

December 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Manager's Message

A Quick Review

The year of 2013 is about to come to an end and I hope everyone has had a successful and safe year.

As a member/owner of Big Horn REA, your cooperative has had a successful year in many ways. In the past year we have connected an additional 62 electric services bringing the total of electric services to 3,693. Our total kWh sales for 2013 are estimated to be 133,000,000 which show a very slight increase over the 2012 sales.

Additional items marking a successful year are: tested over 2,600 poles for structural integrity; provided scholarships and education opportunities for our youth; held district board meetings in Meeteetse, Ten Sleep, and Burlington to inform and educate our

members; held five area meetings to meet with members regarding possible future electric requirements; made donations to community projects from unclaimed capital credits; refunded \$650,000 in capital credits; had a positive financial audit report; built a high voltage safety demonstration unit that was used at the Big Horn County Fair, several schools and fire districts; completed the 34.5kV tie line between the Basin area and the Greybull substation; begun work on a new Greybull substation to upgrade and replace the system's oldest substation; and our employees had no lost-time accidents – to mention just some of the accomplishments.

Every day, Big Horn strives to

provide our members with safe and reliable power and excellent member service with our dedicated employees. Your board of directors is very diligent in reviewing outage causes and times of outages. Thus far in 2013 our outage time has decreased from the times recorded in 2012 and 2011. One of our primary causes of outages still remains trees coming in contact with lines. Big Horn has again allocated resources to remove trees so that the costs to members related to outages and liability issues can be reduced and minimized. This tree removal program has proven to be successful.

Speaking of costs, Big Horn does attempt to manage costs and expenses

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The board of directors and employees of Big Horn REA would like to wish all the members and their families a very blessed holiday season. We are looking forward to working with you and for you in 2014.

Our office will be closed December 25th and January 1st. Please call 1-800-564-2419 in case of outage or emergency, ANYTIME day or night.

A Year of SAVING

Got cabin fever this winter? Spend time making your home more energy efficient and start saving for your summer vacation!

You can trim your electric bill all year long by taking a few simple steps. Here's a list of Big Horn REA's recommendations for year-round energy and money savings!

January: Lowering your thermostat just a few degrees during winter months can save as much as \$85 per year. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

February: Adjust your water heater. Turning down the temperature gauge to below 120 degrees Fahrenheit can heat up your savings.

March: Stop air from escaping your home and money from escaping your wallet! Head down to your home's basement and seal those leaky ducts.

April: A little caulk can go a long way. Air leaks in your home add up. Caulking cracks and openings to the outside could save more than \$200 a year.

May: Make sure your refrigerator is on your spring cleaning to-do list. Throw out expired items, clean the refrigerator inside and out, and check the temperature gauge. For maximum operating efficiency, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

June: When was the last time you changed a filter? Replacing furnace and air conditioner filters regularly can have a big impact on a home's energy use. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system, forcing it to work harder on hot summer days.

July: Your home's cooling costs can

skyrocket—right along with the temperature outside—during summer months. Keeping your thermostat set between 78 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit can save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

August: Heading out of town on vacation? Be sure to unplug all of your electronic devices like computers, monitor, printers, TV and cable boxes, DVD players, and microwaves. Electronics with digital displays and instant-on features consume energy even if they're not in use.

September: Be a "fan-atic." While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On a milder day, a fan is a much more energy-efficient choice than cranking up the air conditioning. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

October: Get ready for winter by insulating your attic. Adding nine or more inches of insulation could save you more than \$150 a year.

November: As the weather cools down, pull up your window shades. Keeping blinds open during cold weather lets heat from sunlight

in, reducing the need to turn up your home's thermostat.

December: Put a new ENERGY STAR appliance at the top of your Christmas wish list. Upgrading appliances like washing machines to ENERGY STAR-rated models can save up to \$140 per year.

Big Horn REA is dedicated to being an energy efficiency resource for its members. To learn more about how you can save money through energy efficiency practices, check out our website at www.bighornrea.com.

For even more information, check out TogetherWeSave.com, an online portal to energy savings tips that uses real dollar savings projections—based on your individual electric rate and climate zone—to motivate small changes in behavior that add up to big savings.

Once you arrive at the site, enter your ZIP code to be redirected to Big Horn REA's customized section. You can watch videos that provide detailed instructions about energy savings practices, add up your potential savings with a Virtual Home Tour, and much more.

REMINDER
Applications for Energy Camp are due by
January 27, 2014. Don't miss out!!

Applications are available on our website – www.bighornrea.com;
from your guidance counselor, or call our office at (800)564-2419.

