



NOVEMBER 2022



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

3978 US Hwy 26/85  
Torrington, WY 82240  
PO Box 359, Lingle, WY 82223

**How to reach us**  
877-WYRULEC

**E-mail:** [wyrulec@wyrulec.com](mailto:wyrulec@wyrulec.com)  
**Website:** [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com)

**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  
*Treasurer*

Kenda Knudsen  
*Assistant Secretary*

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

**Senior Staff**  
Miles Duffy  
*Operations Manager*

Tiphanie Fuss  
*Office Manager*

Your cooperative is a proud member of these  
fine organizations



It is the middle of October as I write this article and fall is in the air. Last night it dropped below 30 degrees for a short period of time and the leaves are hitting the ground. For me I welcome the colder weather as summer was once again extremely hot and dry! I hope you all get the opportunity to celebrate a great Thanksgiving with your families this year. We are thankful for the support you give us here at the Cooperative.

### Rates

In the May WREN article, I wrote about the considerable cost increases and supply chain issues we are experiencing here at the cooperative when it comes to poles, conductor, transformers, underground wire and just about everything we use for the construction of an electric service. Due to the increased cost in poles, it will cost the cooperative an additional \$90,000 this year to just replace the same amount of poles for our maintenance program as it did 2 years ago. This does not include the additional cost of the cross arm and insulators which have all gone up as well. These costs are still incurred whether you use one kilowatt hour or 1,000 kilowatt hours. While our margins are adequate to meet all our financial goals, we are seeing substantial impacts to our cash position given the capital-intensive nature of our business.

In addition to construction costs, we were notified by our insurance company we would see a \$20,000 increase in our premium this next year due to the increase in replacement cost values of our assets. Given the increase in costs across the board, I will be making a recommendation to the Board of Directors for a retail rate increase in our facilities charge (fixed charge) of around \$3-\$5 a month per service, starting sometime after the first of the year. I have ordered a cost-of-service study to look at the revenues and expenses to see exactly what the recommendation to the Board will be. It is a possibility that we could slightly lower our kilowatt hour charge. We have been fortunate that we have not needed a retail rate increase here at the cooperative since 2014. While we have seen wholesale rate increases in the past, I would anticipate another



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

*continued . . .*

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wholesale rate increase starting in January 2024. I'm not sure what that number will be, but I will pass it along as soon as I know the impact to the co-op.

I understand that increases are hard for the membership and the Board of Directors takes any increase in rates seriously. We understand you are seeing other increases in cost for your businesses as well. We just don't see any relief in our cost or supply chain issues in the near future when it comes to the construction materials needed to maintain reliability.

### **Regulatory Issues**

We continue to be engaged with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission when it comes to cost and reliability of the Wyoming rate payers and protecting ourselves from their aggressive green energy transition policies. I think we have made great progress with our engagement getting reliability and cost language in the settlement agreement. Right now, Tri-State is running models to see what the cost might be and if they can maintain reliability given the short period of time to meet the carbon reduction goals in the State of Colorado.

We are also engaged at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on several fronts, but the most important is making sure that if a cooperative exits Tri-State they don't stick our rate payers with the cost of the remaining debt. They must pay their

fair share to exit! This process has been interesting but probably most the most frustrating. It appears from the judge's initial decision that FERC will follow their staff's recommendation very closely no matter what arguments are made on either side. Because of this we will still stay engaged in this case since we need to stay up to date on the forthcoming information, but we are going to back off on making any formal arguments and just file formal comments. We will continuously assess this intervention to make sure it's in the best interest of the membership.

If you have any questions about your cooperative, feel free to reach out to 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!**

Debra Howle  
Thomas Sterkel  
Georgia Honstein

Peggy Maliske  
Douglas Brittenham



## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The Board Seat for Districts #3 and #4 will be up for re-election at the 2023 Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for March 30th. Kenda Knudsen currently represents District #3, and Mark Knaub currently represents District #4. If you currently live in either of these districts and are interested in running or would like further information, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

District #1: Art Davis	307-532-7726
District #2: Douglas Frederick	307-532-0302
District #3: Kent Hunter	307-532-3926
District #4: Jack Revelle	308-631-8026
District #5: Curtis Grandstaff	307-834-2459

Article IV, Section 3 of the Wyrulec Company By-Laws states:

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 (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.



Normal power  
line

Lines weighed  
down by ice

Top line melted  
after bottom line

## ICE ON POWER LINES IS A WEIGHTY SUBJECT



When it comes to getting electricity across power lines and into homes, ice can be a force to be reckoned with.

### ICE ON DISTRIBUTION LINES

Ice can quickly lead to broken power poles and other pole equipment. Ice can also make falling tree branches 30x heavier and much more likely to break power lines.

### ON A 300-FOOT SPAN OF 1-INCH-THICK POWER LINES

- 1/2 inch of ice adds 281 pounds of weight
- 1 inch of ice adds 749 pounds of weight
- 2 inches of ice adds 2,248 pounds of weight

### WHEN ICE MELTS

Melting ice can cause power outages. If ice on the bottom (neutral) line melts before the lines above, it can cause the lines to touch.

### OTHER ICE FACTS

- Damage can begin when ice exceeds 1/4 of an inch
- 1/2 inch of ice can cause a line to sag up to 12 inches
- Pressure can also be caused by a broken tree limb
- Both ice and melting ice can cause power outages

**Safe**  
**Electricity.org®**

Source: Jerri Imgarten-Whitley and Victory Electric Cooperative

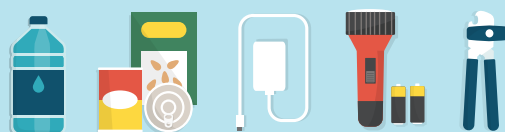
## A Storm is Always Ready

**ARE YOU?**



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

### YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



Bottles of water  
Nonperishable food  
Portable phone charger

Flashlights  
Batteries  
Can opener



First-aid supplies  
Hand sanitizer  
Prescriptions

Pain reliever  
Warm clothing  
Blankets



Battery-operated radio  
Toys, books and games  
Important documents

Money  
Baby supplies  
Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at:

**Safe**  
**Electricity.org®**