




# Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives   
The power of human connections

September 2010

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## Board of Directors

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*Assistant Secretary*

## General Manager

Rollie Miller

## Senior Staff

Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Cindy Potter  
*Office Manager*

## From your manager



Miller

## We need your viewpoints

In the next couple of months we will be preparing a short survey for our membership. The primary emphasis on the survey is to get member input to implementing an online bill review and payment plan. Currently we do not have an option to pay online. Industry is moving toward that availability, however, the software changes needed are somewhat expensive. We are simply trying to determine if the benefits outweigh the costs. Another part of the survey will focus on member communications. For instance, is email notification something that would be beneficial? In any case, please be looking for this survey in the next couple of months. \*Willard L Wells\* Our plan is to send it out with the monthly bills and provide a small credit for completing the survey. Your responses are very important to us.

## Many hands contributed to restoration of power in Lingle

You may have heard about the outage last month in the Town of Lingle. They had substation transformer problems, were off for about 24 hours, and we assisted them in getting a replacement transformer moved in and installed. Incidentally, we happened to have a replacement transformer in our yard here in Lingle and simply needed to get the crane in, get it loaded, moved to the site, unloaded, and installed in service. Actually, it was a bit more than that, but our guys did a great job of working with the Town of Lingle staff in getting the power back on. We were just happy that we could help. It was quite simply a case of neighbors helping neighbors. At some point down the road we'll need the return favor.

## Changes made to Seasonal Rate

Currently our Seasonal Rate structure does not provide enough revenue to cover the costs of those services on that rate. Recently the board adopted changes to this rate that include: 1) allowing one-time-per-year bill payment for those accounts regardless of the number of months the account is being utilized and 2) the kWh's will be billed at \$0.1201 for all usage. The annual base charge remains the same. Any member/customers in the GS-1 Single Phase and GS-3 Three-Phase rate classes can be transferred to this rate. If you would like to pay your bill once per year, please inquire about this rate change.

## Wyoming National Guard construction work update

We have hired two separate contractors to perform work related to the three-phase expansion to the North Training Area for the Wyoming National Guard. This is a new three-phase powerline extending from our Whipple Substation near Guernsey along Hwy. 85 extending approximately 17 miles north in the training area.

Ward Trenching from LaGrange was hired to perform the underground line

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## From your manager

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work and Colorado Powerlines Inc. was hired for a portion of the overhead line. \*Larry Hume\* You will see them working feverishly over the next couple of months trying to get this project completed before the end of the year.

### Benefits to members

A very big thank you needs to be extended to those landowners along the route for granting us the easements necessary to construct this line. The line will also greatly benefit those member/customers being served in the area, including those in Hartville.

### State provides some \$

We have also hired a contractor from Powell, Wyo., for work being completed south of the Rock Shop. These projects have been in the planning

stages for several years but the WYDOT road modifications accelerated the construction process. WYDOT will be funding a portion of these projects. It is a great time, from our standpoint, to hire contractors as they are available and bid very competitively. If you see more than normal line construction staff and equip-

ment in the area, now you know why.

As always if you have any questions please feel free to call me at the office at (307) 837-2225 or you can reach me on my wireless about any time. That number is (307) 575-2435. We hope you had a great summer.



Wyrulec crews help guide the 14,700-lb. transformer onto a flatbed to move it to the Lingle substation. A boom crane from Scott & Son in Torrington was both available and big enough to do the moving job.

# The day lights

Photos and article  
by BESS CARNAHAN

About 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon August 1, the Lingle maintenance crew phones started ringing. The callers were diners at Lira's Restaurant who found themselves in the dark and without air conditioning in the near 100° weather. Power was out in Lingle, population around 250.

## Scrambling for fix

A transformer had blown at

the Lingle substation. Maintenance crew members Mike Flock and Larry Haeffelin were on top of the situation and attempted to make repairs to get the electricity restored. Their efforts didn't deliver the necessary results. Flock and Haeffelin and Wyrulec employees next installed a back-up transformer. It lasted about 20 seconds.

## Consider all options

Joe Kinnan, operations manager at Wyrulec Company, tried to locate a portable substation, the

fastest way to restore power. He called other rural electric suppliers in the tri-state area, without success.

Wyrulec Company's office is located within town limits, making it a customer of the municipal system. The electric cooperative supplies the rural areas around the town, but not the town itself. \*Jack Faden\* The co-op had a transformer to fit Lingle's substation needs, although it was much larger than necessary.



Wyrulec's linemen, truck drivers, crane operator and Lingle's town maintenance crew moved the transformer into position at the Lingle substation. Limited maneuvering space and an overhead line left little margin for error, but the task was completed without a hitch.

## went out in Lingle

Next problem was how to get the transformer to the substation. More phone calls uncovered an available crane big enough to lift the 14,700-pound transformer. Once the crane arrived, the crews helped set it at the Lingle substation. By noon on Monday, August 2, electricity service had been restored.

Lingle Mayor Russel "Pinky" Walter was lavish in his praise for Wyrulec. He thanked Flock and Haeffelin, who worked tirelessly

for over 30 hours to get power restored. Walter also thanked the people and businesses of Lingle for being so patient and understanding during the emergency.

### Neighbors help

Rollie Miller, Wyrulec Company general manager, had high praise for his employees. "Some volunteered to come in Sunday to help solve the problem," said Miller. "Everyone wanted to help. And it was really nice to have the people in town understand the

challenges. We appreciate their patience. The residents of Lingle rallied together to make this go as smoothly as possible."

It didn't take long for the word to get out that Wyrulec Company had saved the day. Lingle residents were stopping Wyrulec employees on the street to thank them. "It was just neighbors helping neighbors and we were happy to have so many challenges overcome in such a relatively short time," said Miller.



# Farm Safety & Health Week is Sept. 19-25

**F**armers and farm family members face dangers every day. Although tragedies such as tractor rollovers and grain bin suffocation receive the most attention, electrocution and electrical burn accidents are frequent on farms, according to Dr. Sam Steel, Agricultural Safety Specialist with the National Safety Council.

“The simple movement of a portable grain auger from one bin to another can have tragic results. The use of tractors with large cabs and antennas and oversized grain wagons can also result in preventable electrocution incidents.” Steel says.

## Remind the kids to look up

“Electrical equipment around fields, such as power lines in the end rows may get overlooked during such a hectic time of year as harvest,” adds Jay Solomon, a university extension ag engineer and member of the Safe Electricity Advisory Board. \*Elden W Baldwin\* “Failure to notice overhead power lines can be a deadly oversight.”

Visually inspect overhead electric lines. The service may no longer meet the proper height codes because of age and/or damage to poles and guy wires. Sag may have increased over the years, while machinery height may be much higher.

Solomon says utility regulators require power lines to be 18.5 feet or more above the ground to provide adequate clearance. However, today’s farm equipment has a long reach. Solomon suggests a daily check of where equipment will be moving to

ensure that it will clear power lines. “Never undertake the height measurement of lines without on-site help from utility staff.”

## Give ‘em space

Always maintain a 10-foot separation from a power line—\*Myrna L Lucas\* above, below and on the sides—whether you are driving underneath or passing a grain auger near it.

Always keep in mind that electricity doesn’t allow mistakes. And neither should you.”

### Don’t miss a word

Each month, we hide the names of five members, one from each district, in this newsletter. \*Laura L. Moore\* If you see your name this month, please call and we’ll give you a \$25 bill credit.

### ❁ No need to stand around in the dark ❁

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts (anywhere a 60- to 100-watt incandescent bulb is now). They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt incandescent. They are \$1.00 each.