

Irrigation, Load Control NEWSLETTER

Summer, 2008

Southern Power District

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
June 2008 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August 2008 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1
<i>Load Control Possible...</i> 6	7	8
<i>Load Control Possible...</i> 13	14	15
20	21	22

Load Control Hours to Include Sundays

Sunday Control Required For All Irrigation Load Control Accounts

In recent years, Southern has offered a special rate and incentives to customers who participated in Sunday load control. By voluntarily offering our participation in Sunday load control, we felt we were taking a proactive approach to minimizing the high demands seen across Nebraska when load control had not previously occurred on Sundays.

But 2008 will see significant changes in the load control program. Sunday load control will now be possible for all of Southern's irrigation customers on the load control program. Continued increases in Sunday demand has made this change a necessity, and it affects all Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) wholesale customers across the state. The cost of not controlling irrigation on Sunday would effectively eliminate the current rate savings to irrigators who are on load control rates.

When Sunday load control goes into effect, it will be for a maximum of six hours and will be added to other control hours that occur during the week. For example, if you utilize the "Two Day" rate, you could see control occurring on your two designated days, as well as an additional six hours on Sunday. The maximum number of control hours each week will be 72. The set-up is similar to 2007, but your load control will be spread over seven days rather than six. The number of Sundays that will ultimately be controlled will be determined in part by the weather. If we see a hot and dry summer, you should anticipate a higher likelihood for Sunday control. Likewise, any unforeseen interruption in NPPD's low-cost generation facilities could result in the need for Sunday control.

Operation Procedures

As in years past, load control may begin as early as 9:00 a.m. and continue as late as 11:00 p.m. You will see no more than 12 consecutive hours of control on any one day, plus a 15-20 minute period for power to be restored to all groups. We strive to keep your irrigation system off no longer than absolutely necessary, but we also know that you want to keep your rates as low as

possible. We are billed at Southern for our wholesale power based upon peak loads that we create in any hour, so it is crucial that we keep loads as low as possible, so we can pass on the lowest cost possible to our customers through our load management rates.

Within all of our irrigation load management rates, there is an emergency clause that allows the district to respond to a situation if NPPD is not able to supply power. This may include the failure of a major transmission line, or perhaps the shut-down of a generating station. This can occur on any day of the week. Shortages in power can damage your irrigation motor so this clause also helps to protect your equipment! If the need to implement emergency control is present, you can listen to KRVN 880-AM for those announcements.

How is Load Control Applied?

NPPD keeps a watchful eye on a number of factors, including weather conditions and electrical usage trends throughout the summer. Their readiness with these factors allow them to pinpoint which time of day will be most crucial for load control. Wholesale customers participating in load control across the state are broken into eight groups to allow variance in load control requests. This allows them to use only the groups that are needed throughout the day. This set-up works well for Southern, and also you as a customer. It allows maximum running time, and the flexibility for NPPD to take loads off more precisely, where needed.

New Policy for Temporary Bypass

In recent years, Southern has allowed for temporary bypass or waivers during load control, in order to allow customers to move their pivot for repair purposes. However, in 2007, we noted that the requests for such bypasses had increased significantly, with as many as 64 requests received on our peak day in 2007. When Southern receives a large number of these requests, it affects our ability to achieve peak control necessary to prevent substantial cost penalties to Southern that can in turn cause negative impacts to your rates.

In 2007, Southern's board examined this issue closely and adopted a new policy that will continue to allow bypasses to occur on an emergency basis, while preventing those calls that are quite possibly unnecessary. As a reminder, the policy is as follows:

NON-FULL LOAD/PARTIAL CONTROL CONDITIONS (ALL GROUPS NOT OFF):

A bypass of load management will be allowed for electrical and mechanical failure to fix the problem. There will be no charge and no restriction to type of well service or timeframe. Seed corn production activities (such as detasseling) do not qualify as electrical or mechanical failures. A \$50 service charge will be implemented to allow seed corn growers to move a pivot.

FULL CONTROL: ALL AVAILABLE GROUPS CONTROLLED

A bypass of pivot drive only systems for electrical and mechanical failure can be granted for one hour only for a fee of \$100. Seed corn growers asking for a bypass to move a pivot will be allowed the same one hour and will be charged \$100. Customers will be notified of their charge when they call in for a request. Charges will be added to the irrigation customer's account.

Thank you for your cooperation in planning ahead to avoid unnecessary bypass requests. We hope the new policies will assure the maximum benefit from our Load Control Program.



Load Control Tampering Prohibited

Tampering with a load control box is a violation of the agreement irrigators make with Southern when entering into the Load Control Program. If irrigation wells are not under control when they should be, then all other irrigators are affected by the additional load control required to make up the difference--not to mention the penalties applied to Southern if load is not shed adequately.

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 repairman 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". The penalty for tampering includes 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" or "manual" 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.

Speed Up Your Trouble Calls

When you call Southern after hours for service problems or for load management assistance, you will speak with a representative from our after-hours call service. Knowing your account number (well number) is very helpful in accurately dispatching linemen to your well. The well number allows us to accurately identify its location, 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.

If You See A....

Red Light & Green Light...

Then you are currently
under control.

Single Green Light...

Then you are currently
NOT under control.



If you feel you are being controlled in error, please call the Irrigation Hotline at 1-800-652-9809 to check which groups are currently under control. You may also call the Grand Island office at 1-800-579-3019 to verify your current rate of control.



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

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Plan Now for 2009 Application Deadlines

Since you are just starting to think about irrigation for 2008, you probably haven't given much thought to filling out your construction application for 2009 irrigation service. Our deadline for application submittal is February 1st for guaranteed services. Some applications may be accepted after that date on a "non-firm" basis, and most likely few if any will be built.

We have always strived to serve customers who are in need of electrical service, but we are also committed to keeping our word to complete those requested services in time for the irrigation season. This is why we need to know as soon as possible what the workload will be for the new wells, so we can plan our year accordingly.

If you are thinking about requesting a new irrigation service for 2009, submit your application as soon as possible, and pay close attention to the deadlines and changes to those deadlines.

Load Management Notices

You can stay up-to-date with the latest information on the load control program by tuning in to KRVN 880-AM radio.



This is where you will find regularly scheduled announcements beginning in June, each morning at 8:29 a.m. every day of the week. 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 schedule will continue throughout the summer to the end of the load management season, or mid-September.

You can also listen to load management updates on our toll-free hotline, at 1-800-652-9809, and also view information on Southern's website at www.southernpd.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@southernpd.net.