




Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives 
The power of human connections

October 2009

From your manager

How to reach us

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Board of Directors

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Vice President

F.E. "Wally" Wolski
Secretary

Brent Mullock
Treasurer

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Assistant Secretary

General Manager

Rollie Miller

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Joe Kinnan
Operations Manager

Cindy Potter
Office Manager



Miller

Guernsey North Training Area

The Wyoming National Guard is expanding the training area north of Guernsey. As part of that expansion, Wyrulec will extend three-phase power approximately 10 miles north of Hartville. We will rebuild several miles of existing single-phase line, making it three-phase from our Whipple substation located on Highway 26 and building several miles of new three-phase line into the North Training Area. The total project is estimated to cost \$3.2 million and will be totally funded by the Wyoming National Guard. First, environmental research will be conducted to determine if there are unique or unusual cultural sites to avoid. We will be contracting with several entities for various parts of this project including the cultural research study, design, and construction of the project. We expect completion by October of 2010. If you have any questions related to this project, please contact the office. We would be happy to address them. This expansion will be beneficial to Wyrulec for the future and we are happy to see it come to fruition.

Western Area Power Admin. upgrades

We have been informed about an upgrade the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) is contemplating for the transmission line along Highway 26 east of Lingle. Currently the system is operating at 34.5 kilovolts (kV). The expansion will increase the voltage to 69 kV. As part of that expansion, Wyrulec will be required to upgrade the substation transformers so they can operate at 69 kV. The cost will be approximately \$1 million. Wyrulec is working with WAPA on the upgrade including mitigating those costs and possibly transferring those costs to WAPA. The project is expected to take place during the 2013 fiscal year. More to come on this as the plans are formalized.

Irrigation season

We hope your harvest is going well or will go well whatever your particular case may be. Having stated that, it is once again time to disconnect the transformers exclusively serving irrigation accounts. The transformers use energy just being energized and we would like to get them off-line as quickly as possible to avoid "lost" energy. We understand that some pivots need to be moved for harvest and other reasons and need to be left on. That is not a problem. We simply want to get those that will no longer be used for the season off-line. If you will not be using your irrigation services any longer, call the office and our servicemen will disconnect them. All other irrigation account trans-

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Your cooperative is a proud member of
Nebraska Rural Electric Association

From your manager

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formers will be de-energized the first week in November.

Climate change legislation

As you may know, the U.S. House passed sweeping climate change legislation earlier this year. The U.S. Senate is now discussing climate change in various committees. Senate leadership has indicated they want a bill to the Senate floor by mid-month. Wyrulec,

through our statewide organization (WREA) and national organization (NRECA), has indicated we will oppose any legislation that will increase electric bills or threaten reliability.

If you are interested in voicing your concern on this particular issue, please go to the OurEnergy.coop website.

If you have any questions or comments please call the office at (307) 837-2225 or you can reach me almost any time at (307) 575-2435.



1. The first official meeting of the board of directors of Wyrulec Company was held
 - a) July 4, 1986
 - b) October 9, 1936
 - c) May 1, 1955
 - d) December 31, 1901
2. Wyrulec Company's first 54 miles of powerline were built with a contract signed July 22, 1937, for
 - a) \$2,540,037
 - b) \$17,399
 - c) \$55,035
 - d) \$178,321
3. Torrington received the first central station power in Goshen County in
 - a) 1914
 - b) 1867
 - c) 1890
 - d) 1929
4. A low-head hydroelectric facility was constructed in Lingle in 1918. It was powered by water from the
 - a) Flaming Gorge Reservoir
 - b) Gering-Ft. Laramie Canal
 - c) Upper Guernsey Pond
 - d) Glendo Reservoir
5. In the last 5 years, Wyrulec Company has sold the most kilowatt-hours in the months of
 - a) December and January
 - b) July and August
 - c) August and September
 - d) January and February
6. Original incorporators of Wyrulec Company included
 - a) Oscar Yoder, Jack Preston, Hugh Stemler, George Duncan, and Clyde Yeik
 - b) Emery Bright, George Haas, Rollie Miller, Paul Dupertis, and Grover Cameron
 - c) J.F. Zimmerer, Glenn Hertzler, Ed Baldwin, Wayne Riggs, and Carl Otto
 - d) F.R. Pearson, R.V. Allen, L.R. Brewer, T.J. Lisle, and Emery Bright
7. Over the last five years, Wyrulec Company revenues have come
 - a) about equally from residential, large commercial, and irrigation accounts
 - b) mostly from large commercial accounts
 - c) mostly from small commercial accounts
 - d) mostly from small commercial and residential accounts
8. Over the last five years, peak demand (the most expensive electricity because it's needed during the time of day everyone else most often needs electricity, too) *Elaine A Pile* for Wyrulec Company has most often occurred in the months of
 - a) December and January
 - b) July and August
 - c) August and September
 - d) January and February

