



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



# CO-OP NEWS

DECEMBER 2021



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**  
Kenda Knudsen  
President

Julie Kilty  
Vice President

Mark Knaub  
Treasurer

Dewey Hageman  
Secretary

Ben Scott  
Assistant Secretary

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

**Senior Staff**  
Miles Duffy  
Operations Manager

Tiphonie Fuss  
Office Manager

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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## Dedicated Employees

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 in keeping the lights on.

We faced some challenges this past year with the February cold weather event, a super-hot summer, and, of course, COVID. They are an excellent group of employees, and they work great as a team. \* Rick McNees \*

If you have any questions about your cooperative, please feel free to give us a ring. From all of us here at the coopera-

tive, we appreciate your support and wish you the best this holiday season.

### Capital Credits

During the September board meeting, the board of directors approved over \$1,000,000 in capital credit retirements.

If you were a member of Wyrulec during the years 2000, 2001 or 2009, you

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\* Nadine Dietrich \*

## Capital Credits

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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 having ownership in a cooperative.

## 2022 Budget

I am currently working on the 2022 budget to present for final approval by the board of directors. Our inventory and operating costs (fuel, tires, repairs) have all increased over the last year. I know many of you are experiencing this as well.

When putting the capital construction budget together, it has been an eye opener to see what it will cost the cooperative to replace old line and maintain the existing infrastructure.

We have seen lead times extend from eight to ten weeks to thirty-six weeks 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.

On the good news side, it appears we will be able to hold our retail rates steady once again this year.

By experiencing some load growth and keeping what costs we can in check, we have been fortunate to be able to hold our retail rates steady for seven years in a row.

## Regulatory Issues: CPUC

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 have also asked for a meeting with Governor Gordon to brief him on our recommendations and position in this filing.

We will keep you updated on how this process moves forward.

## Regulatory Issues: FERC

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 are 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. It appears that this case will go to hearing and an Administrative Law Judge will hear arguments from both sides and decide what a fair buyout amount is. This process is going to take awhile to run its course, but we will keep you updated as it progresses.

## Blinking Lights

We have had some high winds the past few weeks that have caused the lights to blink or flicker. If you experience these issues, 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 that issue and make sure there isn't an unsafe condition. If you have any questions about your cooperative, you can reach me on my cell phone at 307-575-2435 or via email [rschilreff@wyrulec.com](mailto:rschilreff@wyrulec.com).



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Jack Russell



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2021 Scholarship recipients.

# Deadline for Scholarship Applications

Wyrulec 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 electric 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

- ❖ One scholarship of \$1,000
- ❖ Two scholarships of \$500 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. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT WYRULEC COMPANY'S OFFICE BY 4:00 PM ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022.**

\* Tyson Gladson \*



# Finding a New Approach to Mail Delays

Wyrulec continues to see an increase in the time required by the mail to deliver our statements, and your payments in return. This increase in time and

cost is no longer merely a delay, and has become a new reality for all Americans. The duration and interruptions in the mail have become significant, causing us all

to evaluate our preferred methods of payment and delivery. Wyrulec Company is required to use the postal system to deliver

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## Finding a New Approach to Mail Delays

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your billing statement, and we strive to place your billing statement into the US Postal System as soon as possible, never mailing any later than the 10th day of the calendar month. \* Jay Johnson \*

### Sometimes Early

You may have noticed at times we mail early, resulting in a postmark, for example, on the 5th of the month, when your 'Statement Date' reflects the 10th of the month. By doing so, we are ensuring that there are at least 15 calendar days between the statement date, and payment due date.

Once these billing statements leave our hands, we entrust the system to deliver. Failure of delivery by the postal system does not remove the responsibility of the member to pay their monthly billing statement, nor exempts any member from disconnect for non-payment.

### Receive an email

To alleviate the waiting for delivery, Wyrulec Company offers electronic notification to your email address when your statement is ready for viewing in our online portal at [wyrulec.com](http://wyrulec.com).

All members who are comfortable with using computers or mobile devices are encouraged to take advantage of this convenience. Our office staff are always ready to assist you with the enrollment and retrieval

process; simply call or stop in for assistance.

As consumers, we have all had to recently evaluate if mailing a payment gives us the peace of mind that



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it used to. Mailing earlier in good faith of delivery by a deadline or consideration to alternative methods is a constant balancing act; there is a significant risk taken at this time if you mail your payment to Wyrulec Company. In recognition of this issue, Wyrulec offers a variety of payment alternatives for our membership.

### Call us for card payments

The most common method members are using is simply calling the office to speak with one of our staff members

who will assist you with directly debiting payment from an account of your choosing. This account can be checking or savings, and we accept payments by credit or debit card

through VISA, Mastercard and Discover. There is no additional charge from Wyrulec to use any of our payment options. We also offer online or mobile app services, a

call-in payment feature for after-hours telephone payments, the option to enroll your account in automatic payments, and a secure drop box located at our office entrance.

We strive to offer our members a variety of options so that you may choose what works best for your individual preference or business.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to call and confirm that your mailed payment has arrived, give us a call at 877-WYRULEC; we look forward to assisting you.

## Stay safe when using a space heater

- ★ Use a space heater with a minimum of three feet of clearance on all sides.
- ★ Do not put a heater in a doorway or high-traffic area in the home.
- ★ Place the heater on a flat, safe surface.
- ★ Consider using one with built-in safety features.
- ★ Do not plug one into an extension cord.
- ★ Never leave a space heater unattended; unplug it and put it away when not in use.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



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