

“Electricity” — your least expensive energy source, keeping your life running, delivered with reliability by people who care about you

Irrigation made easier

All of us usually look for ways to make our jobs easier to do and if it could cost less money or save time then the decision becomes easier to make. That is exactly what happens when looking into having an electric pivot drive service for your irrigation center pivot.

Do you use a generator to move your pivot when it is time to plant? Or do you have to start an engine that runs on diesel or natural gas to do this? It would sure be a lot easier to just push a button and let electricity move your pivot for you.

Twin Valleys Public Power District irrigators switch to using electricity to power their pivots every year. Ease of operation is one of the main reasons they choose to make the switch. Even if you only have a single phase line close to your center pivot system, you are set to make the switch.

Joe Witte of rural Cambridge has a center pivot drive operated with an electric motor that was put into service recently. He has great things to say about his personal experience with his first electric pivot drive only service.



If you have an irrigated field with a center pivot and there is a single-phase power line close, then you too can enjoy the benefits of having electricity operate your pivot.

“I knew from past experience with my other electric wells that moving the pivot is very easy and much more convenient. Installation was easy and it has been a great time savings for me.” said Joe. “There was a single phase line in the vicinity so it was an easy decision to

make choosing electricity over my other options. Everything was done when I needed it done and Twin Valleys has been great to work with.”

A pivot drive service usually requires three-phase, 480 volt power but it can work from a single phase service also. With a single phase service, a phase convertor is used to create the three-phase, 480 volts that a center pivot requires.

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There is also no “load control” for pivot drive services. You can move the pivot anytime you like.

Now is the time to contact Twin Valleys Public Power District and find out more about how easy it is to add an electric pivot drive service. Call 800-658-4266 to find out more information.

Electrical safety around your home

Electric energy use is on the rise, so as part of the new “Teach Learn Care” TLC campaign, Safe Electricity suggests “there is no time like the present” to conduct an electrical home inspection. The program encourages everyone to make sure your home is safe from electrical hazards to prevent electrical-related deaths, injuries and property damage.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), faulty home electrical wiring is responsible for 40,000 fires a year and results in the loss of 350 lives, thousands of injuries from electrical shocks and burns and more than \$2 billion in personal property damage. It’s estimated that more than 50 million homes and buildings have outdated or inadequate electrical wiring.

Electrical hazards have a tendency to remain hidden until it’s too late to avoid disaster. Don’t let the small cost of prevention stand in the way of protecting your family and your property. There are many things you can inspect on your own to ensure electrical safety in your home.

- Check electrical outlets for loose fitting plugs that can shock or be a fire hazard. Replace missing or broken wall plates so that the inner wiring components are not exposed. If you have young children, make sure safety covers are used on unused outlets and outlets are not overloaded with too many appliance plugs. Consider installing tamper-resistant receptacles which have a built-in shutter system which prevents hairpins and other small objects

from being inserted into the outlet.

- Check the cords of the appliances in your home as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure that they are not frayed, cracked or damaged, placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floors or any other objects.
- Extension cords should be used on a temporary basis only because they are not intended for use as permanent household wiring. Have additional outlets installed where you need them instead of relying on extension cords and power strips. If you are using extension cords, make sure that they have safety closures to protect young children from shock hazards or mouth burn injuries. Never use an indoor extension cord for outdoor use. Use an extension cord specifically for outdoors; they are heavier and less likely to be damaged.
- Check your electrical panel to make sure that the breakers and fuses are properly rated for the circuit that they are protecting. If you do not know what the correct rating is, have a qualified electrician identify and label the correct size to be used. If you are replacing a fuse, make sure that you replace it with the same size as the one that you are removing.
- Check light bulbs and appli-

ances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Make sure not to replace bulbs with those that have higher wattage than recommended. Additionally, the bulb should be screwed in securely to prevent overheating.

- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives you an electrical shock, immediately unplug, repair or replace it.
- Check for or install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). A GFCI is an inexpensive electrical device that shuts off power instantly if there is problem and should be installed in all “wet” areas of the home such as bathrooms, kitchens, and basements. GFCIs should be tested monthly to insure they are working properly. It’s estimated more than two-thirds of the roughly 300 electrocutions occurring each year in and around the home could be prevented if GFCIs were installed in household branch circuits.
- Consider installing arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) on bedroom circuits, smoke detectors in all bedrooms and in hallways within 15’ of bedrooms, and at least one smoke detector on every level. Carbon monoxide detectors should also be within 15’ of each bedroom unit. As always, check with your local electrical inspector if you have questions or concerns.

New Board member for Twin Valleys PPD



Lee Christensen being sworn in by Twin Valleys Public Power District's Attorney, Tom Patterson.

Twin Valleys Public Power District is happy to announce that Lee Christensen has been sworn in as its newest member of the Board of Directors. Lee is fulfilling the term of Dallas Ott who passed away late last summer.