NOTICE OF ADJUSTMENT TO RETAIL RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014

	Current Approved Rate	Tri-State A-38 Adjustment Increase 1/1/14	Rates Effective 1/1/14 TOTAL
SMALL GENERAL SERVICE (SGS)			
Basic Charge 1-Phase	\$27.50	\$0.00	\$27.50
Basic Charge 3-Phase	\$37.50	\$0.00	\$37.50
Additional kVA, per kVA	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
First 1,000 kWh/Month	\$0.09623	\$0.00127	\$0.09750
Over 1,000 kWh/Month	\$0.08623	\$0.00127	\$0.08750
SMALL TIME OF USE (STU)			
Basic Charge 1-Phase	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Basic Charge 15kVA	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Additional kVA, per kVA	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
Energy Charge May - Aug:			
First 1,000 kWh/Month	\$0.09623	\$0.00127	\$0.09750
Over 1,000 kWh/Month	\$0.08623	\$0.00127	\$0.08750
Energy Charge Sep - Apr:			
On-Peak kWh	\$1.10725	\$0.00127	\$1.10852
Off-Peak kWh	\$0.07383	\$0.00127	\$0.07510
MEDIUM GENERAL SERVICE (MGS)			
Basic Charge	\$47.50	\$0.00	\$47.50
Additional kVA, per kVA	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$1.10711	\$0.00126	\$1.10837
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.08711	\$0.00126	\$0.08837
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.05711	\$0.00126	\$0.05837
LARGE GENERAL SERVICE – COMMERCIAL LARGE (LGS)			
Basic Charge	\$47.50	\$0.00	\$47.50
Billing kW	\$6.10	\$0.00	\$6.10
Additional kVA, per kVA	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.08684	\$0.00127	\$0.08811
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.07184	\$0.00127	\$0.07311
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.04684	\$0.00127	\$0.04811
IRRIGATION (IRR)			
Annual HP Charge	\$19.00	\$0.00	\$19.00
First 150 kWh/HP/Month	\$0.09294	\$0.00132	\$0.09426
Next 150 kWh/HP/Month	\$0.08294	\$0.00132	\$0.08426
Over 300 kWh/HP/Month	\$0.05794	\$0.00132	\$0.05926
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL/LARGE POWER (CI)			
Basic Charge	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Billing kW	\$5.40	\$0.00	\$5.40
Additional kVA, per kVA	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.00
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.09311	\$0.00118	\$0.09429
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.07811	\$0.00118	\$0.07929
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$0.04811	\$0.00118	\$0.04929
LIGHTING			
SECURITY LIGHT RENTAL (RSL)			
175 Watt MVL – 80kWh	\$10.10	\$1.10	\$11.20
100 Watt HPS – 40 kWh	\$10.10	\$1.10	\$11.20
STREET & HIGHWAY LIGHTING (SL)			
75 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$7.17	\$0.05	\$7.22
175 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$10.10	\$1.10	\$11.20
250 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$15.40	\$1.16	\$16.56
400 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$21.00	\$1.23	\$22.23
150 Watt Incandescent	\$7.17	\$0.08	\$7.25
200 Watt Incandescent	\$10.10	\$1.12	\$11.22
100 Watt High Pressure Sodium	\$10.10	\$0.05	\$10.15
250 Watt High Pressure Sodium	\$21.00	\$1.12	\$22.12

Manager's Message

(continued from page 1)

and allocate resources for the best efficient use. Although there will be an overall rate increase of approximately 1.2% effective January 1, 2014, this increase is a pass on of our wholesale power costs from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Big Horn has not had a general rate increase that is used to cover our own operating costs for over three years! This is another indication of a successful year.

On behalf of the employees and Board of Directors, we want to sincerely thank you the member/owners for giving us the opportunity to work for you. Your patronage is appreciated and I want to remind everyone that you are part of a locally owned and community minded electric cooperative. If you ever have concerns or questions please contact me.

In 2014, we will continue to strive to meet business challenges and opportunities to the benefit of our members. May everyone have happy holidays and a Merry Christmas!



Big Horn Rural Electric Offers Scholarships

Big Horn Rural Electric Company will be awarding scholarships to recognize and encourage the continuing education of the cooperative's member-students.

In addition, the Mike Lowe Memorial Scholarship is being offered to an applicant who plans to attend an approved regional electrical lineworker training pro-

gram. Applicants must be current members or dependents of current members receiving electricity at their primary residence from Big Horn Rural Electric.

for careers with Wyoming's electric cooperatives. This scholarship is available to high school graduates and older "non-traditional" students interested in a career in the electric industry. Applicants do not have to be members of Big Horn Rural Electric to qualify.

Applications for all scholarships are available at the office of Big Horn Rural Electric, 208 So. 5th St. in Basin, on the website at www.bighornrea.com, and at each of the area high schools. **All applications are due by February 7, 2014.** Offering scholarships is just another way that Big Horn REA practices the cooperative principle of Concern for Community.



gram. Applicants must be current members or dependents of current members receiving electricity at their primary residence from Big Horn Rural Electric.

Wyoming Rural Electric Association is also offering a \$3000 electrical lineworker scholarship to encourage, promote, and educate lineworkers



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons—holiday parties, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Take little measures to help control costs like turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, swapping out lightbulbs for high-efficiency bulbs, and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

HIGHLIGHTS

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ELECTRIC COMPANY**



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For Outages or Trouble
Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419
After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays
all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).