

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRICT

Irrigation & Load Control

Summer 2007 Newsletter

SERVICE RESTORED

Power restored to all irrigation services!

Faced with the daunting task of repairing facilities damaged by the ice storm, Southern kept pace with the ice storm workload throughout the winter and spring. As the result of much hard work, power has been restored to all irrigation services. The district's original goal was to finish restoring service to irrigation customers by July 1st. The determination of our linemen, an aggressive schedule maintained by our engineering and operations staff, and a massive presence of contract labor all made possible the completion of ice storm repair work earlier than expected.

Now that restoration is complete, we are looking ahead to the coming months with some uncertainty. We know there are weaknesses in our facilities that will become exposed during the summer with severe weather, or as we put our system to the test with higher loads during irrigation season. For instance, the photograph above--captured from a bucket truck view--



This example of ice storm damage was found in the Holdrege region early this spring.



Contractor crews worked near Norman in March rebuilding miles of distribution line, essential for this summer's irrigation load.

reveals damages that are difficult to see from the ground. The weight of ice on power lines caused the pictured distribution line to become "frayed", and is only being held together by the strength of two steel wires. Aluminum wire on the outer surface of the power line was damaged. Damages similar to this photograph may exist anywhere in Southern's service area. We will be prepared to respond if outages occur, and we ask for your continued patience as we continue to perfect our system during the summer.

SPEED UP TROUBLE CALLS

When you call Southern after hours for service problems or for load management assistance, knowing your account number (well number) is very important. This number allows us to accurately identify the location of your well, which decreases the time it takes to dispatch a serviceman. If you do not know your well number(s), it is also helpful to provide a legal location, along with your name.

KEEP INFORMED

Load Management Information Available from a Number of Sources

We encourage you to stay on top of load control developments by tuning in to KRVN 880-AM radio. Regular announcements will also begin airing in June on KRVN, with 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.

Load management information is also available via our toll-free hotline at 1-800-652-9809, or on Southern’s website at www.southernnpd.com. You can also receive email notifications about load management. If you would like to be notified in this manner, please contact Anthony Bohaty, Irrigation Services Manager, at abohaty@southernnpd.net.

LOAD MANAGEMENT HOURS

Operating Procedures to Follow Same Guidelines as 2006

The district will be following the same operating procedures as previous years 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 keep irrigation loads shut off no longer than necessary. The district is billed for wholesale power based upon the peak loads that we create in any hour, so keeping those loads as low as possible will likewise keep irrigation load management rates as low as possible.

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) knows how long they 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, using 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 the flexibility to take off loads more precisely.

All of the district’s irrigation load management rates contain an emergency clause

If your well is controlled beginning at 9:00 a.m., your power will be restored by 9:00 p.m.

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 Sundays. Such power shortages could damage your irrigation motor.

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 4-6 hours. We anticipate Sunday control will be needed a couple of times this year. It is also possible that control of this group could take place on holidays, although 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 on KRVN 880-AM.

Irrigation Manager Anthony Bohaty says “We will continue striving to provide customers with the least amount of interruption as possible”.

EMERGENCY CONTROL

Emergency Control Prevents Transmission Failure

Demand for electricity has been increasing in recent years, and this growth has added pressure to transmission systems. Southern can issue emergency Sunday control when loads are expected exceed the capacity of NPPD's transmission system. It is necessary to avoid exceeding transmission capacity, because failing to do so will result in significant

damage to vital facilities. Without emergency Sunday control, it is also possible that NPPD would be forced to shut down facilities, affecting an even larger group of customers.

If Southern customers will be effected by Sunday Control, we will notify you with messages on KRVN 880-AM.

ECONOMIC CONTROL PROGRAM

ECP Continues for 2007, With Changes

Southern Power District continues to be 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.

This year, customers on the Multiple Control rate will see a 75 cent reduction in their horsepower charge. This option should equate to a similar benefit seen with last year's incentive program.

In 2005 and 2006, Sunday load control occurred twice, both days occurring in July.

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

CONSTRUCTION DEADLINES

Planning Ahead: Your Best Bet for Meeting Construction Deadlines

It is never too early to begin thinking about filing an irrigation construction application with Southern. Typically, the district sets a February 1st deadline for guaranteed services. In recent years, this deadline has been watched closely and changed for a number of reasons including high workload due to overwhelming conversion requests, material delays, and the 2007 ice storm.

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. This is why it is helpful for us to know as early as possible what the trend will be for the current season's growth.

If you are thinking about requesting a service to be added in 2008, be watchful of the deadlines and changes that may occur and consider submitting your application early.



Southern Power District



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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

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LOAD CONTROL BOXES

Understand Their Operation

If you see a red and green light in your load control box window, that means you 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. 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.

It is also a violation of your load control agreement to run your well in the "hand position" during a control period.

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 can 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". We can only do this when all available groups are not controlled.

Bypass is not allowed for simply catching up on irrigation.

Contact Irrigation Manager Anthony Bohaty prior to 9:00 a.m. on the day you are requesting temporary restoration, to see if a temporary waiver of control is available.