




Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

September 2011

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From your operations manager



Joe Kinnan

I met a guy at a meeting once, who—with a harrow pulled behind a tractor—had hit the guy wire holding up a corner power pole. The gentleman said he hadn’t been going fast, he just got a little too close. The guy wire didn’t fare well; neither did the pole.

The co-op billed the fellow, who was a member of the co-op that owned the pole, for the cost of a new pole and guy wire plus the time of the crew that had to come out and fix it all back up again. It was a lot more expensive than he’d dreamed it

could be.

The bill for over \$1,000 had made the fellow angry. He thought the co-op should absorb the cost or should never have planted the pole there in the first place. Hitting it had been an accident. The fellow didn’t expect to have to pay for the damages although, as he explained to me, he did recognize that his neighbors (other co-op owner/members) wouldn’t be too happy about paying for it either.

I wouldn’t bring this up except that it’s harvest season. There’s a lot of machinery traffic in and out of fields and around the area. This traffic is likely to continue for several more weeks.

Wyrulec Company has about 30,000 poles, several miles of guy wires, and nearly 2,000 miles of line spread across eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. Please be careful. Watch out for overhead lines. Put some bright tape on guy wires if you think a hired hand might not readily see them. We don’t want any people hurt. We don’t want any of your equipment damaged. Also, we want the reliability of the electric system maintained, both for your sake and for ours.

New power plant dedicated last month

You might have heard about the new coal-fueled power plant Basin Electric Power Cooperative has been building outside Gillette, Wyo. It’s a 385-megawatt plant and Wyoming’s municipalities own 7 percent of it, Basin Electric owns 93 percent.

It’s pretty exciting to have a new power plant in the region. Permitting such a plant is time-consuming, difficult, and expensive. Environmental controls alone cost \$336 million. The plant as a whole cost \$1.35 billion and, at one point during construction, employed 1,300 people. Although Wyrulec Company won’t be directly served by this plant, we all benefit from the addition of clean, reliable, cost-effective power to the region.



Reinventing the incandescent lightbulb

By MAGEN HOWARD

For the first time in more than 100 years, the basic incandescent lightbulb is getting a facelift. To accommodate new energy efficiency standards set by Congress (which require lightbulbs to be more efficient starting in 2012), a new generation of incandescent lightbulbs has entered the marketplace. These products boast energy savings of 25 percent and a lifespan up to three times longer than their soon-to-be extinct predecessors.

Savings matter

"Up to 12 percent of a typical monthly electric bill pays for lighting, so removing energy-wasting bulbs from the market will have a big impact on America's energy use," explains Erik Sorenson, a project manager with the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), which represents companies that make products used in the generation, transmission, distribution, control, and end use of electricity.

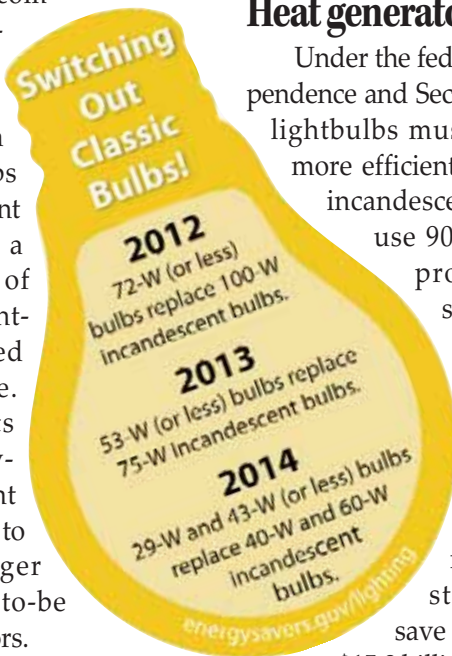
Halogen add-on

Retooled incandescent bulbs contain a small capsule of halogen gas that surrounds the filament, *Marie Daskocil* which increases

efficiency and improves longevity, while retaining the shape, color choices, and dimming capabilities that consumers have favored in incandescent bulbs.

Heat generator

Under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, lightbulbs must be 28 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs (which use 90 of their energy producing heat) starting in 2012, and by 2020, they must be 70 percent more efficient. *Jack A. Miller* NEMA estimates the new standards could save Americans up to \$15.8 billion per year.



Additional options

The new-generation incandescent bulbs will join compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) as energy-efficient lighting options.

CFLs and LEDs both are about 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescents. CFLs last about 10 times longer; LEDs about 25 times longer. But CFLs are the more economical choice at the moment. LED cost is expected to drop as the technology advances.

"With lighting legislation mandating more efficient technologies and consumers looking for every opportunity to save, navigating lighting solutions has never been so important," emphasizes David Schuellerman, GE Lighting's public relations manager.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy (EnergySavers.gov), National Electrical Manufacturers Association, GE

Dispelling common CFL myths

U.S. retailers will soon begin switching out traditional incandescent lightbulbs with more efficient options. While the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 does not mandate the replacement of incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), CFLs remain the most widely available technology that can meet the law's provisions.

