




# Co-op News from Wyrulec Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives   
The power of human connections

December 2009

## From your manager

### 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)

Website: [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com)

Office hours: 7:30 am–4:30pm

### Board of Directors

Dewey Hageman  
*President*

Julie Kilty  
*Vice President*

F.E. "Wally" Wolski  
*Secretary*

Brent Mullock  
*Treasurer*

Jack Preston  
*Assistant Secretary*

### General Manager

Rollie Miller

### Senior Staff

Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Cindy Potter  
*Office Manager*



Miller

### 2010 budget

The following are some of the items we are looking into for the 2010 Capital and Operating Budget for your cooperative.

Test 1500 poles for decay. Every year we have budgeted for pole testing. We utilize an outside contractor to sound and bore selected poles. It is our goal to test the entire system every 10 to 15 years. Based on those results we then replace the poles that are rejected. Incidentally, we just completed the pole testing scheduled for this year. We tested poles south and west of Lingle

and also south of the Rock Shop to the Veteran highway. We will be back in those areas in the next few months replacing the rejected poles.

We are also budgeting for tie lines from the Lingle Substation to the Fort Laramie Substation, the Fort Laramie Substation to the Whipple Substation just east of Guernsey, and upgrading a tie line between the Torrington Substation and the Veteran Substation for reliability purposes. \*Sandy L. Peters\* Obviously, if we can have these tie lines in place and maintained, outage times will be greatly minimized.

Another budget item is Automated Meter Reading(AMR) repeaters that boost the communication signal. This has been an ongoing project and will improve the efficiency of the AMR system.

One other major item is the sub-transmission line replacement north of LaGrange to Hawk Springs. We have a somewhat aggressive construction schedule planned for next year. We have a very good "poles and wires" system out there serving you and we certainly want to keep it that way. We like being a leader in the region for minimal outage duration time and small line loss percentage.

### Rates

As part of our budgeting process we estimate revenue from the various rate classes. Although we are down in revenue for 2009 from previous years, primarily due to the weather, we feel we can hold the rates at their current level for 2010. Our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, has informed us that wholesale rates will remain the same for 2010 relative to 2009. This is good news since approximately 65 percent of the revenue we receive goes to pay for power supply.

### Capital credit retirement

Capital Credits are excess margins over cost that are allocated back to the

*Continued on page 2*



## From your manager

*Continued from page 1*

members each year-end based on individual usage during the year. They are returned to the membership after they are used by the cooperative for a number of years. Plain and simple, rates would increase if we couldn't use these funds for a period of time. I am pleased to announce that during the October board meeting, your board of directors approved a general retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$312,487.10. If you had service from Wyrulec during the years 1974 to 1983, you likely will be receiving a payment in the next couple of months based on your usage during those years.

### Cap-and-trade legislation

As you may know, the U.S. House passed a cap-and-trade bill earlier this year. The U.S. Senate is now discussing an even more stringent bill which will, if

passed, significantly increase your electric rates. \*Robert L. Grandy\* This is very concerning to us and we are working with our national organization, NRECA, on this issue. We have been informed that due to other concerns being addressed by the Senate, this issue will not be discussed further at least this year. As part of this newsletter, we have included a postcard that can be used to communicate your concerns with cap-and-trade legislation with your elected senators at the federal level. We hope you take the opportunity to express your opinion.

### Happy holidays

We hope you and your family enjoy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you need to contact me for any reason, feel free to do so at [rmiller@wyrulec.com](mailto:rmiller@wyrulec.com) or (307) 575-2435 anytime. \*James F. Hill\*

# Invest in safety with tamper-resistant outlets

Hairpins, the building blocks for many fancy "dos," are perfect for holding back unruly tresses. But these slender, metal objects are also easy for children to manipulate. As a result, hairpins are the dominant household item improperly stuck into electrical outlets.

Each year, approximately 2,400 children—an average of seven a day—receive emergency-room treatment for injuries caused by inserting conductive material into electrical outlets, according to a 10-

year report released by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). More than 70 percent of these incidents occur at home, with adult supervision typically present.

Hairpins are involved 32 percent of the time, followed by keys, 17 percent, and fingers, 12 percent. Other common culprits include pins, screws, nails, twist ties, and paper clips.

The end result? About 95 percent of the time children receive a

burn, according to CPSC. Though ranging in severity, a significant number of serious and fatal burns occur, and even minor injuries can leave emotional trauma. \*Phyllis L. Shaul\* Pediatric burns can be particularly serious, because a child's skin is thin and offers little resistance to electric flow or heat.

The danger of electrical outlets isn't new; parents often use plastic outlet caps to cover outlets when "child-proofing" a home. Unfortu-

*Continued on back of next page*

## 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.

# Dear Electric Cooperative Member,

We need your help. Congress is considering climate change legislation that could significantly increase your monthly electric bill if it is not done right. As electricity prices go up, it affects the cost of nearly everything— affecting your household budget. You can do something about it.

