

# irrigation & load management NEWSLETTER

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Summer 2006

## economic control program

### Southern Participates in the ECP

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Last year, Southern Power District agreed to become a part of NPPD's Economic Control Program (ECP). Through this program, irrigators who utilize Southern's Multiple Control Rate are eligible to be controlled on Sundays. The purpose for the added control with this group is to reduce the peaks which occur on Sundays. In the past, Sunday was a day in which control occurred only on an emergency basis. Southern decided to first take part in the ECP in 2005, as a proactive approach to helping reduce the peak on Sundays. By engaging customers who are willing to participate with the program, the district is hoping to reduce the likelihood that Sunday Load Control would become mandatory for all control groups.

#### example: ◀ ◀ ◀

If NPPD offers  
**\$1.369 per horsepower on a 50hp well,**  
the total credit to the  
customer would  
be **\$68.45.**

For the customers who agree to utilize the Multiple Control rate, an incentive is granted when Sunday control occurs. The amount of the incentive is based upon the amount of control imposed on a per horsepower basis.

In 2005, Sunday load control occurred twice, both days occurring in July. On both days, Southern was able to shed 38-39 megawatts of power, which helped alleviate the peak load occurring on those days. In all, \$91,260 was credited back to customers in 2005 who took part in the Multiple Control Rate.

If you have any questions about the ECP and the Multiple Control Rate, call Southern Power District today at 1-800-579-3019.

## load control rate changes

### The Time is NOW to Check Your Rate

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If you would like to change an irrigation service that is currently utilizing the "Multiple Control" rate, you need to contact the Irrigation Services Department by Thursday, June 15th to make that change. You have this window of opportunity to make a change without a service charge. After June 15th, if you request to

change your rate, you will be assessed a \$100 service charge in addition to any increases seen with your new rate. Contact Anthony Bohaty today if you would like to remove your service from the Multiple Control Rate, at 1-800-579-3019.

# construction deadlines

## Planning Ahead: Your Best Bet for Meeting Construction Deadlines

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If there is one thing that is certain about construction deadlines for new irrigation services, it is that every year seems to be a game of “wait and see” in determining what the deadline will be. In 2004 and 2005, we were unable to accept non-firm applications after the standard February 1st deadline as we had in previous years. We are committed to serving customers who desire to utilize our services, but we are also committed to keeping our word to complete services in time for the irrigation season. For the past construction season, we received more applications than we had in previous years. Because we were uncertain that we could complete the additional demand, the non-firm applications could not be accepted.

In 2005, we faced an unforeseen challenge when Hurricane Katrina struck the

shores of the Gulf Coast. Even though this disaster was miles away from our district, we felt the impact of the devastation. We have experienced delays in the shipping of materials required to complete new services. Because of the rising demand for new services and the added challenge of material delays, we were forced to change our deadline for guaranteed services from February 1, 2006 to December 15, 2005.

As we go forward with the 2006 irrigation season and begin thinking about the 2007 season, we encourage you to begin thinking about your plans for next year. If you are thinking about requesting a service to be added in 2007, be watchful of the deadlines and changes that may occur and consider submitting your application early.

# growth

## New Irrigation Services in High Demand

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Southern has continued to see a trend of high requests for new irrigation services. In recent years, the high cost of other fuel sources have driven many irrigators to pursue electricity for its lower cost. Although irrigation rates increased in recent years, we continued to experience strong growth.

When all new irrigation installations and upgrades are completed for 2006, we will have added 278 new services, amounting to 14,750 horsepower to our system. This number has

not increased from last year, but has remained comparable. In 2005 we added 350 new services and 15,000 in additional horsepower.

Because of the continuing demand, it was determined that Southern could no longer accept applications after the non-firm deadline (which was December 15th, almost two months earlier than previous years). All applications received prior to this date were estimated and built as requested by our customers.

# speed up your trouble calls

## Knowing Your Account Number Helpful in Expediting Service

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When you call Southern after hours for service problems or for load management assistance, knowing your account number (well number) can be very beneficial. This is an important number which helps us to accurately identify the location of your well, which decreases the

time it takes to dispatch a serviceman to the location. If you do not know your well number, it is also helpful to provide a legal location, along with your name.



# load management hours

## Operating Procedures to Follow Same Guidelines as 2005

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The district will be following the same operating procedures as last summer with control beginning as early as 9:00 a.m. and continuing as late as 11:00 p.m., but not continuing for more than 12 consecutive hours. ▶ ▲ ▲

Our goal is to not keep irrigation loads shut off any longer than necessary. Because the district is billed for its wholesale power based upon the peak loads that we create, keeping those loads as low as possible helps to keep irrigation load management rates as low as possible.

