POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

'The Livewire'

"Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation"



Notify PCRPPD of Field Spraying

By Wade Rahn

Inemen face many hazards in their daily duties. One of the hazards that may not be obvious is working in a field that recently had chemicals applied. We ask our customers to notify us of any application and what the chemical Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is by calling the office at (402) 764-4381. Restricted Entry Interval means "the time after the end of an application during which entry into the treated area is restricted."

All pesticides labeled for agricultural use are subject to the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Under the WPS, workers who may enter a treated site must be protected by being notified of the product's REI.

In Nebraska, injuries have occurred to people who entered a sprayed field before it was safe. Humid conditions have factored into this and should be considered by those needing to follow an REI.

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> Randy Reese, PCRPPD's Operations Manager, stated, "Our linemen will not enter a field that shows any evidence or indication of being sprayed if we have no knowledge of the chemical applied, and your service will not be restored until the Restricted Entry Interval amount of time has elapsed."

After chemical application call us at (402) 764-4381

Information needed:

- **Field Location**
- Chemical Applied
- Restricted Entry Interval





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Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

A s a carbon-free energy source, nuclear energy will be key to playing a big part in the electric industry as the US strives to reach a 2050 carbon-neutral goal. Currently, nuclear power generates over half of our nation's carbon-free electricity, and the many advanced nuclear technologies in development will provide even more safe, baseload energy.

Small modular reactors (SMRs), molten salt reactors, and gas-cooled fast reactors are a few advanced nuclear technologies that offer reliable and scalable sources of carbon-free energy. Some advanced small modular reactors can produce high-temperature heat for industrial processes, desalination, or hydrogen production, contributing to the decarbonization of other industries.

Advanced nuclear technologies offer more flexible fuel cycle options. Traditional nuclear reactors typically use uranium as fuel in a once-through fuel cycle. Advanced nuclear can use other types of fuel, including thorium, high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU), or even recycled nuclear waste. In an advanced fuel cycle, roughly 96% of the used nuclear fuel can be safely recovered and recycled.



Source: GAO, based on Department of Energy documentation | GAO-15-652

Continued research, performance evaluation, and improving economic feasibility will take time. It is clear that nuclear power will be a vital resource in the energy portfolio of the future when combined with other generation resources such as hydrogen power and renewables, along with battery storage and carbon capture and sequestration. Significant progress in nuclear development is being made, such as heat-pipe reactors and nuclear fusion, which recently proved to net generate energy for the first time in its development, but public education and acceptance is up to us.

Below are a few resources if you would like to learn more about nuclear power and the new technologies that hold the promise of a clean-energy future.

DOCUMENTARY

EDUCATION

Nuclear Energy Institute: www.nei.org Orano Group: www.orano.group.com US Nuclear Regulatory Commission: www.nrg.gov EPRI: www.epri.com/research/sectors/nuclear Nuclear Innovation Alliance: www.nuclearinnovationalliance.org Idaho National Laboratory: www.inil.gov/nuclear-energy

ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER PROVIDERS

NuScale: www.nuscalepower.com Oklo: www.oklo.com TerraPower: www.terrapower.com ADVANCED REACTORS Holtec SMR 160

Westinghouse AP300 GE BWRX-300

Transmission Pole Enhancements

By Wade Rahn

e are committed to ensuring the reliability of our infrastructure. Through regular pole testing, we have identified several transmission poles located between Stromsburg and Polk; that are nearing the end of their useful life. These poles were originally installed in approximately the 1950s and 1960s. Recognizing the significant expense of replacing these poles, we explored innovative solutions to extend their longevity and ensure the continued reliability of our services.

To address these deficiencies, we have invested in a method of enhancing the structural integrity of these poles. We hired Global Utility Services out of Colorado, a reputable company specializing in installing pole supports, which utilize pylons driven into the ground and securely attached to the poles. This technique effectively stabilizes and strengthens the poles, significantly extending their

useful life and minimizing the need for immediate and costly replacements.

By proactively investing in extending these transmission poles' lifespan, we can maintain a reliable power supply for our customers while optimizing our infrastructure investments. This approach allows us to allocate our budget more efficiently, ensuring we can continue providing you with uninterrupted service at a reasonable cost without compromising safety or reliability.

Randy Reese, PCRPPD Operations Manager, commented, "We understand this isn't a permanent solution, but we are extending the life of these structures in a more costeffective method than replacing them. That would be very expensive and time-consuming. Additionally, acquiring all the materials for a replacement project of that size would take some time with the supply chain issues we are facing."

We are confident that this investment in extending the life of our transmission poles will positively impact our service reliability.



Lamoree Joins PCRPPD

By Wade Rahn

Tyler Lamoree started his duties as an Apprentice Lineman in May of this year. Tyler grew up in Stromsburg and attended high school at Cross County where he graduated in 2013. After high school, Lamoree worked for a Commercial/Residential Electrician in Lincoln while attending college classes at Southeast Community College. While working, he became interested in becoming a lineman through interactions on the job with Lincoln Electric System linemen. This interest prompted him to enroll in Northeast Community College Line Worker's program, in Norfolk, Nebraska, where he successfully graduated in the spring of 2021.

Lamoree was previously employed by Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

in Battle Creek, Nebraska since 2020, as an Apprentice Lineman, where he also served on their Safety Committee. He started as an intern during his time at college and then became a full-time employee after graduation.

Tyler said, "I had wanted to return to the area when the timing was right.

Randy Reese, PCRPPD Operations Manager, commented, "It's nice to have him come in with experience, and with him growing up in the area here, and wants to be here. It's great to have him!"

Please join us in welcoming Tyler to PCRPPD and back home!



Tyler Lamoree

Safety Tip -

Plug appliances directly into wall sockets instead of power strips. Make sure outlets have ground fault circuit interrupter protection.





POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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| Wade Rahn-Customer Service/IT Manager | |
| Andy Roberts-Foreman | |
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Andy Roberts-Foreman DJ Crowell-Purchasing & Warehouse Coordinator



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