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PREMA

Late November Ice Storm Shuts Off The Lights

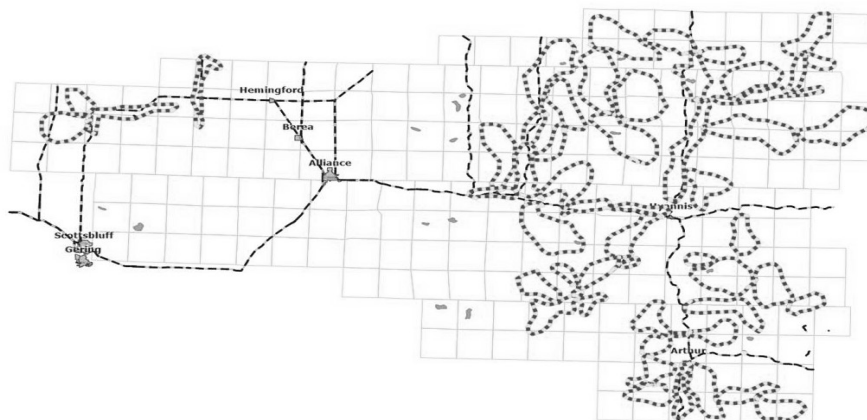
Thanksgiving evening began what turned out to be an eight-day ordeal for PREMA and its members. Ice began forming on PREMA wires and equipment Thursday evening November 28, continued through Friday putting a coating of ice up to a couple of inches in diameter. On Saturday it turned to snow and the wind became strong. Ice on the wires and high winds is a damaging combination for electric lines.

PREMA crews attempted to restore power on Saturday but were unable to do much good. When the wind went down and the ice came off the lines PREMA crews began tallying the damage doing line patrol by air and by ground. The storm left over 200 poles on the ground with many other lines damaged due to wrap-ups and burn-downs. At its worst, the storm knocked out power to about 900 meters.

After locating all damage and prioritizing work, PREMA crews, along with help from five neighboring rural electric systems, began the monumental task of restoring power. PREMA employees logged 1077 hours of overtime during the storm restoration process. Much of the damaged line was patched with temporary fixes and will have to be revisited to make permanent repairs.

General Manager, Ryan Reiber, stated "I am truly thankful for the fine work all the PREMA personnel put forth during this time and doing the work safely". He also said, "I am thankful for the help of the neighboring rural electric who came to PREMA's aid; we are blessed to have neighbors like this!"

PREMA would like to thank all the members who were so very patient during this extreme test of man and equipment. Most of the downed poles were on tops of steep hills making access difficult and slowing the restoration process. From the first customers going off until the last were turned on, it was seven days and 21 hours.



This map shows the outage areas at its worst. The dotted lines represent the areas that were affected.



Images From The November Ice Storm

PREMA's Employees Donate to United Way

PREMA is a Pacesetter Business and partners with United Way to make a difference in the community. Currently, United Way of Western Nebraska serving Box Butte and Dawes Counties supports thirteen partner agencies in Box Butte County and four in Dawes County. This year, United Way has two new partner agencies in Box Butte County: Community Table and Alliance Diaper Bank as well as eleven returning non-profit partners. This says a great deal about the returning partners as they all go through a rigorous application process that includes a financial review to ensure they are good stewards of United Way funds. Community Table provides a meal Monday through Friday to anyone who may need a meal at no cost. United Way funding helps cover the overall cost including anytime there is not a meal sponsor. Alliance Diaper Bank provides diapers once per month to families in need in the community. United Way grant monies help Alliance Diaper Bank in ensuring families in need in our community have access to diapers. Some returning non-profit partners include, Alliance Oldtimer's Baseball and Softball, Community Services (Northwest Community Action Partnership) and East Point Horspice.

For more information visit <https://www.unitedwayofwesternnebraska.com>



PREMA's employees donated \$1,926.12 in 2019 to United Way of Western Nebraska. These donations are given on a volunteer basis and each employee chooses the amount they donate.

PREMA		DATE	Nov. 14, 2019
PAY TO THE ORDER OF	United Way		\$1926 ¹² / ₁₀₀
Nineteen hundred twenty six		¹² / ₁₀₀	DOLLARS
FOR	Employee Donation		PREMA Employees

PREMA Board Approves 2020 Budget

The PREMA Board of Directors, at its December 10, 2019 meeting, approved a budget which included estimated total revenue of \$13,029,552, net margins of just over \$455,100 and a rate increase of 2.35 percent. This rate increase will be tempered by a capital credit payment to the membership of \$623,000 or 4.78 percent of revenue. Any margins at the end of the year will be allocated to the membership.

The budget reflects purchased power costs from Tri-State at nearly \$7,600,000 or 63 percent of PREMA's total operating costs.

Included in the 2020 budget is \$645,000 for replacement of equipment such as a digger/derrick truck and a one-man bucket truck. It also includes continued funding of preventative maintenance program such as tree trimming and substation testing. The PREMA Board cut about \$140,000 from the operating budget to help ease the rate increase.

Each year, certain financial ratios must be maintained to be in compliance with PREMA's mortgage agreements with lenders. The 2020 budget produced ratios that comply with these agreements.

PREMA continues to invest in new plant (such as poles, wires and transformers). These investments make PREMA's electric system more reliable especially during severe weather such as occurred on November 30, 2019.

PREMA employees are dedicated to the mission of providing high quality electric service at a reasonable rate. We at PREMA look forward to serving your electrical needs in the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 308-762-1311.

Notes from Load Management

The Load Management program is in place for the 2020 irrigation season; there will be no changes. By participating in Load Management, irrigators receive a discount on the kW charge. PREMA consumers with irrigation accounts will be receiving a letter explaining guidelines for Load Management. Irrigators not receiving the letter can call the office for information at 308-762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at tims@prema.coop. If you are an owner or operator of an irrigation account, please notify the new Customer Accountant (Allison) with any changes to the bill.



**Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Dawes, Garden, Grant, Hooker,
McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan and Sioux Counties**

PREMA

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OPERATIONS AND STAFF

Ryan Reiber—General Manager
Paul Grosz—Operations Manager
Dale Knapp—Staking Engineer

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