



MAY 2022



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Spring is here and so is the wind! As I write this article it's the middle of April and it seems like we have had strong winds nonstop for over a week, which has been irritating. Strong winds can cause blinking lights for our members and finding the cause is sometimes like finding a needle in a haystack. Strong winds are also hard on our infrastructure and can cause loose hardware, which can cause many other problems. If you have experienced blinking lights or see anything that looks out of the ordinary, such as trees in the power lines, please make sure you call the office so we can investigate the problem. In this month's article I want to update you on Wyrulec's annual meeting, Tri-State's annual meeting, utility supply chain issues and elevated inventory prices.



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager

Wyrulec's 86th Annual Meeting

I want to thank all the members that were able to attend the annual meeting. We had a great turnout and some great prizes related to beneficial electrification. I thought Don Day did a great job talking about climate change, specifically putting into perspective what effect humans have on climate change and what part is driven by historical weather patterns. I think it is important to understand what the facts are and what is supported by actual data. We are already doing a great job of reducing carbon emissions by utilizing current technologies and operating more efficiently. However, the United States is not leading the clean energy transition for the world; Germany and France are. They have also had some serious lessons learned that I think, as an industry, we better start paying attention to or we could end up in the same situation. Germany's price of electricity increased about 50% since making their clean energy transition, while at the same time France pays half of what Germany pays and maintains reliability through zero carbon nuclear



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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

Kenda Knudsen
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General Manager
Ryan Schilreff

Senior Staff
Miles Duffy
Operations Manager

Tiphanie Fuss
Office Manager

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



continued . . . Manager's Report

energy. Below is the address for a YouTube video I watched the other day which I thought was interesting. It is about 17 minutes long, but it is worth watching no matter how you think of climate change. It gives some real insight on lessons learned from other countries making a clean energy transition and the challenges with wind and solar as we integrate those intermittent resources into the grid.

"Why renewables can't save the planet by Michael Shallenberger"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-yALPEpV4w>

Tri-State's Annual Meeting

I had the opportunity to attend Tri-State's 70th annual meeting in Denver this past month. I was happy to hear Tri-State's CEO reinforce their goals of reliable, affordable, flexible, and responsible service to its members. The CEO also stated reliability is job #1 for their organization, which aligns with our goals here at the cooperative. Tri-State has also been working hard to reduce costs throughout its organization. Tri-State has identified a goal of \$60 million in cost reductions to try to maintain its current rates over the next several years. Implementing these reductions will be a monumental task, and I applaud Tri-State for taking these serious steps. Tri-State's guest speaker was the CEO of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). He spoke about the push for a clean energy transition and the benefits and challenges that will come with it. As we have been saying here at the cooperative all along - we must make this transition responsibly without affecting reliability. The CEO of EPRI reinforced that position and stated if we try to make this transition too fast it will be at the expense of the rate payers, both in cost and reliability. I thought it was a pretty powerful statement coming from the leader of an institution who studies the grid and energy generating resources every day.

Supply Chain Issues and Increased Cost

I know many of you are experiencing supply chain issues and increased input costs when it comes to running your business or in your everyday lives. Below I thought I would share with you some of the increases in prices and timelines we are seeing with our inventory, as compared to 2020 prices. I have reflected the increases both as a percentage and in dollars.

- **Poles:** up 70% or \$262 per pole - lead time 6-8 weeks
- **Crossarms:** up 41% or \$65 per crossarm - lead time 10-12 weeks
- **Pole transformers:** up 14% or \$125 per transformer - lead time 60+ weeks
- **PAD transformers:** up 45% or \$670 per transformer - lead time 60+ weeks
- **Conductor:** up 108% or \$0.27 per foot - lead time 30+ weeks
- **Underground wire:** up 37% or \$1.40 per foot - lead time 16+ weeks
- **Bucket truck:** up 15% or \$38,000 - lead time 104 weeks

If you have any questions about your cooperative, you can reach me at 877-WYRULEC.



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

Donna White
Randall Pugsley
Brady Hickman
Steven Dunn
Luke Wiedman



Selecting a tree? *Know its mature height before deciding where to plant*

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 8-1-1 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Wyrulec Company and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, call 8-1-1 before putting a shovel to the ground. The "Call Before You Dig" number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public

underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes.

Other tree tips

- If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the tree's location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.
- It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.
- Tall-growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines

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We Trees, Too.

We know everyone in our community enjoys the beauty and shade trees provide. But trees and power lines can be a dangerous mix without regular trimming during the growing season.

If you see us out in the community trimming, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs

Trimming improves service reliability for you, the members we serve.



continued . . . **Selecting a tree?**

to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.

- Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Laundry Tip: **Wash full loads to conserve energy.**



The Wyrulec office will be closed on Monday, May 30

MEMORIAL DAY

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR