




# Co-op News

from

## Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives   
The power of human connections

September 2008

### From your manager

## What's happening at Wyrulec?

### Our Energy, Our Future campaign



Miller

We continue to gather support and signatures for the *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign, initiated and supported by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This is a campaign to inform our federally elected senators and congressmen from Nebraska and Wyoming about the concerns we have for affordable and reliable electric power in the future. The climate-change supporters want to impose a significant penalty on coal-based generation which will drive the cost of electrical energy skyward. We simply want our elected representatives to understand all of the facts related to

doubling or even tripling the cost of electric power and the impact it will have on us all. Feel free to give me a call to discuss this further and, if you support the *Our Energy, Our Future* campaign, sign up and we'll help you send the message to our elected representatives.

### AMR system

Thank you for working with us and being patient as we implement the new Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system. We continue to work through the implementation bugs of the system but things are progressing nicely and we are certainly pleased with the results. We still have a few single-phase meters, approximately five percent overall, in isolated areas of our service territory that we cannot read from the office. As we install additional equipment in the form of repeaters, those numbers will decrease. The communication system from the substation to the individual meters utilizes the actual powerlines to the homes as the communication medium. We simply inject a very high-frequency signal on the line at 12.5 kHz, which does not impact the normal power flow at 60 Hz.

However, there are a small number of areas from which the additional signal can't get back to the office. That is where the repeaters come in. They boost the signal so that we can communicate with hard-to-reach meters. The repeater equipment is very expensive so we are performing an analysis of the affected areas to determine the optimal locations. \*Craig Grant\* As I stated, we feel the implementation of the AMR system is proceeding very well and as planned. We expected these problems and are working through them. Thank you for your patience! Stay tuned in the coming months as we will be replacing the existing three-phase meters with AMR-capable meters. Jason Murphy and Joanna Daiss have been very busy with the AMR implementation and should be commended for their efforts. If you have any questions about billing or the meter reading system, feel free to call Jason or Joanna.

### Irrigation season

By the time you read this, the irrigation season will be coming to a close. We hope you are looking forward to a fruitful harvest. With the end of the irrigation

### 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](mailto:wyrulec@wyrulec.com)

Office hours: 7:30 am-4:30pm

### Board of Directors

Jack Preston  
*President*

Dewey Hageman  
*Vice President*

Julie Kilty  
*Secretary*

F.E. "Wally" Wolski  
*Treasurer*

Brent Mullock  
*Assistant Secretary*

### General Manager

Rollie Miller

### Senior Staff

Joe Costello  
*Engineering Manager*

Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Cindy Potter  
*Office Manager*

*Continued on page 2*

## What's happening at Wyrulec?

*Continued from page 1*

season, we will once again be sending letters asking if you are finished with your irrigation service. If you are, we will disconnect the transformers serving the service. The transformers use power all the time so if you are finished with them for the season, we want to get them off-line. We understand that you may need to move your pivot for harvest or irrigate longer from a well so those still in use can stay on. We simply want to get those off-line that are no longer being used. So, if you are an irrigator, you will be getting a letter this month or next, and we hope the harvest goes well.

### Rates

As I stated last month, the board has asked me to initiate a discussion with our rate consultant in an effort to evaluate the current rates. The board is also looking into financial strategic goals for the cooperative, not only for the next couple of years, but also long term. We have set up a meeting with a facilitator from the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) to provide guidance in setting those goals. I'll report more on this in the coming months.

On a related note, we have heard informally that our power supplier will have a "low-to-mid single digit" percentage rate increase, effective Jan. 1, 2009. We will find out more on this as their budget is evaluated and subsequently approved by their board of directors.

### Looking for entry-level lineworkers

Wyrulec is looking to hire additional staff to fill upcoming retirements. For the first time in several years, we do not have an apprentice lineman on staff. We feel it is important to train entry-level lineworkers over a four-year period so that they can potentially step up into positions vacated by retiring senior staff. \*David B. Lohr\* To that end, we have two apprentice lineman positions open at the present time. Although we are looking for someone with experience or lineman training, we are willing to consider someone locally with a good work ethic and high moral standards even if they don't have experience or training. If you fit the bill or know of someone who does, give Joe Kinnan a call here in the office. He'll help you complete the required application paperwork.

## Staying safe during fall storms

Late summer and early fall often bring hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods to much of North America, so, take precautions with your home's electrical system.



### General safety

- ✦ Never touch a downed power line. Call your electric co-op to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during clean-up and other activities. Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged.
- ✦ Be sure all electric and gas services are turned off before entering buildings for the first time after a storm.

✦ If water has risen above the electrical outlets in your home, contact a licensed electrician before turning on your main circuit breaker. Outlets and wiring that have come in contact with water could present a fire and shock hazard.

✦ Look for and replace damaged extension and appliance cords, loose prongs, or plugs.

### Generator safety

- ✦ Portable electric generators are often put into use for temporary power. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's directions for installation and operation.
- ✦ Use generators or other fuel-powered machines outside the

home. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly poison you indoors.

