



Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

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From your manager



Miller

Hold a firm line on new building costs

We recently completed the bid opening for the new building. We received seven bids from qualified contractors. Incidentally we pre-qualified, through our architect, Baker and Associates, all of the contractors requesting bid packages.

The bids were evaluated and during the subsequent board meeting the board rejected all of the bids due to costs higher than what we were willing to pay for the new facilities.

We are now in the process of reviewing the Scope of Work and discussing options to delay or cut items out of the project to lower the cost.

As stated, we will either cut items totally or delay—for a period of time up to several years—the implementation of items, based on further evaluation. Items such as additional cold storage area, concrete parking and roadway areas, onsite standby generation, and the actual exterior surfacing of the building are items being evaluated.

We want to create a structure that will last several decades while maintaining costs. Sometimes that is easier said than done but we are working diligently to find solutions. The board is tasked with doing their fiduciary duty in selecting the best contractor for this project and they do not take that responsibility lightly.

Plan-as-we-go isn't ideal, yet we're making it work

As I write this, 30 oil and/or gas wells have been permitted in Goshen County since the beginning of the year, according to the Oil and Gas Commission website. Eighteen of the permits have been approved since June 1. With the exception of a few in the far northern and southern areas of the county, all have been in and around the Veteran, Wyo. area. It appears that things are starting to heat up a bit.

Our plan is to work closely with the oil-development companies to ensure we are planning and serving these wells efficiently. Having said that, however, it can be difficult when the oil development companies are not speaking publically with each other and there is certainly NOT an overall plan for the oil development in Goshen County.

We would prefer to be proactive in serving these loads but find ourselves only being reactive. In any case, several of the wells and new permits are located near our proposed new delivery site north and west of Veteran which is good. Hopefully, we can find solutions to serve these new loads.

I hope you are enjoying your summer and as always you can reach me here in the office at 307-837-2225, on my mobile at 307-575-2435, or via email at rmiller@wyrulec.com.





Boulder Fire Dept.

A student's study area is destroyed by fire in Boulder, Colorado.

While college provides new and exciting opportunities, it also introduces myriad safety hazards, especially to students living in dormitories, apartments, and other community locations.

Although a student may have been the safest person in their school, house, or neighborhood, this doesn't safeguard someone against the actions of other residents in shared college housing facilities. Therefore, it's important



Campus Firewatch

The Delta Upsilon Fraternity at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was destroyed by a fire started by an unattended candle. In addition, smoke alarms in the building had been covered by plastic and tape so that they would not be activated during parties.

Play it safe at college

to develop and practice an escape route should there be a fire.

Fire safety

Fire is the third leading cause of accidental deaths in the U.S. A residential fire occurs every 82 seconds in this country, and, once burning, the size of a fire doubles every 30 seconds. If a fire occurs in

your building, evacuate as soon as possible. Do not try to act bravely or put the fire out. That's a fight too easily lost and is just not worth it.

If you have an escape plan, follow it at the first sign or smell of a fire. Never exit a door if it feels hot to the touch, as flames are likely on the other side. Know where all the fire extinguishers are located in the building.

Fire prevention

In community living facilities, everyone must do their part to make their dwelling a safer place. Consider these steps to help prevent fire through electrical hazards:

- Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark on all products. It means samples of the product have been tested for safety.

- Make sure outlets are not overloaded.

- Check electrical wires and cords on appliances, tools, lamps, etc., to make sure they are not worn or frayed.

- Never run electrical wires or extension cords under carpets or heavy items, and never bunch them up behind a hot appliance.

- Unplug appliances when not in use.

- Have building management install at least one smoke alarm on each level, and make sure they are maintained and tested regularly.

Fire facts

Fire is a chemical reaction involving fuel, oxygen, and heat. Take away any of these three elements and a fire cannot last. There are four classifications of fires, classed according to their fuels:

- ◆ **Class A**—Ordinary materials like wood, paper, cloth, rubber, and plastics. Most home fires fall into this category.

- ◆ **Class B**—Combustible liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, paint, and propane. These tend to be more severe and dangerous than Class A fires because the liquid fuel is highly flammable and can propagate easily.

- ◆ **Class C**—Electrical equipment like appliances, switches, and power tools. These fires are extremely dangerous due to added shock hazards and because the source is energized. An energized fire source supplies a steady and constant ignition condition.

- ◆ **Class D**—Combustible metals like magnesium, titanium, potassium, and sodium. These fires burn at a very high temperature and can react violently with water or other chemicals.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

Market power of railroads costs co-op members

Thanks to an exemption from federal antitrust laws, the nation's major freight railroads are rolling up big profits—with a chunk of that money coming out of your pocket in the form of higher electric bills. As a result, electric cooperatives are urging Congress to pass legislation that would force the nation's powerful rail carriers to offer competitive rates and better customer service in shipping critical products like coal.

