




Co-op News

from

Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

August 2009

From your manager

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Miller

Midyear report on financial condition

The following is a midyear summary of the financial reports provided to the board of directors for approval each month. First of all the "good news." Revenues for irrigation accounts are off considerably. Like I said... this is "good news." It is certainly better to be getting some natural flowing moisture versus having to pump from a canal or from the ground.

Revenue through June for the irrigation accounts is off by as much as 40 percent compared to last year's figures. Expenses are down also because 2/3rds of the revenue goes to our wholesale power supplier. *Clarence M. Mercer* The residential kWh sales are also down from prior years. kWh sales for the industrial loads are also off slightly.

We feel these reductions are certainly tied to the weather for the irrigation accounts but also, in a small part, for the other rate classes. The state of the economy also contributes to the sales reductions, in my opinion.

We monitor the kWh sales continuously and feel we are adequately positioned at this point to deal with these fluctuations. We'll see how the remainder of the year settles out.

Meter data management

As you know we have installed "Smart Grid" AMR meters on all but a very few of the meter locations. It is working as planned and has dramatically reduced our meter reading expense primarily with the irrigation accounts. It has also been a very useful tool in troubleshooting outages.

Related to this, we are working with our wholesale power provider to provide a real-time indication of our peak demands at our wholesale delivery points. As you may know, our wholesale power supply is billed to us in basically two components, the total amount of energy used (kWh's) and the rate at which the kWh's are used (kW peak demand).

This real-time indication plan would be web-based and, as stated, would provide kW demand numbers. It is expected to be functioning in the next few months. What we are hoping to provide is web-based meter data to the membership that allows those accounts that are kW demand metered to control their usage during peak times.

We are confident we can find solutions that are beneficial to all parties involved. We are excited about this technological advancement in our

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From your manager

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metering data. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

Cap and trade passes House

Late in June, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a cap-and-trade bill. The vote was 219 for 212 against. This legislation, if signed into law, will dramatically increase the wholesale cost of power. With as little as a \$20/ton tax on greenhouse gas emissions, you can expect your electric bill to increase by about 25 percent.

We are hopeful co-ops will get a fairer shake in formulating this legislation in the Senate. At this point, I have heard that there will not be a vote on this in the Senate this year.

Our national organization, NRECA, was very instrumental in the House of Representatives, positioning us for the best deal we can get out of poten-

tial energy legislation. They'll be equally involved on the Senate side.

It's the mandated "quick" solutions I'm opposed to, simply because they will cost so much money and won't change the long-term environmental outcomes.

We're already headed in the direction that the proposed climate change legislation hopes to mandate. Let's just keep moving. By continuing this steady pace, we don't have to sacrifice affordability, reliability, or the environment.

Right now "offsets," or carbon remediation, are being discussed and evaluated in the agriculture legislative community.

As always, please don't hesitate to call us whenever we can be of service. You can reach me in the office at 307-837-2225 or on the cell phone at 307-575-2435.

Efficiency tip:

Heating and cooling with heat pumps

By Scott Gates

Managing the temperature in a home or business has the hands-down biggest impact on energy costs. In trying to keep warm in winter and cool during summer, the average U.S. homeowner spends \$1,400 annually, accounting for 56 percent of all home energy expenses.

While this outlay can be trimmed by tweaking efficiency, some folks have taken it a step further and installed heat pumps, highly efficient devices that can provide both heating and cooling comfort.

As the name implies, heat pumps simply move heat from one place to another. During

winter months, they collect and consolidate heat from outside sources and move it inside. *R. Douglas Bolin* During summer months, they reverse the flow and send warm, indoor air out.

The most common type is an air-source heat pump that resembles an air-conditioning unit and uses the air around it to transfer heat. Geothermal heat pumps, also known as ground-source heat pumps, use the earth itself or groundwater as a means of transferring heat.

When replacing an electric heating system, air-source heat pumps can trim the amount of electricity needed for heating by as much as 30 to 40 percent. Although a typical high-efficien-

cy, ENERGY STAR®-qualified air-source heat pump comes with a substantial \$6,000 price tag, it's estimated that energy savings will offset the purchase price within five years.

There are two types of geothermal heat pumps. A groundwater (open-loop) system uses well water. An earth-coupled (closed-loop) model moves a water and antifreeze solution through underground pipes. Geothermal heat pumps can cost anywhere from \$15,000 to \$40,000 for an average home. Excavation, installation of underground pipes, and (with a groundwater heat pump) well drilling accounts for much of the price tag. But annual geothermal energy sav-

Heating and cooling with heat pumps

ings average between 30 and 71 percent, according to the Geo-Heat Center, a part of the Oregon Institute of Technology, providing fairly rapid payback. *Hazel M. Malone* Even better, ENERGY STAR versions use up to 60 percent less energy than their standard air-source counterparts.

