




Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

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From your manager



Miller

Wholesale rate increase

Our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn., has approved a 4.8 percent rate increase effective January 1, 2012. We are in the process of looking at how this will affect Wyrulec Company. After a full review of our budget and rates, we will know what action, if any, we need to take. I will report on this more thoroughly before the end of the year.

New facilities

As I write we are continuing to review plans for the new building. As we have presented the last couple of months, the bids for the new building came in higher than expected. With our architect and industry experts, we are continuing to discuss ways to lower the cost of the facilities to an acceptable level. The size of the facilities hasn't changed yet as we are expecting to find enough cost savings in materials plus labor needs could be slightly different from what was specified in the bidding documents. It is impressive to me to be able to find solutions working jointly with the architect and construction experts in a building of this size. We will have a very nice facility when it is finally completed and we will be within our budgeted parameters although the schedule has slipped a bit.

Also related to the new building is the financing options we have been evaluating. The interest rates—with the national economy as it is—are at an all-time low and continue to come down albeit slowly. Although Wyoming has seen some of the effects of the national economy, we have been somewhat isolated from the extremes seen elsewhere in our nation. We are hoping to take advantage of the great interest rates available now. Our plan is to get started here shortly with the project.

9/11/2011

It is hard to believe it has been ten years since the tragedy that took place in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania. I don't know where you were when these horrific events took place but I certainly remember where I was. I watched some of the ceremonies the news media put together on Sunday morning a few weeks ago but I am very proud of what we have done as a country since those cowardly attacks took place. I believe what we are doing will permanently memorialize the lives lost that day.

Staffing

I am continuing to evaluate the staffing levels we currently have. In the next few years some very key employees will be retiring. Namely, Bill Potter, Gene Prickett, Larry Paules, Cindy Potter, Tom Mitchell, and Joe Kinnan will be retiring in the next few years. Although we have taken measures to hire and train younger employees and are confident they can step up to more responsible roles, these positions will be very difficult to fill. I am proud to be working with all of the staff. They are a great bunch of people, genuinely concerned about your electricity service.



A matter of principles

You might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell produce and electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care, and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale (pronounced

Rotch-dale) in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. *Pam Goss* When introduced into the U.S. by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member business meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op is in good financial shape.

More than \$9.5 billion has been returned to members by electric co-ops since 1988—nothing to sneeze at.

Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep

electric bills affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas they serve—the heart of the cooperative difference.

Learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at www.go.coop.



Voluntary and open membership

Democratic member control

Member economic participation

Autonomy and independence

Education, training, and information

Cooperation among cooperatives

Concern for community

2012 designated International Year of Cooperatives

Electric cooperatives and other members of the co-op family take center stage globally in 2012, designated the International Year of Cooperatives.

The celebration begins this month when U.S. cooperatives traditionally celebrate National Cooperative Month. The International Year of Cooperatives' theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.

"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," states Glenn English, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit electric co-ops and public power districts. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: we put people first and we are innovators. By getting neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

What are co-ops?

Cooperatives are a global net-

work of independent, local businesses owned by those they serve.

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," explains English. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

According to the Washington, D.C.-based National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), more than 29,200 cooperatives nationally employ 2 million Americans. One in every four Americans is a co-op member, but the scope of the cooperative network doesn't stop at the border.

"Co-ops are a major economic force in industrialized countries and provide a powerful business model for developing nations," notes Paul Hazen, NCBA president & CEO.

More than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide, and co-ops generate 100 million jobs globally. *Dennis Wambolt*

"As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. That keeps the co-op's focus on you and how best to meet your needs," notes English.

The innovative practices of co-ops provide consumer-focused solutions that can adapt quickly to change. Unlike competitive, profit-driven businesses, co-ops cooperate with each other to fashion programs that improve service. For example, food co-ops intro-

duced food nutrition labels long before they were federally required in 1994. *Gary Darnall* Credit unions fought the predatory practices of payday lenders by introducing salary advance loans that double as savings accounts.

