



Co-op News

from

Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperatives
The power of American communities

March 2009

From your manager



Miller

Take time to attend the Annual Meeting

Its that time of year again to conduct the Wyrulec Annual Meeting. This year's meeting will be held on March 31 at the Rendezvous Center in Torrington. Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m., supper at 6:00 and the meeting at 7:00. The board representative from District V will be voted upon. District V is south of Torrington and east of Hwy. 85 to the Nebraska border. *Carrie R. Kenders* The following is an excerpt from the Wyrulec bylaws as they relate to nominations of prospective board members:

Section 3 Nominations — 4

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint not less than ninety days before the date of the meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of one member from each directorate district referred to in Article IV, Section 2 of these By-laws. No officer or member of the board shall be appointed a member of such committee.

1. *The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least sixty days before the meeting, a list of candidates for each directorship to be elected.*
2. *Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of candidates selected by the committee is posted.*

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. Notwithstanding anything in this section contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

Board of Director nominations

The nominating committee was comprised of Robert Ward, Diana Guest, Doug Frederick, Jack Revelle and John Patrick. The nominating committee held a meeting on Jan. 21, 2009. After a review of the membership list in District V was concluded, a motion was made, seconded, and carried to nominate Julie Kilty as the director candidate for that district. Julie is the incumbent board member for that district and informed the nominating committee of her desire to pursue that board position again. *Chuck W. Coleman* A complete nominating committee report is posted at the Wyrulec offices as required by the bylaws. We wish to thank the nominating committee for their time and participation in this function.



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 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

From your manager

Continued from page 1

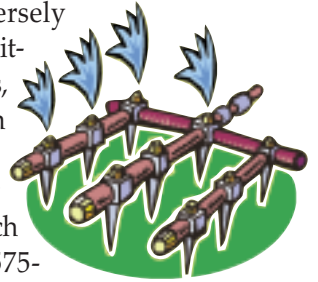
We are in the process of finalizing the details related to the annual meeting but one thing is for certain. *Fred Feil* Each member will receive a small gift at the door, excellent food will be provided, members will have the opportunity to vote for the director position up for election in District V, board and management reports will be provided on the condition of the cooperative and each member will be eligible for cash prizes to be drawn at the conclusion of the meeting. We hope to see you there.

Irrigation reconnects

Also this time of year we begin the reconnection of the transformers for serving the irrigation accounts. We disconnect them in the fall because they use small

amounts of energy even when not being used. In almost all cases we energize all of the services in the spring that were in use last year. If you need your service energized right away, give us a call. We'll do what we can to make that happen.

We hope the spring brings plenty of moisture for the cropland without adversely impacting the new calves hitting the ground. As always, if there is anything we can do to help you and/or your operation give us a call at 837-2225. You can also reach me on my cell phone at 575-2435. We are here to serve you.



Watch out for electrical hazards on the farm

BY CHRIS GRAMMES

Those who live on a farm know that not only is it hard work, but it can be dangerous, too. Each year, farmers are electrocuted when large farm machinery comes into contact with overhead power lines.

Often, the situation occurs because a newer, bigger piece of equipment no longer clears a line the way a smaller one did.



Shane C. Limmer In addition, shift-

ing soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year to year.

The following tips will help keep everyone on a farm safe:

- ❖ Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- ❖ Make sure you have ample clearance when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers, and front-end loaders. Do this every year since equipment sizes or soil conditions may change.

- ❖ Store large equipment properly if near or under power lines. When planning new construction, factor in existing power lines.
- ❖ Be extra careful when working around trees and brush; they often make it difficult to see power lines.
- ❖ Train all farm workers to keep an eye out for overhead power lines.

— Sources: *Safe Electricity*
www.safeelectricity.org;
National Ag Safety Database

A better way to store electricity?

One of the major drawbacks to renewable energy is that it is not always available when it is needed. Researchers at the University of Texas say they've made a breakthrough that could lead to a storage solution. A carbon-based material called "graphene," which is only one atom thick, has shown the potential to double the current capacity of electricity storage devices called

ultracapacitors. Those devices store large amounts of electrical energy and can release it onto the grid on demand, such as when wind or solar sources are not available. This development could help make large-scale renewable generation more practical.



— Source: *Texas Co-op Power*

Remind your family to be safe

The National Safety Council urges you to follow these safety rules around your home and business:

The urge to surge

Use surge protectors wherever possible.

Give them a test

Test ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) monthly. Turn on a nightlight plugged into the outlet. Depress the "test" button. If the light turns off, the outlet is working properly. If the "reset" button pops out but the light stays on, the GFCI isn't working.

Press the "reset" button to return the outlet to normal. *Happy V. Greathouse* If your GFCI isn't working properly, hire a qualified licensed electrician to fix it.

High and dry

Keep appliances away from water. Never reach into water for a plugged-in appliance. Shut off the main power, then unplug it. Have an item that has been immersed inspected before using it again.

Look for these and more tips at www.nsc.org.

—Source: *Texas Co-op Power*

Investments in efficiency deliver strong returns

By MEGAN MCKOY

While no one can predict when, or if, the stock market will fully recover, crunching a few numbers does show one safe investment alternative: energy efficiency.

Even in good financial times the annual Wall Street return on stocks averages 14 percent, followed by 4.2 percent for 30-year bonds and 3.5 percent for money market accounts. In comparison, incorporating 10 home efficiency measures carries a 16 percent rate of return, according to the U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver program.

Save money now

Looking at it another way, the energy bill for a typical American home averages \$1,283 per year, while a home that has purchased and installed ENERGY STAR products spends just \$774. That's a savings of more than \$500 annually, a nice profit for smart and efficiency-savvy investors to take to the bank. Even better, you get to keep the money you save on your electricity

bill; normal investment incomes are taxed heavily.

