



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager



JUNE 2019



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.

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Talking with Congressional reps

We are off to a great start this spring with the moisture we have received over the past month. It looks pretty green around our service territory and, with a few heating days, things are really going to grow.



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It's been very busy around the cooperative, which is normal for this time of year. We have been delayed on several projects due to the wet weather. Depending on the moisture there are times we have to wait until the ground dries to get our large trucks into the areas where our projects are located.

This month I want to give you an update on my visit to Washington, D.C., and the conversations we had with our delegates. I also want to give you an update on some of our ongoing construction projects.

Remember it's your cooperative; we appreciate your support and we are here to help in any way we can.



National Legislative Issues

I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., with the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) and Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) to meet with our elected officials to discuss issues facing cooperatives nationwide.

About 2,000 electric cooperative leaders gathered in Washington, D.C., at NRECA's Legislative Conference to discuss priority policy issues and advocate for those issues with members of Congress and administration officials.

Pictured are attendees of the conference from Wyoming, including Wyrulec General Manager Ryan Schilreff and Board Member Kenda Knudsen. Seated in the front row are Senator John Barrasso, Senator Mike Enzi, and Congresswoman Liz Cheney.

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Talking with Congressional reps

Continued from previous page ■
 There were really three issues that we discussed which are outlined below:

1. Stop the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) From Over Charging Low-Risk Co-op Pension Plans

a. Our Retirement Security Plan (RS Plan) is not a single employer plan. More than 800 rural electric cooperatives participate in this plan. The plan covers more than 56,000 employees in 47 states, which brings diversity and a low risk of failure, as all 800 cooperatives are not going to fail. A simple change to the risk rating could save Wyoming electric cooperatives nearly \$200,000 a year and nearly \$400,000 a year for Nebraska cooperatives and PPD's.

2. Tax Law Change Needed to Protect Electric Co-op Tax Exempt Status

a. Recent changes to the Internal Revenue Code created an unintended consequence for rural electric cooperatives. Government grants may now be considered non-member income.

b. Electric cooperatives must comply with the 85 percent – 15 percent income test. No more than 15 percent of income can come from non-member income or our tax-exempt status will be jeopardy. This could include FEMA income from major storm restoration.

c. Congress should take action to amend 501(c)(12) to retain the tax-exempt status of nearly 900 rural electric cooperatives. This

will allow full use of federal, state, or local grants to benefit our members.

3. Promote Needs of Rural Communities in Infrastructure Package

- a. Co-ops support bipartisan efforts to develop a robust infrastructure package that improves the economic outlook in America's rural communities.
- b. Lawmakers should recognize and support electric co-op grid modernization efforts and support programs that enable broadband access for all Americans.
- c. Electric co-ops support policies and investments that promote electrification throughout the economy.

We are fortunate to have such a strong delegation from both Wyoming and Nebraska in Washington, D.C.

I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Barrasso (WY), Senator Enzi (WY), Senator Fisher (NE) and Representative Cheney (WY). I would like to give them and their staff a big thanks for their support.

Work Report

This time of year, we are busy with requests from members for new services. We have been working on several services for new pivots



and service upgrades for increased horsepower at existing pivots. Remember, if you add horsepower to your service, please contact us first! We need to make sure we have adequate equipment in place. We have also had several requests from the oil and gas industry for new services to support block valves for both pipelines that have recently gone through our territory.

We have material ordered to serve the new Bridger Pipeline Substation to be located just outside of Fort Laramie and we hope to have our metering package installed in July.

Bridger will own this substation and Wyrulec will provide the power to the motors.

Our engineers are working on expanding our Rocky Mountain #2 substation, just across the road from the Bridger substation, to serve an additional load request for Plains All American Pipeline.

These two projects will be great loads for the cooperative.

Metering & Broadband

We have been progressing in our metering deployment and we are well over halfway complete.



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Metering & Broadband

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During our deployment north of Fort Laramie in the Pine Ridge Subdivision, we had the opportunity to partner with Visionary Communications to bring high speed broadband to those residents.

Wyrulec had the need to place two small towers on each side of the subdivision to put up

routers for our metering system. At the same time, Visionary signed an agreement with us to utilize those towers for their broadband equipment and serve our members north of Fort Laramie.

I would like to give a big thanks to our members John & Catherine Taylor and Mike & Karen Salyers, who gave us the easements to put up those

towers and make this project possible.

If you have questions or comments or just want to talk about Wyrulec Company, please don't hesitate to contact me. To reach me at the office, call (307) 837-2225, toll free at (800) 628-5266, on my cell at (307) 575-2435 or via email at rschilreff@wyrulec.com.

Educational Opportunity

In the past few months, Tri-State, in conjunction with the Electric Power Research Institute, has offered our members several webinars to share information about irrigation pumping system efficiency. Please visit our website at www.wyrulec.com for a link to view these recorded webinars.

If your name is in these pages, call Wyrulec, 307-837-2225. You'll get a \$25 bill credit to spend any way you like on electricity from Wyrulec Company. It can be for your can opener, your freezer, even kitchen lights!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the A/C to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



At the annual Ag Expo for fourth graders of Goshen County, Wyrulec employees Heather Wilkins, Ben Hager, and Joe Gonzalez were on hand with the high-voltage demonstration trailer to teach the students about electrical safety.

Shed Some Light on Lightning

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, lightning can strike in the same place twice (or pretty darn close), contrary to folk wisdom.

* Alton Lerwick *Also according to the storms laboratory and the National Weather Service:

⚡ It is not possible to have thunder without lightning; thunder is a direct result of lightning. However, it IS possible you might see lightning and not hear the thunder because it was too far away. Some people

call this phenomenon "heat lightning" because it occurs most often in the summer.

⚡ Lightning can occur within the thunderstorm cloud (intra-cloud lightning) or between the cloud and the ground (cloud-to-ground lightning).

⚡ Lightning can have 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.

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* Waldon Smith *

Shed Some Light on Lightning

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- ⚡ When lightning travels down a tree trunk, its heat turns water to steam. If it gets under the bark into the surface moisture of the wood, the rapidly expanding steam can blast pieces of bark from the tree and the wood along the path is often killed.
- ⚡ Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun, and it can reach temperatures around 50,000°F.
- ⚡ People are struck by lightning in one of five ways:

by a direct strike, by a side flash or from a streamer; or via ground current or conduction (metal). Metal does not attract lightning, but provides a path for the lightning to follow.

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, according to the American Red Cross.

Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs
- * Richard Dooley *

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

* Ronald Stuckert *