NPPD has established the ability to know how long it can delay load control start times each day based on the weather and other conditions. They have also placed participating wholesale customers across the state into eight groups in order to vary load control requests from only as many groups as needed throughout the day. This strategy has worked well in recent years for both irrigation customers and for Southern, as it gives maximum running time. It also allows NPPD flexibility to take off loads more precisely.

All of the district's irrigation load man-

**example:**  
If your well  
is controlled begin-  
ning at 9 a.m...  
your power will be  
restored by  
9 p.m.

agement rates contain an emergency clause that allows the district to respond to a situation whereby NPPD is not able to supply power. The failure of a major transmission line or the shut down of a generating station could trigger such an emergency control of your irrigation well. This could occur at any time including Sunday. While rare, such power shortages could also damage your irrigation motor.

In addition if you have wells on the Multiple Control Group, you are also enrolled in the Economic Control Program, and you are subject to Sunday control. Generally this occurs for 4 to 6 hours. This program is fully outlined on the front page of this newsletter. We anticipate Sunday control may be needed a couple of times a year. It is also possible that control of this group could take place on either the July 4th or Labor Day holidays, but that has not been necessary in the past.

If emergency control or economic control is imposed, the district will provide as much warning as possible via radio messages.

Irrigation Manager Anthony Bohaty says that he anticipates the use of Sunday control to be light. "We will continue striving to provide customers with the least amount of interruption as possible".

## keep informed

### Load Management Information Available from a Number of Sources

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Beginning in June, KRVN 880-AM Radio will announce load management messages each morning at 8:29 a.m., Monday through Saturday. The early release messages will air on the "59" at 4:59, 5:59; 6:59, 7:59, 8:59 and 9:59 p.m. This message schedule will continue throughout the load management season, or until mid-September.

If Sunday emergency control is neces-

sary, Southern will make these announcements through KRVN 880 AM.

Load management information is also available via our toll-free hotline at 1-800-652-9809, and from email updates. If you would like to be notified via Southern's e-mail update listing, please contact Anthony Bohaty, Irrigation Services Manager, at [abohaty@southernpd.net](mailto:abohaty@southernpd.net).

Southern Power District



P.O. Box 1687  
4550 West Husker Highway  
Grand Island, NE, 68802-1687



### general office

Grand Island (308) 384-2350  
Toll Free 1-800-652-2013

### service centers

Grand Island (308) 384-2202  
Central City (308) 946-2964  
Franklin (308) 425-6217  
Hastings (402) 751-2535  
Holdrege (308) 995-5112  
Toll Free 1-888-484-2470

### customer irrigation services

308-381-5941  
1-800-579-3019  
abohaty@southernpd.net

### load control hotline

1-800-652-9809

### board of directors

Marvin Fishler, Chairman  
Mike Lowry, Vice-Chairman  
Adrian Choquette, Secretary  
Dean Klute, Treasurer  
Larry Benson  
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Neal Katzberg  
Dirk Nickel  
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### president/ceo

Gary Hedman

# load control boxes

## A Review of Their Operation

If you see a red and green light in your load control box window, that means your are currently under control. A single green light means you are NOT under control. If you think you are being controlled in error, please call the Irrigation Hotline at 1-800-652-9809 to check which

groups are currently under control, or contact the Grand Island office at 1-800-579-3019 to verify your current rate of control.



# tampering

## Load Control Tampering Not Permitted

Tampering with a load control box is a violation of the agreement irrigators make with the district when entering into the load control program. If irrigation wells are not under control when they need to be, then all other irrigators are affected by the additional load control required to make up the difference.

The only people authorized to access the load control switch on your irrigation services--and the wiring connecting the switch to the well--are the employees of Southern Power

District. Private electricians and well or pivot repairmen are not authorized for this access.

### also:

Running your well in the "hand position" during a control period is a violation of your load control agreement.

If the switch or wires are accessed by you or an unauthorized repairman, YOU are responsible for that

action. Any unauthorized access is considered by the district to be "tampering", and the penalties include being billed at the Full Power Rate and removal from the load management program.

If you suspect you have a problem with your load control switch--before, during or after the load control season--please call your local service center.

# temporary bypass

## Contact Southern for Short-Term Load Control Waiver

Southern Power District may be able to provide you with a short-term waiver from load control if you are required to troubleshoot your system for repairs, or if you need to walk your pivot "dry". Power can usu-

ally be restored within one hour.

For the quickest results, please contact Irrigation Manager Anthony Bohaty prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day you are requesting temporary restoration.