




Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

November 2011

How to reach us

Wyrulec Company
500 Main St. • PO Box 359
Lingle, Wyoming 82223

307-837-2225

800-628-5266

Fax: 307-837-2115

E-mail: wyrulec@wyrulec.com

Website: www.wyrulec.com

Office hrs: 7:30-4:30, Mon.-Fri.

Board of Directors

Julie Kilty
President

F.E. "Wally" Wolski
Vice President

Brent Mullock
Secretary

Jack Preston
Treasurer

Dewey Hageman
Assistant Secretary

General Manager

Rollie Miller

Senior Staff

Joe Kinnan
Operations Manager

Cindy Potter
Office Manager

From your manager



Miller

We continue to work on financial and planning matters relating to the new facilities. The board has made considerable progress thanks in large part to the assistance we are getting from the team of builders we're working with. We hope to break ground before you even get this newsletter.

Oil development

Natural resource activity hasn't slowed much in the area and we continue to meet with development companies about their expected electrical needs. We haven't made solid plans for additions to utility plant, although we have a number of possibilities drafted should needs materialize. Recently we presented

to the board progress on the proposed new distribution delivery point northwest of Veteran. I am happy to report that the new delivery has been approved by WAPA. In the best case scenario, that delivery point is still at least two years out and may be longer based on changes in need.

Rate increase

In conjunction with the wholesale increase approved by the Tri-State Generation and Transmission board of directors earlier this fall, we are reviewing rates. We will have specific information regarding changes available later this month. The wholesale rate increase will go into effect January 1, 2012. The board is assessing the need for a retail rate increase in light of the dramatic regulatory changes anticipated in the next one to three years.

Annual report of operational health

In October, we received information on 2010 key ratios from our financing partner, CFC (Cooperative Finance Corporation). These ratios tell an important story about the work of your board of directors at Wyrulec Company.

We maintain 103 miles of line per employee, a number significantly higher than the national median of 55. Our average service availability is 99.99 percent. This means that for less than 65 minutes during all of 2010, the Wyrulec Company system as a whole was not fully energized. The bulk of the system was almost always energized. Parts of the system, however, endured more minutes without power. The staff and crews consistently work to minimize outages.

In our area, weather is often the outage culprit. Although we can't change the weather, the better a system is maintained, the less likely it is to suffer failure during high winds or seasonal storms. Your crews do an excellent job maintaining Wyrulec's system. Staffing is lean at Wyrulec, but tremendously effective and efficient thanks to the leadership of Joe Kinnan and Cindy Potter.

Our 2010 operations and maintenance expenses per member were just over \$200. This compares favorably with the more than 900 other distribution co-ops across the country, half of whom spent a little more and half of whom spent a little less.

Continued on page 2



From your manager

Continued from page 1

Each member's share of Wyrulec Company's long-term debt as of the end of 2010 is down nearly 16 percent from 2006. This is positive and should be understood in terms of total debt to get an accurate picture of the cooperative's financial health. Less than 41 percent of co-op assets are funded with debt compared to the percentage funded by member-owners.

Wyrulec Company has invested slightly more than \$6,000 per consumer in utility plant. Utility plant encompasses all the equipment, hardware, and intangible assets required to operate an electric cooperative. Compared to other distribution co-ops in the U.S., this is less than what three-quarters of them have invested.

Running a tight ship

Cooperatives are unique from several perspectives. Board members may have special financial, business, or management skills to bring to the table, and they may not. To a person, however, they are motivated to be frugal with co-op funds.

Your board fully understands the trade-offs

required to consistently balance reliability, efficiency, customer service, and financial health. We are on a path to leverage our financial health to catch up in the areas of efficiency and customer service. All four elements contribute to member satisfaction, recruiting success, the health of existing businesses, and the promotion of business growth in the community.

Safety matters

Next month, Wyrulec Company will receive recognition from the Nebraska Rural Electric Association for working 256,253 hours (as of the end of last year) without a lost-time accident. This safety record has held since early 2003. This is a tremendous achievement and another testament to the professionalism of the staff and crew members you have working for you.

Holiday hours

I hope you have a wonderful thanksgiving holiday. Wyrulec Company offices will be closed Nov. 24-25. As always, however, you can reach me here in the office, on my mobile at 307-575-2435, or via e-mail at rmiller@wyrulec.com.

Warm help available for low-income families

Help paying heating bills or weatherizing a home or apartment is available to low-income citizens.

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP, pronounced *lee-ap*) offers bill payment assistance, energy crisis assistance (shutoff, pending shutoff, or non-working boiler or heating system are considered energy crises), and weatherization and energy-related home repairs to certain qualifying families.