In 1963, Lee graduated from Orleans High School and then the University of Nebraska-Kearney in 1969. He started working for the ASCS after college and held different jobs for several offices in Nebraska.

Lee returned to the Harlan County area in 1976 to get back to his roots and help his father on the family farm along with continuing his work with the ASCS/FSA. The past 12 years Lee was the Executive Director for the Harlan

County Farm Service Agency.

Being active outside of work has been an important part of Lee's life. He has served on the Orleans Village Board, the Orleans/Southern Valley School board, a Director for 10 years of the FSA/ASCS Employees Association including being President, and a member of the Harlan County Extension Council.

Lee is married and has 5 children, along with 7 grandchildren.

Lee's past experiences will be valuable in helping Twin Valleys Public Power District's Board of Directors provide guidance to management on the direction for the future.



Tired of high propane prices??

Switch to an electric heat pump

Rebates available up to \$900

You could qualify for our "all-electric" rate—save an average of 70% on your electric bill from October thru May

Rate Increase necessary

Due to a power cost increase of 6.5% from our provider, Nebraska Public Power District, the rates from Twin Valleys Public Power District will increase by 4.1% for 2012. Additional increases in costs of materials and fuel have put further stress on the cost of providing electricity.

Twin Valleys Public Power District has experienced a 9% increase in our system load in 2011 and there are improvements that need to be made on a yearly basis to make sure reliable ser-

vice is provided to you. In 2012 there will be 2 substations that will be upgraded to improve reliability. One substation will be converted from 34.5kV to 69kV. This is part of a large overall project to allow transfer of loads to perform preventive maintenance or reroute power during an outage. The other substation, which was constructed in 1949, needs to be rebuilt because of its condition.

There will be 10½ miles of backbone distribution line rebuilt. This line extends north and south of Oxford. There

will also be additional 3-phase lines built to provide service to new irrigation services.

Raising rates is not enjoyable for Twin Valleys Public Power District, but increased costs need to be covered so necessary improvements to our electrical system can be accomplished. Our focus is always on you and being able to provide electricity when you need it. This requires a reliable delivery system that needs to be expanded and upgraded consistently.

<p>Board of Directors Bruce Lans, President Larry Kubik, Vice President Brent Ballou, Secretary K. Dale Fults, Treasurer Gerald Meyerle David Black</p>	<p>Staff James P. Dietz, General Manager Sandra Stagemeyer, Director of Administrative Services David Custer, Director of Operations Bill Minnick, Director of Communications & Marketing</p>
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Website: www.twinvalleysppd.com

Notice of Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Twin Valleys Public Power District is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. the third Monday of each month at the District Office in Cambridge, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the principal office of Twin Valleys Public Power District in Cambridge during normal business hours.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Service Calls After Hours

Please call 800-658-4266 or 697-3315 at all times to report outages or service calls after normal business hours. A Twin Valleys' dispatcher will take down the necessary information.

Twin Valleys' Employees


- David Benson, Line Superintendent
- Bob Bergquist, Lease Town Meter Reader
- Terence Dake, Apprentice Lineman, Alma
- Todd Eitzmann, Apprentice Lineman
- Derek Galusha, Apprentice Lineman
- David Garcia, Load Mgmt & Info Technology Specialist
- Gary Groshong, Construction Layout Tech
- Doug Huxoll, Warehouseman
- Marcie Houghtelling, Secretary/Receptionist
- Kim Miller, Cambridge Crew Chief
- Jim Mollhoff, Journeyman Lineman
- Brock Mowry, Journeyman Lineman
- Cole Nickerson, Apparatus Tech
- Janet Rasmussen, Accountant
- Adam Stottler, Apprentice Lineman, Alma
- Jim Teter, Journeyman Lineman
- Carol Voss, Billing Supervisor
- Karen Werkmeister, Billing Clerk
- Nick Woetzel, Apprentice Lineman, Alma
- Brandon Wright, Alma Crew Chief
- Philip Young, Area Serviceman

Top 10 reasons to install a geothermal heat pump

10. Comfort is constant: humidity levels are ideal, no blast of hot air or cold blow, temperatures are constant and the inside air is very clean.
9. The value of your home is increased, with the closed loops lasting 50 years or longer. A geothermal heat pump requires less maintenance.
8. No carbon monoxide is produced since a fuel does not have to be burned. This is safer and provides much cleaner air inside your home.
7. This is the most efficient heating and cooling system available, saving you money and is good for our environment and natural resources.
6. This type of a system can also supply much of your hot water heating needs for free with a desuperheater.
5. With no outside unit the outdoor noise level is zero when the system is running.
4. Rebates up to \$1000 are available from **Twin Valleys Public Power District**.
3. There is a 30% tax credit available for qualifying systems.
2. You may qualify for the "All Electric Rate" from **Twin Valleys Public Power District**, saving you even more money.

And the number 1 reason to install a geothermal heat pump is:

1. You owe it to yourself to make an informed decision regarding your home's heating & cooling system because it will be with you for a long time.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow—a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness, and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

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