Know your co-op

9. Over half of Wyrulec Company expenses are due to the cost of

- a) paperclips
- b) depreciation
- c) taxes
- d) purchased power

10. "Plant" is the term used to describe Wyrulec Company's

- a) flowerbeds
- b) seating arrangements in the office
- c) the value of buildings, poles, lines, transformers, reclosers, etc.
- d) the arrangement the co-op has with a local bank to fund payroll when revenues are short

The true facts are from Wyrulec Company minutes, press releases, and *The History of Electricity in Rural Goshen County: The Wyrulec Company* by Jack R. Preston. *Tara M Harris*



Logger talks about threats to rural way of life

A gentleman out of Libby, Montana, has been taking rural residents by storm. His name is Bruce Vincent. He's a logger. He spoke recently in Torrington to a gathering of rural electric cooperative leaders from across the state.

Vincent talked about people from the city—from suburbia, from backgrounds without a direct connection to natural resources—who drive to the mountains for a vacation. "They fall in love," he said. And what's not to love?

"We know what they're feeling," he says, "because that's why we live here."

So many reasons for living rural

The people of the West, of the mountains and the plains, of the wide canyons and deep valleys, high deserts and salt-filled lakes, love where they are living for a reason.

For some it's the beautiful vistas, wide open spaces, or diversity of wildlife. *Robert D Robertus* For others it's the changing seasons marked by vibrant flowers bursting into bloom, melting ice packs rushing for hundreds of miles to water a wheat field, antelope babies rocketing around sagebrush, trout feasting on mayflies and mosquitoes, bull snakes crushing rattlesnakes, quaking aspens shimmering in the sunlight, sugar beets piled up every mile or two across a county, or bull moose bugling their enduring masculinity.

For most, it's all of the above. It's also the income derived from those wheatfields, or sugar beets, coal

mines or logging businesses, oil or gas wells, uranium or trona fields, railroads, or any of the multitude of service industries that support them.

Save the last best places on earth

The people who visit on vacation eventually go home. When someone asks them for \$20 to save the spotted owl or mountain plover or black-footed ferret, they gladly send \$30.

Somewhere along the way, the folks asking for the \$20 got millions more than they needed to save a plant or an animal or a portion of an ecosystem that needs local specialized caretakers far more than money. And they have used that money to lock out local, specialized caretakers.

Who's saving the last best people?

This outpouring of love from sympathetic visitors is killing rural America, and specifically the West.

Speaking of his knowledge of the forest, of gradual changes in forest management practices over the years, of the ability of interest groups to deny to logging companies access to the forests resulting in the elimination of scores of forest products companies, Vincent says, "We've got a Katrina waiting for us."

There should be about 50 tons per acre of debris on the forest floor. There are 600 tons. *Joe Wells* Early last century, 3 million acres of forest burned in 18 hours. Vincent says that could happen again. Only 166 were killed last time.

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Logger talks about threats to rural way of life

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Vincent says people in positions of power view rural people as disposable. The justification for reintroducing wolves in Yellowstone could be used in many other places in the United States. But only here could it work politically. Because only here are there so few people, with so little power, that their interests could be dismissed. Meanwhile,

the purely emotional desires of millions of strangers to the area—whose families and livelihoods were not nor will ever be affected by this decision—were fulfilled.

Movement has changed

“The Audubon Society made \$3 million on their first lawsuit against the government. You think they had to be talked into doing it again?” Vincent said. He noted that the original goals of the environmental movement were to minimize pollution. Over the decades, many aspects of the original goal have been pushed aside in favor of money and political power.

“Industry survival is not what’s at stake,” he added, noting that his family will continue to operate their logging business even if they have to contract in Russia to do it. “Rural culture is what’s at stake.”

Vincent’s suggestions for change will be included in this newsletter next month. *Robert P. Larose*

- Answers to
Know Your Co-op

 1.b 4.b 7.a 10.c
 2.c 5.c 8.b
 3.a 6.d 9.d

Don't miss a word
 Each month, we hide the names of five members, one from each district, in this newsletter. If you see your *name*, please call and we'll give you a \$25 bill credit.

Wyrulec members matter