The chart below left shows the qualifying income levels for LIEAP eligibility in Nebraska. The chart below is for Wyoming.

Each state differs

Federal requirements allow states to set their own guidelines but income eligibility cannot be set higher than 150 percent of the poverty level or 60 percent of the state median income (whichever is higher), nor lower than 110 percent of the poverty level.

Priority must be given to households with the highest home energy costs or needs in relation to income. *George Marlatt* All heating fuel types are included: electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, coal, etc.

Nebraska	
Family Size	Annual Gross
1	\$12,570
2	\$16,913
3	\$21,242
4	\$25,585
5	\$29,928

Wyoming		
Family Size	Monthly Gross	Annual Gross
1	\$1,976	\$23,711
2	\$2,584	\$31,077
3	\$3,192	\$38,303
4	\$3,800	\$45,599
5	\$4,408	\$52,895

Winter heating

LIEAP heating benefits can be awarded October through May although there is no guarantee that funds will be available for every eligible applicant. Those qualifying for LIEAP benefits may also qualify for weatherization assistance. LIEAP is not meant to pay heating bills in their entirety. Both LIEAP and weatherization are federal programs.

Continued on page 4

Pocket change can make a big difference

You can participate in the Operation Round-Up program by registering at the Wyrulec office in Lingle or completing the form in this newsletter and sending it in when you pay your bill.

Operation Round-Up is an easy way for members throughout Wyrulec Company's service territory in Wyoming and Nebraska to help each other.

If 80 percent of Wyrulec's members participate, the fund could provide \$10,000 worth of aid to the community each year without costing any single account holder more than \$11.88 a year.

One hundred ninety-three have signed up. Their contributions as of the end of August amount to \$183.92. The average amount

rounded up, per account per month to date, is \$0.48.

Across electric cooperative service territories in Wyoming and elsewhere, Operation Round-Up has raised money for things like the Life Flight program, members in crisis situations, and for community projects that benefit everyone. The funds col-

lected are used locally for these and many other types of needs.

Rounding your electric bill up to the next whole dollar and donating those extra cents to the Operation Round-Up program is easy. For just pennies a month, you can join other Wyrulec Company members in supporting vital needs and services in our communities.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Owned by those we serve

Operation Round-Up Enrollment Form

Yes, I do want to participate in the Operation Round-Up Program.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Account # _____

- I have more than one account; please round up all of my accounts.
- I have more than one account, please round up the following accounts.

Account number(s) _____

Signature _____

Date _____

To participate in this program, please check the box and return this form to the Wyrulec Company office, or call us at (307) 837-2225.

Warm help available for low-income families

*Continued *Joe D Gutierrez* from page 2*

The maximum LIEAP crisis benefit in Wyoming is \$600. In Nebraska the maximum LIEAP benefit is \$500 in addition to the minimum (which varies according to fuel). In both states, the money is generally sent to the fuel provider, not the applicant.

Documentation is required by each state for most of the application information.

Nebraska contact information

In Nebraska, application for weatherization benefits must be made through one of nine local non-profit weatherization service providers. Households with person receiving either Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are automatically eligible.

The website for additional information is www.dhhs.ne.gov/fia/energy.htm. *Dolly B Lewis* LIEAP applications in Nebraska should be sent to LIEAP, PO Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509.

Applications can be faxed to 402-471-9597. To speak with someone regarding these pro-

grams, call 402-471-3121.

Wyoming contact information

In Wyoming, the maximum weatherization assistance package is \$6,500. The LIEAP application is also the weatherization assistance application.

Information and applications for Wyoming residents are accessible online at dfsweb.state.wy.us/news.aspx?NewsID=48.

LIEAP applications should be sent to LIEAP, PO Box 827, Cheyenne, WY 82003. Applications can be faxed to 307-777-6276. To speak with someone regarding these programs, call 800-246-4221.

Better ways to cook a turkey

Don't roast your turkey over an incandescent bulb, it takes too long! Let Cousin Herb roast the turkey, while you change lightbulbs. Swap those hot incandescents for cool compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs).

We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt turkey cooker. Invite the family to eat under the lights (CFLs, that is) today! The bulbs are \$1.00 each.

Shopping spree

We'll be closed Nov. 24-25 so employees can get their holiday shopping for nifty electric gadgets and sleek energy-efficient appliances completed quickly.

Before you add your name to their list, find your name in this monthly sheet of fascination and come pick up \$25 to help with YOUR holiday shopping spree. You, too, can get nifty electric gadgets and appliances!

Call the office, 307-837-2225, for your cash.

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