Not much competition

Currently, around one-fifth of all railroad customers are served by a single line, including many electric co-op coal-fired power plants. This lack of competition, coupled with railroads' ability (due to their antitrust exemption) to ignore rules that apply to other businesses, leaves many electric cooperatives that rely on coal-based generation "captive" to one shipper and unable to negotiate rates or receive fair treatment, such as ensuring reliable delivery of products.

Not many freight choices

Freight rail remains the only practical way to transport coal in most parts of the country.

Congressional action needed

Congress granted railroads a pass on antitrust requirements more than 30 years ago to boost competition and ensure better service at reasonable rates. Since then, the rail industry has consolidated and now four mammoth companies—BNSF Railway Co. and Union Pacific west of the Mississippi River; CSX Transportation, and Norfolk Southern in the East—move more than 95 percent of all domestic freight, including new automobiles, timber and paper products, iron and steel, and farm commodities like grain. That's a tremendous amount of market clout, but the antitrust exemption lets railroads escape legal consequences for engaging in monopolistic practices that hamper service.

Oversight track record

Compounding this situation, the Surface Transportation Board (STB), the federal agency responsible for railroad oversight, has traditionally moved slowly in addressing rail excesses that ultimately smack consumers' wallets. Shippers seeking relief from high rates charged by railroads must rely on the STB to take action because the U.S. Department of Justice has no jurisdiction over the industry. As things stand, railroads hold all the cards, making legislative reform a must.

Co-ops favor reasonable rates

Electric co-ops are actively supporting a bill in Congress to repeal the freight railroads' antitrust exemption and give captive shippers a forum to challenge anticompetitive practices. The Railroad Antitrust Enforcement Act (S. 49), overwhelmingly approved by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, would end antiquated antitrust exemptions and force railroads to obey the same laws as other businesses, says U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl (D-Wis.), the measure's lead sponsor.

Pressure on regulators is high

There are also signs of possible action by STB, which is under increasing pressure to examine railroad operations. *Kyle A Broberg* Recent STB proceedings could set the stage for administrative actions aimed at improving competition. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) filed comments urging the agency to revise its policies and tackle anticompetitive railroad behavior.

—NRECA



Employee Spotlight ❖ ❖ ❖ Clay Teel

Q: *How long have you lived in Wyoming?*
A: I grew up in Wyoming.
Q: *What did you do before you came to work for Wyrulec?*
A: I've been working as a lineman for Southern Power District in Grand Island, Nebraska.
Q: *What is your job title at Wyrulec?*
A: Journeyman Lineman.
Q: *What brought you to Wyrulec?*
A: We wanted to be closer to family.
Q: *Describe your family.*

A: My wife is Kristin and we have three kids, Hunter, 7, Parker, 5, and Oakleigh, 2.
Q: *Do you have any hobbies?*
A: Being outdoors and hunting and fishing.
Q: *Words of advice you would share?*
A: Never take life for granted. Live it to the fullest.
Q: *Why do you enjoy working for Wyrulec?*
A: Great people!



Why not replace incandescent lights today?

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts.

Don't let the lazy days of August catch you in the dark. Get your CFLs today!

They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt incandescent.

Pick some up at the Wyrulec office for only \$1.00 each.

Mike D Harvey

Filters help save money, energy

It's hot. Your air conditioning system is working hard to keep you comfortable. Here's a tip from Wyrulec Company that can help your cooling system operate more efficiently—and save you money.

Change your air filter regularly

It only takes a couple of minutes to change the air filter in your heating/cooling system. As TogetherWeSave.com has shown, changing your filter monthly can save you \$82 a year.

A dirty air filter makes your system work harder to keep you cool, which wastes energy. Changing it regularly helps to ensure efficient operation and keep your electricity

bill in check. What's more, a dirty air filter allows dust and dirt to build up in your system. *Dan A Tank* Changing it regularly can reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm in winter, too, and a clean air filter helps it do that.

Experts recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—is pointing toward the blower motor.

For other tips on how to save, visit www.TogetherWeSave.com or call the efficiency experts at Wyrulec Company.

Summer hours



Wyrulec Company will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, this month through Sept. 2. *Kent Cooper* We will be closed on Fridays. Our winter hours, 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, will start again the day after Labor Day, Sept. 6.

Perfect way to beat the heat

Each month, we hide the names of five members in this delightful, scintillating newsletter. If you see your name this month, call the office, 307-837-2225, and get a cool \$25 for your piggy bank.