As consumers rely more heavily on CFLs, they will encounter misconceptions—myths that the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a non-profit research consortium made up of electric utilities, including electric cooperatives, wants to dispel. Here are the top CFL myths:

Myth #1. CFLs cannot be used in 3-way fixtures

Several manufacturers have developed 3-way CFLs that provide performance equivalent to traditional 3-way incandescent lamps and also operate in standard 3-way sockets. *Douglas Des Enfants* As with incandescent bulbs, 3-way CFLs are offered in a variety of wattage and light output combinations, including:



What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:



Halogen incandescents

Energy Savings:* 25 percent
Lifespan:* Three times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$3.50



Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

Energy Savings:* 75 percent
Lifespan:* 10 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1.20



Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

Energy Savings:* 75-80 percent
Lifespan:* 25 times longer
Annual Energy Cost: \$1

* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at
energysavers.gov/lighting

Dispelling common CFL myths

* *Ronald D. Havengar** A 12/23/29 W CFL equivalent to a 50/100/150 W incandescent

* A 14/19/32 W CFL equivalent to a 40/75/150 W incandescent

Different manufacturers use slightly different wattages and lamp designs to match the output of traditional 3-way incandescent bulbs; consumers are encouraged to try different 3-way CFLs to find the design that best suits their needs.

Myth #2. Dimmable CFLs do not work with standard line dimmers

While dimmable CFLs are available today, not all dimmable CFLs are compatible with every dimmer. There are also different CFL dimming ranges, with some dimming from 100 to 10 percent, others from 90 to 30 percent.

Incandescent lamps are frequently dimmed with standard electronic line dimmers—rotary, slide, or touch dimmers. Dimmable CFLs that specify “true dimmability” are most likely to be compatible with most rotary or programmable dimmers.

Before purchasing large quantities of dimmable CFLs, conduct a simple table-top test to determine CFL-to-dimmer compatibility, including acceptable dimming range.

Myth #3. CFLs do not last as long as advertised

If installed properly, a CFL offers energy savings and longer life than incandescent lamps. Installing CFLs in recessed can

fixtures not rated for its use will likely shorten the lamp’s life. Most reflector type CFLs are rated for use in cans, and some twist-lamp CFLs can be used in cans. Package labeling specifies whether a CFL can be used in recessed cans; always read packaging closely.

The life of a CFL also depends on how frequently the consumer turns it on and off. Some manufacturers list the recommended average number of daily switchings along with the rated number of operating hours. Switching on a CFL more frequently than the recommended average can shorten its life. Consumers who use CFLs with occupancy sensors will want to purchase CFLs with the longest life rating.

When installed properly in appropriate fixtures, CFLs reduce operating costs by reducing energy consumption.

Myth #4. CFLs do not fit in fans or candelabras

Lamp manufacturers have developed CFL products of various wattages and designs that can be screwed directly into specialized fixtures such as fans, candelabras, chandeliers, and wall sconces.

Typically, lamps in fans and candelabras are highly visible and consumers value the aesthetics of the lamp when selecting a CFL replacement. Manufacturers now offer design options such as frosted glass, “flame” lamps, curled lamp tips, and traditional incandescent shape.

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Dispelling common CFL myths

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Myth #5. CFLs are too expensive, and energy savings are outweighed by disposal costs

The cost of CFLs has dropped significantly as higher consumer demand drives increased production. Other market factors include new, more appealing lamp designs, consumer education, low energy consumption, and increased retail access to a variety of

CFL products. Increased demand has in turn driven innovative new products and increased the number of manufacturers serving the CFL market.

CFLs today contain only trace amounts of mercury, usually less than that found in a can of tuna. But it's still important to properly dispose of used or damaged CFLs. Consumers can easily find various safe disposal avenues through their local waste management hauler, retailers that provide for the free disposal of CFLs, or via online resources like www.earth911.org.

To learn more about lighting changes in 2012 and beyond, visit www.energysavers.gov/lighting.

Source: Electric Power Research Institute

Treat power tools with care

By MAGEN HOWARD

Before you fire up that power tool for your next do-it-yourself home project, remember that electrical devices must be treated with care. Even though many tools are equipped with safety mechanisms, it's still important to heed precautions. Keep these tips from the U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) in mind when using power tools:

- ✂ Do not carry tools by their cords.
- ✂ Pull the cord out of the outlet by the plug, not by pulling on the cord.
- ✂ Do not use in wet or damp job sites, unless the tool is specifically approved for those conditions. Store them in a dry place when not being used.

- ✂ To avoid accidental starts while carrying a tool, do not touch the switch or trigger that operates it.
- ✂ Ensure your work area is well-lit.
- ✂ Unplug tools when cleaning or fixing, while changing other parts of the tool such as blades or bits, and when not in use.
- ✂ Ensure that extension cords are not worn or frayed.
- ✂ Wear proper clothing - no ties, jewelry, or other loose items that could get caught.

"Whether you're on the job or working at home, staying safe around power tools is a must," says Wyrulec Company General Manager Rollie Miller. *Carole A. Lessard* "Following a few rules could mean the difference between a successful project and an accident."

Source: U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration

New Year's fun

New school year, that is... You could find knowledge enriching if you discover your name in this owners-only monthly newsletter. The five lucky winners should call the office, 307-837-2225, for a \$5² education.

You'll never know unless you try

We mean you'll never know how much you can **SAVE** with energy efficient lightbulbs unless you take the first step. We have CFLs in stock that are 100-watt replacements. They will fit into any light fixture rated over 23 watts.

Don't pick squash in the dark. Open the blinds on some CFLs today!

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

They're cheaper by the dozen! Pick up 12 at the Wyrulec office for only \$10.00.

Winter hours & holiday

This month we return to our winter hours, 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, starting the day after Labor Day, Sept. 6. Come in and say hello. We'd love to share with you the current status of the new facility plans.

We will be closed on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 5.