- ✦ Take special care not to overload the generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded plug and are in good condition.
- ✦ Never run cords under rugs or carpets.
- ✦ Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

— Sources: U.S. Fire Administration, Consumer Product Safety Com., Ark. Co-operative Extension Service

## Work safely this fall

Late summer and early fall often find many of us working outdoors before the weather turns cooler, but these outdoor chores require caution, especially around electricity. Faulty extension cords are a common source of injury, as are metal ladders coming into contact with overhead power lines. \*Bernard L. Carr\*

Here are a few safety tips to follow when working outside:

### Extension cords and power tools:

- Check power tools and electrical cords to make sure they are in good repair, and only use power tools outside that are designed for outdoor use.
- Extension cords should also be designed for outdoor use. They are thicker, more durable, and have features for preventing moisture damage.
- Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs.
- Check the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it's large enough to meet the power demand of the tool.
- Do not plug one extension cord into another. Use the proper length for the job.
- Unplug extension cords \*Norman C. Brown\* when



you are finished using them. Never leave an open extension cord plugged into an outlet.

### Ladders:

- Use fiberglass or wooden ladders when working around overhead wires or other electrical sources. Metal ladders conduct electricity and can kill anyone who is touching the ladder if it comes into contact with electricity.
- If you must use a metal ladder, carefully check the location of all overhead powerlines to avoid contacting the wire or touching the ladder to something that touches the electrical source, such as a tree branch.
- Lower a ladder before carrying or moving it.
- Never work on a windy day, as a gust of wind could shift a ladder into an overhead power line.
- When placing a ladder on the ground, make sure the distance to the nearest overhead power line is at least twice the length of the ladder.
- Make sure to place a ladder on solid, level ground to prevent sliding.

— Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission, Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, and the Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc. (ESFI)

## The truth about thermostats

Your home's thermostat controls how long your heating or cooling system operates. You can save energy and money by learning how this simple device operates.

One common myth is that the higher you set your thermostat when you return home, the faster your furnace will heat up your house. This isn't true since most furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. So just set your thermostat at the temperature you'd

like, and your furnace will heat your home as fast as it can.

Another myth regards the efficiency of turning your thermostat down when you don't need heating or cooling, such as at night or when no one is home. \*Patricia J. Buckhaults\* This myth states that a furnace works harder than normal to heat your home back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. This is not true, as has been proven by years of

research and field observations.

The longer your house stays at a reduced temperature in the winter—or at an increased temperature in the summer—the more energy and money you'll save heating and cooling.

— Source: Texas Co-Op Power



## Something for the kids

If you're searching for a fun website for your youngster, look no further than the Kids' Korner section of [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com).

Kids' Korner is a one-stop spot. It has all the information your young ones need to be safe around electricity and learn about energy efficiency plus explanations of electricity terms they may hear being discussed around the house.

Colorful graphics and plenty of opportunities to play games, solve puzzles, and color pictures make the website particularly interesting to children.

The website includes a valuable quiz that asks children to consider their own habits and how they can be modified in order to save energy. Children can check off the energy-saving habits they already have, like turning off the lights when leaving a room or searching for water leaks around the house. The website makes it clear to children that all of these habits are a big help.

Children can learn about being safe around not only indoor and outdoor electricity, but natural gas as well. Near the end of the website, children can demonstrate their

knowledge with an interactive quiz led by a pair of fun, animated characters.



Children who are interested in more hands-on activities will enjoy the "Let's Experiment" tab of the website, which includes directions for simple experiments that teach children the basics of power. One experiment requires only Cheerios, a hanger, thread, a pen, and a piece of wool.

Encourage your children to navigate to [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com).

## Employee Spotlight ❖ ❖ ❖ Colleen Brown

**Q:** How long have you lived in Wyoming?

**A:** I have lived all of my life in Lingle, Wyoming.

**Q:** What did you do before you came to work for Wyrulec?

**A:** I worked for Banner Medical Clinic.

**Q:** What is your job title at Wyrulec?

**A:** Cashier/Receptionist

**Q:** What brought you to Wyrulec?

**A:** Cindy Potter, a long-time Wyrulec employee, told me about a job opening.

**Q:** Describe your family.

**A:** I have been married 29 years to Trace, who works for the State of Wyoming. We have two daughters. Nicole, 26, lives in Aspen, Colorado, and works for Alpine Banks. Krista, 24, lives in Scottsdale, Arizona, and works for Scottsdale Memorial Hospital while attaining her

Bachelor's of Nursing degree.

**Q:** Do you have any hobbies?

**A:** I love to spend time with my family doing anything. I also love to have fun with friends, traveling, camping, knitting, and attending Wyoming Cowboy games.

**Q:** Words of advice you would share?

**A:** Live each day as if it is your last day on earth.

**Q:** Why do you enjoy working for Wyrulec?

**A:** I love working for a co-op that truly cares about its members. I also love the people I work with. They are my second family. I truly enjoy helping and visiting with the consumers.



### Don't miss a word

Each month, we will be hiding the names of five members, one from each district, in this newsletter. 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 \$1.60 each. We have plenty.