Electric cooperatives like Wyrulec Company are leading the way nationally in deploying technologies that enhance service reliability.

"You can find co-ops for all walks of life," says English. "When people unite with a common goal, the co-op business model comes into play."

Lighting the world

Electric cooperatives like Wyrulec Company are leaders, delivering power and light to 42 million consumers in 47 states covering more than 75 percent of the nation's landmass. Wyrulec Company, founded by members of our community in 1936, serves over 2,500 members in Wyoming and Nebraska.

Not only does 2012 mark a global celebration of the cooperative business model, it also marks the 50th anniversary of NRECA International Programs, a division of NRECA. The theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," shines in the work NRECA International Programs does every day.

Working together, more than 300 U.S. electric cooperatives like Wyrulec Company have delivered the benefits of safe and reliable

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2012 designated International Year of Cooperatives

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electric service to more than 100 million people in 40-plus countries since November 1962.

“Building a better world takes

experience, and no group has more experience in bringing low-cost power to remote areas than electric co-ops,” explains Wyrulec General Manager Rollie Miller.

In the U.S., co-ops helped electricity evolve from a luxury to an essential part daily life. Yet more than 2 billion people around the globe still live without power—64 million in Latin America, 500 million in Africa, and more than 1 billion in Asia.

See how you can help electric co-ops build a better world at www.NRECAFoundation.coop. For more about co-ops, visit www.go.coop.



Keeping time current

By Megan McKoy-Noe, NRECA

Older electric clocks use the electrical current’s frequency to stay accurate. To make this work, the electric grid’s frequency must be regularly corrected for “time errors”—in essence, steps taken at power plants help older electric clocks tick properly.

However, in mid-July, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation’s power grid watchdog, started a year-long field test to discover if Time Error Corrections (TECs), which have been performed since 1930, actually hurt electric system reliability.

“To keep electricity flowing smoothly, we must maintain a stable frequency level,” explains Ken Anderson, general manager of Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assn., which generates electricity for members of Wyrulec Company.

The electric grid runs in something called cycles, or Hertz (Hz)—60 cycles per second. That standard is used to match the 60 seconds per minute that keeps time. Older electric clocks depend on that standard to remain accurate. Newer clocks have chips and other electronics in them that stay accurate independent of the 60-Hz standard.

“To adjust for fast time errors,

the frequency is lowered slightly from 60 Hz to 59.98 Hz,” explains Anderson. “The concern is that during a time adjustment, which can take several hours, the frequency is already below normal. If a problem during that time drives frequency levels even lower, it could trigger emergency load-shedding measures.”

The NERC field trial will suspend time corrections in favor of stabilizing the grid’s frequency. As a side effect, older alarm clocks and some appliance clocks may lose track of time a few seconds a day.

By July 2012, it’s possible an affected clock could run up to 20 minutes fast in the east unless the owner corrects the time manually.

Since the electric grid operates in three sections, other areas of the country may see a different impact. Clocks in the west may only run up to 8 minutes fast, while clocks in Texas won’t run more than 2 minutes over. Members can check the official time at www.time.gov.

Most newer appliances and clocks no longer rely on electric current to keep time, so it’s unclear what effect the experiment will have.

NERC has a plan in place to resume TEC if a reliability issue develops. Wyrulec Company will continue to monitor the trial closely.

No scary CFLs

Compact fluorescent light-bulbs are more expensive upfront. They last longer than incandescent bulbs, however, and use FAR less electricity. We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts.

They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt Halloween incandescent. Trick or Treat for CFLs today! They’re \$1.00 each (except on Halloween when we’ll give them away in exchange for a good Halloween story*).

***Limited to Wyrulec members only. Limit 2 per member.**

Smell my feet!

Oh no! We will NOT smell your feet, we’d much rather give you a treat! Find your name in this monthly literary treasure and you’ll get a Halloween prize. Call the office, 307-837-2225, for your \$25 pumpkin fest.