meter or controller tampering can result in serious injury or death. If meter or controller tampering are detected, local law enforcement authorities will be contacted.

The billing department will determine the amount of loss created by the bypass based on prior usage. Irrigation customers will be billed on the Uncontrolled Rate and are subject to the fees of the Interruptible Rate Release Clause. In addition, to energy and fixed charges, the customer will be billed for damages, expenses, cost of the investigation and vehicle mileage.

A copy of Dawson PPD's Meter/Equipment Tampering or Bypass File Procedure C-1 can be mailed to you upon request.

## Give us a little elbow room, please?



Irrigators,

Please leave us a path to your electric meter. We need a road that is wide enough to accommodate a pickup. This helps us work more efficiently. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Your DPPD lineman

## No power?

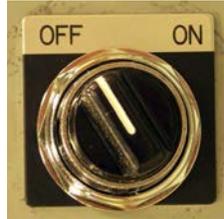
Try resetting the switch

Dawson PPD is asking customers to check their irrigation service before calling to report electrical problems.

If your irrigation service has one of the large, grey meter boxes near the road, please try turning the switch on the box before

you call to report a problem with your service. Sometimes the switch can trip and simply needs to be reset.

If resetting the switch does not work, please call us at 308-324-2386 or 800-752-8305.



## New control options... *Continued from Page 1*

handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Dawson PPD has to balance the load for each day. This means that there are a limited number of spots open in each option.

## Irrigation season dates & deadlines

March 30

LM options must be chosen, contracts signed.

April 25

Demand/horsepower charges due.

November 26

Energy charges due.

## Code red or code green?

Load management status is announced through:

- KRVN 880 AM
- [www.dawsonpower.com](http://www.dawsonpower.com)
- Text messages (call 308-325-5631 to be added to the list)