

# Irrigation Line

November 2005

## Irrigation Bills -- So When is This Due?

You've just received your bill and you are wondering when do you need to pay? Technically, your bill is due and payable right now. However, you have until January 17, 2006 at 5:00 PM to pay without being assessed a 5 percent late payment charge. January 15 is the normal due date, but in 2006 it's a Sunday and Monday, January 16 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day when banks and the U.S. Postal Service are closed. Grant PUD local offices and Customer Call Center will be closed for training on Monday, January 16, but the PUD is open for business. Accounts not paid by the January 17 deadline will be assessed a 5 percent late payment charge on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Around February 20 you will be billed for 75 percent of 2006's capacity charges. If you

have not paid your 2005 bill, an additional one percent late payment charge will be assessed. If you don't pay in March, you will be assessed an additional one percent again on the 2005 charges. On April 10, if you have not paid the remaining 2005 charges and/or your capacity charges, you will be subject to disconnect and possibly a new or increased deposit.

To round out the year, in July the meter readers will be out getting your mid-year consumption reads. The bill will be mailed the end of July with the remaining 25 percent of your capacity charges. Then we complete our season with the November reads and the November bills.

If you have any questions on your bill, please call Customer Service and one of our representatives will be happy to walk you through the process.

## Protective Equipment on Motor Installations

Grant PUD requires adequate relays or other approved protective equipment on motor installations. This is to guard motors against damage due to excessive undervoltage. It also protects three-phase motors against damage from single-phasing. Such protection is the responsibility of the customer.

Three-phase motors equipped for restarting after a service interruption should be protected against any line condition resulting in single-phase service to the motors (single-phasing). Automatic restarting on 50 HP and larger motors must be approved by Grant PUD prior to installation.

It is recommended that three thermal over-current devices (for three-phase motors) and, in addition, dual element time delay fuses or circuit breakers of suitable rating be installed as minimum protection.

## Not Using Your Service This Growing Season?

Remember, if you do not plan to use your pump during the upcoming growing season, you can get a reduction on your pre-season charges. Bills for the 2006 Capacity Charges will be sent in February. If you know you will not need the service during the 2006 growing season, contact the PUD now to request the de-energized rate. As with Capacity Charges, de-energized rates are pre-season payments required to retain electric facilities able to meet the horsepower needs of the service. The chart compares the de-energized pre-season charge to the Capacity Charge.

Contact PUD Customer Service today if you want to have your service de-energized and be billed at these reduced pre-season charges.

|               | De-Energized Pre-Season Charge | Capacity Charges |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| First 75 hp   | \$13.00                        | \$17.30          |
| Next 35 hp    | \$11.00                        | \$14.65          |
| Additional hp | \$ 9.45                        | \$ 9.45          |

## Convert Your Irrigation Systems

Let Grant County PUD help you convert your conventional impact sprinklers to low pressure. Our Irrigation Hardware Program includes financial incentives at 20 cents per kilowatt hour saved up to a maximum payment of 50 percent of the actual installed cost, and includes all the testing.



*Testing is done to establish current operating conditions and again after installation to verify energy savings.*

Gary Christensen, a farmer in the Royal Slope area, has just completed his third circle conversion to low pressure through the PUD program. By participating in the Irrigation Hardware Program, Gary accomplished two goals – reduction in power cost and proper water management. “The financial incentive alone made it worth participating in the program,” said Gary. He has also experienced a savings in maintenance costs due to less stress on the pivot structure.

Grant PUD has offered this program since 1983, testing over 1,000 systems and completing nearly 370 projects. Kilowatt hour savings over 22 years totals over 15 million with an average savings of 43,364 kilowatt hours.

For more information about the Irrigation Hardware Program or any of our other conservation programs, call Frank Majer at 766-2513.

## Changes in Operations

Please be sure to contact the PUD when making electrical additions or changes to irrigation facilities.

Not only do changes in pump sizes, drive motors and boosters affect your bill, but we also need to be sure we have the proper electrical service to meet the needs of your equipment. We want to help you to avoid interrupted service or delays in energizing your service.

Also, motor loads over 100 horsepower must be reviewed by the PUD’s system engineer for reduced starting voltage requirements.

Call the service expediter at 766-2501 or 1-800-422-3199, Ext. 2924 to discuss changes in your irrigation operation.

## Save Money on Your Power and Water Bills

Many irrigators in Grant County have participated in our Irrigation Management and Scheduling Services Program.

The program provides partial funding for professional field services to demonstrate the effectiveness and cost benefit of practicing scientific irrigation management techniques to meet the needs of your crops.

The benefits to you include reduced energy costs, savings in water, protection of ground water quality, and potential savings in chemicals and fertilizers. In some cases, you may see significant improvement in your crop production. Your particular savings will depend on the type of crop,

weather conditions, and your current irrigation practices.

If you are interested in participating in this program or have questions, please call Frank Majer at 766-2513.

## Call Before You Dig! 1-800-424-5555

- ◆ Be prepared to pinpoint the location of your dig site.
- ◆ Describe the type of work to be done and some detail as to where you are working on the site.
- ◆ Plan your start date and time.



Please allow at least two, but not more than ten business days’ advance notice.

### How to Contact Us

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Customer Service    | 766-2505       |
| Other Business      | 1-800-422-3199 |
| Emergency or Outage | 764-0500       |
| Relicensing Hotline | 754-0500       |
|                     | 1-800-216-5226 |
|                     | 1-800-894-6960 |

Email Customer Service  
customerservice@gcpud.org

Visit Web site at  
www.gcpud.org