“Heat pumps—whether they’re geothermal or air-source—can be tricky to put in,” explains Brian Sloboda, senior adviser with the Cooperative Research Network, an arm of Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “A good rule of thumb is to get a North American Technician Excellence [NATE]-certified installer. They’ve passed a comprehensive test and will know what they’re doing.”

Sloboda adds that air-source heat pumps work at maximum efficiency in moderate climates where the outside temperature rarely drops below 30 degrees Fahrenheit. *Joleen Garhart* “Although cold-climate heat pumps are under development, if you live anywhere in the U.S. north of St. Louis, you might want to consider other options. A dual fuel system could do the trick, for example, where an oil, natural

gas, or propane furnace supplements the heat pump during the coldest months.”

Homeowners considering a heat pump should discuss their options with Rollie Miller or Joe Kinnan at Wyrulec Company. It is important to learn the ins and outs of available technology. State and federal rebates may be available for some systems.

Sources:
National Rural Electric Coopera-

tive Association; Cooperative Research Network; OIT Geo-Heat Center; U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Scott Gates writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Types of Geothermal Heat Pump Systems

There are four basic configurations for geothermal heat pump ground loops. Three are “closed-loop systems,” where a water and antifreeze solution is continually moved through pipes; the fourth is an “open-loop system,” where groundwater or well water is used.

The diagram illustrates four configurations of geothermal heat pump ground loops:

- Open Loop Systems:** Shows a house connected to a well and a return pipe that discharges water back into the ground.
- Closed Loop Systems - Vertical:** Shows a house connected to several vertical pipes drilled deep into the ground.
- Closed Loop Systems - Pond/Lake:** Shows a house connected to a loop of pipes that circulates in a pond or lake.
- Closed Loop Systems - Horizontal:** Shows a house connected to a long loop of pipes laid out horizontally in a trench.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Employee Spotlight ❖❖❖ Willy Unverzagt

- Q: How long have you lived in Wyoming?
- A: 31 years, all my life.
- Q: What did you do before you came to work for Wyrulec?
- A: I worked for Herzog Services testing rail for BNSF.
- Q: What is your job title at Wyrulec?
- A: Groundman.
- Q: What brought you to Wyrulec?
- A: I was willing to look at a new career and Wyrulec


had an opening.

- Q: Describe your family.
- A: I have a 6-week-old son.
- Q: Do you have any hobbies?
- A: I like being outdoors, camping, fishing, golfing, and hanging out with my son.

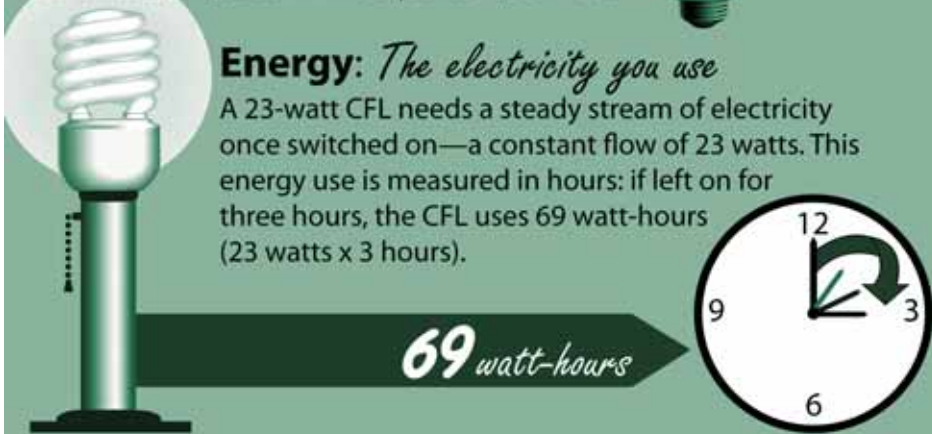


Energy vs. Demand: What's the difference?


Demand: *The electricity you need*
 A 23-watt compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) has a potential demand—the electricity it needs to operate—of 23 watts. Demand is often measured in kilowatts (kW). Each kW is equal to 1,000 watts.



Energy: *The electricity you use*
 A 23-watt CFL needs a steady stream of electricity once switched on—a constant flow of 23 watts. This energy use is measured in hours: if left on for three hours, the CFL uses 69 watt-hours (23 watts x 3 hours).



Energy use adds up!
 Your electric bill energy is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), which shows how much electricity was used in your home during the month. Each kWh equals 1,000 watt-hours. The average home uses 936 kWh of electricity each month!



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

- Q: Words of advice you would share?
- A: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
- Q: Why do you enjoy working for Wyrulec?
- A: I like being outside. I get to stay close to home and it's exciting to start a new career. I enjoy helping people and I work with a lot of good people here.

Many extension cords and surge protectors are counterfeit these days.

They aren't quality items.

Double check labels. If the label doesn't look right, or is unfamiliar, don't buy the product.

❖ 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). *Connie J. Booth* They operate at 23 watts but provide light equal to a 100-watt incandescent. They are \$1.60 each. We have plenty.

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.