



JULY 2022



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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**May through September**  
Office hrs: 6:30–5:00, Mon.-Fri.

**October through April**  
Office hrs: 7:30–4:00, Mon.-Fri.

### Board of Directors

Julie Kilty  
*President*

Dewey Hageman  
*Vice President*

Mark Knaub  
*Secretary*

Ben Scott  
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Kenda Knudsen  
*Assistant Secretary*

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

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Miles Duffy  
*Operations Manager*

Tiphanie Fuss  
*Office Manager*

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



I hope you were all able to take some time and celebrate the Fourth of July with your friends and family. The Fourth is one of my favorite holidays and I enjoy celebrating our country's independence and the freedoms we have today with my family.

By the time you receive this newsletter it will be close to the end of July and right in the middle of irrigation season, or close to Wyrulec's peak demand on our system. I have received several calls concerned we won't have enough power to meet our peak demand, based on what is happening in other parts of our country. The news continues to report on the potential rolling brown outs in California, Texas, and Michigan. I share these same concerns; not necessarily in the short term, but in the future of our power supply portfolio.

Our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, is currently long on capacity and is projected to be long on capacity until 2030. This is a great position to be in, given the markets and the ability to sell excess power to those other states that are short on capacity because of bad policy decisions. I have no concerns about meeting our members capacity needs through 2026, but I have serious concerns after that.

*continued . . .*



**Ryan Schilreff**  
**General Manager**

**The following names have been drawn for a \$25 bill credit. Contact Wyrulec Company at 877-WYRULEC to claim your credit!**

Marya Bilby  
Robert Barr  
Clifford Tilson  
Don Preston  
Joel Alworth



## continued . . . GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

As you know, we are engaged with the filing at the CPUC (Colorado Public Utilities Commission) in reference to Tri-State's ERP (Energy Resource Plan). This plan basically moves Tri-State from owning dispatchable assets to a G&T that is made up mainly of renewable purchase power agreements and market purchases. Tri-State will still have to own and build new natural gas assets, which will be needed for ramping capabilities to meet the reliability fluctuations of the renewables that come online. I'm very concerned that we are moving to a model that is not much different than California, Texas, and Michigan. I am also concerned that Tri-State's long capacity position will be diminished much sooner than 2030 if the intervenors at the CPUC are able to force the closure of the Craig Coal Unit #3 earlier than 2030. This is why it is so important that we stay engaged in this process. We have been told that reliability is the first priority at Tri-State, and we concur that should be the number one priority. In the ERP settlement agreement, our language requires Tri-State to prove they can meet reliability requirements of 99.97% in every resource portfolio, without having to go to the markets to solve the reliability equation. If this metric cannot be met with Tri-State owned assets, including purchase power agreements, then that portfolio fails and cannot be implemented.

I'm sure at some point in time those states that are projected to experience brown outs this summer said reliability was their number one priority as well. We have heard enough talk about making a clean energy transition and maintaining reliability. The time for talk is over – it's time to prove to us how that is going to happen. We aren't interested in brown outs here!

### Rates

We continue to look at our rate structures to make sure they are in line with how we want to recover revenues. As I have said in the past, at some point I will recommend to the board we raise our fixed charge or 'facilities charge,' which will allow us to rely less on kilowatt hour sales. This recommendation is in line with utility standards and will continue to become more important as we add distributed generation and Level 3 electric vehicle charging systems to our distribution system. Wyoming State Statute requires us to

offset net kilowatt hour usage on distributed generation, and given our current rate structure we are under-collecting our fixed charges. While this isn't a significant issue now it will only continue to grow, and addressing this sooner than later is prudent. Currently we don't have any Level 3 electric vehicle charging stations on our distribution system, but it appears this will change in the near future. With the federal government initiatives and the State of Wyoming EV buildout forecast, it's only a matter of time before we will need to serve this type of load. Level 3 charging stations require a lot of demand for charging a vehicle in a short period of time. Given our demographics, it's unlikely that initially these charging stations will see enough usage to recover the cost of the demand to serve them. So, it's important to understand how we might need to structure rates for EV charging to make sure we are recovering our costs. As always, if we decide to make a change we will keep you informed.

If you have any questions about your cooperative, feel free to reach out to me at 877-WYRULEC.

**Lightning Facts**

Sources: National Lightning Safety Institute, NOAA National Severe Storms Laboratory

- 1 Flashes of lightning between a thunderstorm and the earth are called cloud to ground.
- 2 There is roughly 5 to 10 times more intra-cloud lightning than cloud-to-ground lightning.
- 3 The vertical extent of cloud-to-ground lightning averages 3 to 4 miles.
- 4 Lightning often strikes up to 10 miles away from rainfall.
- 5 Lightning can occur in winter during heavy snowfalls.
- 6 Lightning can strike in the same place twice.
- 7 Lightning has 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.

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# ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Don't always believe what you hear

**MYTH**

**VS**

**FACT**



Electricity always takes the path of least resistance

Although the path of least resistance is the easiest to take, an electrical current can take any conductive path.



Voltage has to be high to kill

Although the voltage plays a role in how strong the current flows, exposure to the current itself is what's deadly. Even lower voltages can kill.



Heavily insulated tools will always protect against shock and electrocution

Don't let a tool give you a false sense of security; take all precautions even if a tool is marketed as safe or insulated.

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 Safe Electricity.org®



## Pool and Hot Tub Safety

- Water is a powerful conductor of electricity. It is especially important to be aware of electrical hazards around water.
- Do not touch electrical equipment when wet.
- Do not place electrical appliances near pools or hot tubs. Use battery operated appliances, rather than electrical, near swimming pools.
- Any electrical outlets within 20 feet of a pool or hot tub should be equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI monitors the flow of electricity in a circuit. If there is an irregularity of electrical flow, the power is cut off, preventing an electric shock. GFCIs are recommended anywhere water and electricity may meet.
- Know where electrical switches and circuit breakers are for pool and hot tub equipment, and know how to operate them. Do not operate switches and circuit breakers when wet or if you are standing in water.
- Pools and decks should be built at least 5 feet away from all underground electrical lines and at least 25 feet away from overhead electrical lines.
- When cleaning the pool, know where any overhead power lines are to avoid making contact with them while using long-handled tools like a pool skimmer.
- Make sure all electrical equipment for pools and hot tubs is grounded.
- Have a qualified electrician inspect, repair, and upgrade your swimming pool or hot tub so it is in accordance with the National Electric Code.
- Watch the forecast and make sure you are inside when a thunderstorm approaches. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before returning outdoors.
- If a swimmer is getting shocked, don't dive in yourself or you could be in trouble as well. Turn off the power at the source, and then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.
- Pool owners should have an emergency plan posted in plain view in the pool area with instructions on how to assist someone who is suffering an electrical shock.

*Learn more at [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org)*

## 10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.



Learn more at:

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