Attached are two postcards, one for each of your U.S. senators. Write in Mike Enzi and John Barrasso if you live in Wyoming. Write in Mike Johanns and Ben Nelson if you live in Nebraska. Please tell them that climate change legislation must be written so that it protects consumers, as well as the environment.

This legislation would create new government policies for energy use and production. It would charge you for the greenhouse gasses emitted when electricity is generated.

Some want to force consumers to pay more than their fair share because of where they live. That's unfair! We can make sure climate change goals are achievable and affordable — protecting you from electric price shock — if our elected officials work with us. Our senators need to fight for a bill that is:

**FAIR.**

Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is generated. You should not be penalized because of where you live.

**AFFORDABLE.**

Any climate change plan must keep electric bills affordable for all Americans.

**ACHIEVABLE.**

Climate change mandates must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

Please take the time now to sign and return these cards. They will be sent to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our national advocacy group. The cards will then be hand-delivered directly to our senators. This is the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign — our grassroots effort to make our voices heard in the halls of Congress.

Our job at the electric cooperative is to keep your electric bills affordable. Please help by sending these postcards today. Thank you very much.



**Our Energy, Our Future™**  
A Dialogue With America

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:  
I urge you to work with the electric cooperatives as you craft climate change and energy legislation. As the U.S. Senate debates this issue, I ask you to fight for a bill that is:

- **FAIR.** Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced. I should not be penalized because of where I live.
- **AFFORDABLE.** Any climate change plan must keep electric bills affordable for all Americans.
- **ACHIEVABLE.** Climate change mandates must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

Given these tough economic times, keeping electric bills affordable must be a high priority. Please insist on legislation that is fair and affordable.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign to deliver this message to Congress on my behalf. For our privacy policy, please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop).



**Our Energy, Our Future™**  
A Dialogue With America

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:  
I urge you to work with the electric cooperatives as you craft climate change and energy legislation. As the U.S. Senate debates this issue, I ask you to fight for a bill that is:

- **FAIR.** Climate change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced. I should not be penalized because of where I live.
- **AFFORDABLE.** Any climate change plan must keep electric bills affordable for all Americans.
- **ACHIEVABLE.** Climate change mandates must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

Given these tough economic times, keeping electric bills affordable must be a high priority. Please insist on legislation that is fair and affordable.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the Our Energy, Our Future™ campaign to deliver this message to Congress on my behalf. For our privacy policy, please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop).

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 9427 ARLINGTON VA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

ATTN: OUR ENERGY, OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN  
4301 WILSON BLVD  
ARLINGTON VA 22203-9929



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 9427 ARLINGTON VA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**

ATTN: OUR ENERGY, OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN  
4301 WILSON BLVD  
ARLINGTON VA 22203-9929



## Invest in safety

*Continued from page 2*

nately, the Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc. (ESFI) claims plastic caps are not the safest option since they can easily be removed by a young child. \*Lilly Faith\* Instead, ESFI suggests installing tamper-resistant outlets.

Although normal looking, these types of outlets include a shutter mechanism to protect against harm from inserting foreign objects. The spring-loaded system only allows electricity to flow when you apply equal pressure to both sides of the outlet, as happens when you plug in an electrical device. During unused conditions, both shutters are closed.

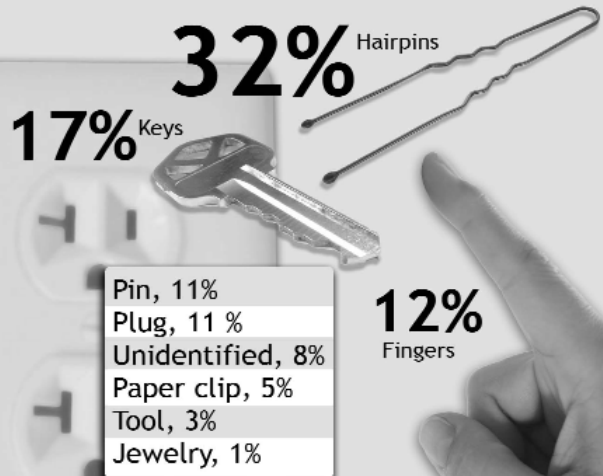
For co-op consumers with brand new homes, tamper-resistant outlets may already have been installed; the 2008 National Electrical Code requires them. However, these outlets are cheap—costing as little as \$2 at some retailers—and can easily be incorporated into older homes.

A video from ESFI explaining how these outlets work can be viewed on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/safeoutlet>. To learn more about tamper-resistant outlets, go to [www.childoutletsafety.org](http://www.childoutletsafety.org).

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc., U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

### Objects Commonly Placed in Electrical Outlets

Every year 2,400 children are injured after inserting household objects into electrical outlets. These are the most common objects placed in outlets:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc.