



DECEMBER 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 hard to believe Christmas is almost here and we are close to starting a new year. I want to give a big shout out to the Wyrulec employees for their hard work and dedication to keeping the lights on this past year. They are an excellent group of employees, and they work great as a team. From all of us at Wyrulec Company, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. If you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to give us a ring.

### Capital Credit Retirements

During the October board meeting, the board of directors approved over \$700,000 in capital credit retirements. If you were a member of Wyrulec during the years 2001, 2002, 2009, or 2010 you should be receiving a capital credit check in the mail. Those checks will go out in the mail the second week in December. In keeping with the cooperative business model, those members who first provided the cooperative equity are the first to get their equity back. Capital credit retirements are one of the unique benefits of being an owner of a cooperative.

### 2023 Budget

I am currently working on the 2023 budget to be presented to the board of directors for final approval. As many of you have experienced, our inventory and operating costs (fuel, tires, repairs) have all increased over the last year. When putting the capital construction budget together, it has been an eye-opener to see what some of the projects will cost the cooperative to replace old line and maintain the existing infrastructure. We are seeing lead times over a year when it comes to ordering transformers, meters, and other equipment we use on a regular basis. It now takes 610 days to get a bucket truck and we are unable to get firm pricing once ordered. Because of the increase in fixed costs across the board,



**Ryan Schilreff**  
*General Manager*



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## ***continued . . .* GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

we will be looking to raise our monthly facilities charge by \$5 per month, most likely starting in March of 2023.

### **Regulatory Issues**

We continue to be engaged at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in reference to Tri-State's Energy Resource Plan (ERP) filing. It is important for us to be engaged to make sure we can maintain reliability and affordability for our members and see how the State of Colorado is going to spend our money to meet their carbon reduction goals. Wyrulec and the seven other Tri-State member cooperatives in Wyoming met with Governor Gordon to brief him on our recommendations and position in this intervention. The state of Wyoming has been great about providing the cooperatives support on this issue. We will keep you updated on how our intervention in this process moves forward.


We also continue to be engaged at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in several filings dealing with Tri-State. There are a few cooperatives who want to break their contractual obligations on their wholesale electric service contract with Tri-State; basically, they want to exit their contract early. The question is - What is the right contract termination payment for them to exit their contract early? I can tell you that what those members think is fair, and what Tri-State thinks is fair, is miles apart. It is important for us to be engaged in this process, because if those cooperatives exit and do

not pay their fair share, then the remaining cooperatives will carry that burden. This case was litigated in front of an Administrative Law Judge who, just a months ago, provided a ruling. This case will now be heard in front of the full FERC commission. To give you an idea of the difference in dollars we are talking about, Tri-State gave all its members an exit-fee dollar amount. Wyrulec's amount was around \$100 million to exit and break our contract based on Tri-State's formula; the Administrative Law Judge ruled that Wyrulec could exit for around \$27 million based on the ALJ's formula. Our long-term purchase power contract is in effect with Tri-State until 2050. While we are not looking to exit, some members are, and they must pay their fair share. Unfortunately, this is a slow process and will take a while to run its course, but we will keep you updated as it progresses. The state of Wyoming and the Wyoming Public Service Commission have both supported the position of the Wyoming cooperatives at FERC.

### **Blinking Lights**

It is that time of year again when we can experience strong winds that might blink the lights. If you experience blinking or flickering lights, please be sure to let us know. Call the office as soon as possible so we can dispatch a crew. We will want to investigate the cause of the issue and make sure it isn't an unsafe condition.

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



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**The Wyrulec Holiday Closures are:**

**Friday, December 23**  
**Monday, December 26**  
**Monday, January 2**

*\*Account payments will be honored through December 27th before late charges are assessed.*



**Holiday Energy Savings**

Fireplaces add a cozy ambiance to any home. To maximize fireplace efficiency, close the damper when a fire is not burning.



## DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

**W**yrulec Company, along with Tri-State Generation & Transmission, offers a variety of scholarships to encourage continuing education or higher education. To be eligible for these scholarships the parent, legal guardian, or the applicant themselves must receive their electrical power from Wyrulec Company.

The applicant must be enrolled, or intending to enroll in an accredited two-year college, four-year university, or vocational technical school.

Applications for all these scholarships can be picked up at our office or printed online at [www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com), under the Education tab. All applications can also be completed online.

### Tri-State Generation & Transmission

- Two scholarships of \$1,000 each

### Wyrulec Company

- Total of (8) scholarships of \$1,000 each. Four of these scholarships will be awarded to students attending vocational or technical schools.

More information is available on our website. For questions, please feel free to contact our office.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST  
BE RECEIVED AT THE  
WYRULEC OFFICE BY  
4:00 PM ON  
FEBRUARY 1, 2023.**



2022 Scholarship Recipients

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

Leroy Shimp  
Stephen Stowe  
Dempsey Hansen

Yvonne Lease  
Scott Leth



# BE SAFE DURING THE HO·HO·HOLIDAYS

## 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY



Before you plan out your new holiday lighting scheme or repeat last year's festive design, keep these 10 safety tips in mind when decorating outdoors:

1

Do not toss light strands up into the air. They could get too close to or come into contact with a power line.

2

Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.

3

Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.

4

Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.

5

Do not use staples or nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.

6

String together no more than the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.

7

Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.

8

Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.

9

Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.

10

Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.

**Safe** LEARN MORE AT:  
**Electricity.org®**



# Preventing Home Electrical Fires



Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):

**Over a recent 4-year period...**



# 30%

happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)

**Fires caused**  
an estimated average of:



**390 Deaths**  
**1,070 Injuries**

# 1

Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires.**

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires.**

# 2

## WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

Damaged cords and flickering lights

Discolored outlets and switch plates

Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly. Learn more at:

**Safe**  
**Electricity.org®**

Source: NFPA's Electrical Fires Report, 2022