Start with the lights

The first two energy efficiency areas to invest in—those with the highest rates of return—are lighting and sealing ducts. Upgrading to compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and fixtures in a typical home costs about \$200, but with an annual savings of \$80 the initial investment pays for itself in 2.5 years with a 41 percent rate of return. *Esther M. Ortero* Proper duct sealing, which can cost up to \$250, pays for itself in 2.6 years and matches lighting's high rate of return.

Front loaders matter

Your next purchase should be an ENERGY STAR front-loading clothes washer. Even though one costs an average of \$194 more than a non-efficient model, you reap a 37 percent rate of return—allowing you to recoup the extra expense in less than three years.

A programmable thermostat provides another boost to your bottom line. With a 30 percent return

it pays for itself through energy savings in 3.7 years.

A water heater tank wrap with an R-12 insulation rating should be your next step; the initial cost of \$85 saves you \$23 every year, offering a 28 percent return on your investment. An ENERGY STAR refrigerator, heat pump, and dishwasher follow with rates of return ranging from 18 percent to 27 percent. Finally, adequate air sealing and increasing wall and attic insulation offer between an 8 percent and 9 percent return.

Spare change adds up

For additional energy saving information, go to Wyrulec Company's website at www.wyrulec.com and click on "Energy Library."

To find out how you can start investing in your home's efficiency, visit Home Energy Saver at www.hes.lbl.gov. You can learn about local promotions for ENERGY STAR appliances—and save even more—by using the rebate finder at www.energystar.gov.

Meanwhile, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offer several

Continued on page 4

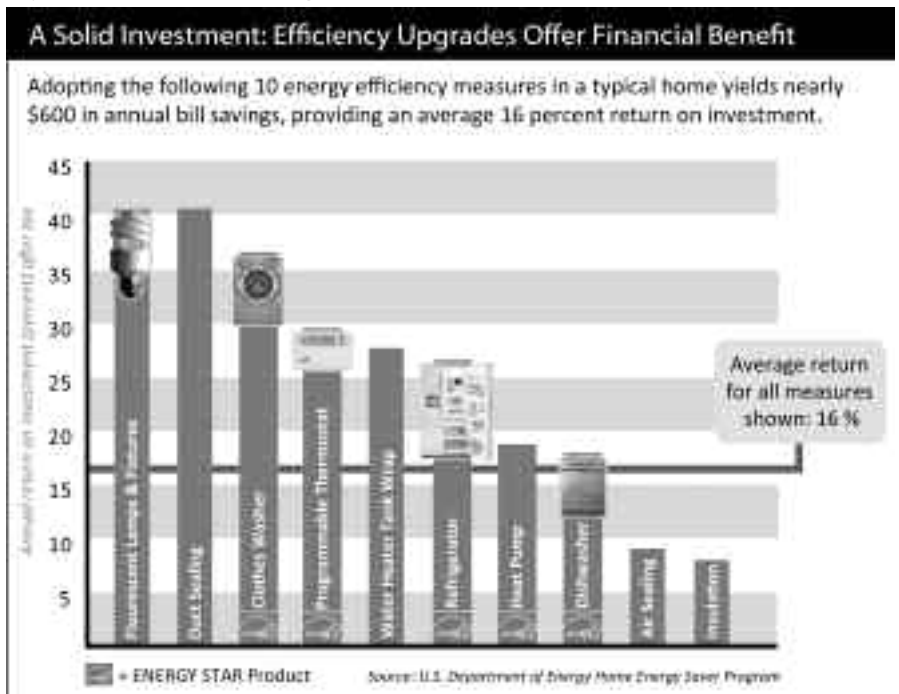
Investments in efficiency deliver strong returns

Continued from page 3

efficiency programs at www.touchstoneenergysavers.com, including Touchstone Energy Home (a set of nationally recognized standards for building efficiency), a Home Energy Savings Guide, a Light Bulb Energy Saver calculator showing how much money you can save by using CFLs, and Seal the Deal, a do-it-yourself video showing how to effectively seal your home to lower heating and cooling costs.

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver

Megan McKoy 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.



By replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents consumers receive a 41 percent rate of return, with a \$200 investment paid off in two and a half years.

Employee Spotlight ❖ ❖ ❖ DJ Duffield

- Q: How long have you lived in Wyoming?
- A: I moved here in May 2008. I have been here 10 months.
- Q: What did you do before you came to work for Wyrulec?
- A: I was a lineman for the Village of Morrill Light and Power and before that, United Power in Colorado.
- Q: What is your job title at Wyrulec?
- A: Journeyman Lineman.
- Q: What brought you to Wyrulec?
- A: It was a better opportunity, and also to get closer to family.
- Q: Describe your family.
- A: I am married to Jade, and have three children:

- Q: Do you have any hobbies?
- A: I love to work on and ride my motorcycle. I am involved in Mixed Martial Arts and lifting weights.
- Q: Words of advice you would share?
- A: Just smile.
- Q: Why do you enjoy working for Wyrulec?
- A: I enjoy the people that I work with.



Don't miss a word
 Last month, we only got four names in this newsletter, so this month, we've hidden six. If you see your name, please call and we'll give you a \$25 bill credit.

❖ ❖ ❖ Take this opportunity to save ❖ ❖ ❖
 We'll be offering CFLs for sale at the Wyrulec Company Annual Meeting. They are 100-watt replacements and will fit anywhere a 60- to 100-watt incandescent bulb is now. This is one of the easiest steps you can take to save energy. Our CFLs are \$1.60 each. Be prepared to stock up March 31st!