



SEPTEMBER 2024



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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October through April
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I hope this article finds you well and off to a good start to the fall. For some of us it means back-to-school days for our children and changing our routine for the next nine months. It sure seems like it was a hot summer, which has been supported by our large irrigation load numbers for this year. We would welcome some cooler weather here at the cooperative. A few topics I will cover in this article are current legislative issues, and how we fared during the large Pleasant Valley fire.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

As I write this article, it's the day after the primary election and it appears it was a pretty crazy primary with several upsets and legislative positions shifting. In July, Wyrulec had the opportunity to host the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) here in Torrington. The WREA represents us on regulatory matters and legislative issues at the state level, and the board is comprised of individual board members from each of the eleven electric distribution cooperatives around the state (including Wyrulec). The night before the meeting we had the opportunity to have dinner with our local legislators: Rep. Scott Smith and Rep. Alan Slagel, and we later met with Sen. Cheri Steinmetz as well. It was a great opportunity for us to talk about upcoming legislative issues in the state such as wildfire mitigation, prescriptive easements and the big one - third party generation.

I want to focus on third party generation, what it is, and what it means for our cooperative. The Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) is currently drafting rules to allow third party generators (non-public utilities) to come into the cooperative service territory and serve large industrial loads. We are adamantly opposed to this, as those loads are very important for us to serve. They provide rate stability and consistent baseload. We also believe this breaks the regulatory compact where we have been given a certificated territory and have invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to serve our members within that territory, knowing that we have some type of repayment for that investment. The question our group has proposed to the WPSC and the governor's office is: Why is this new rule even needed? Those industrial loads can already self-generate if they want. The answer I got from the governor's office is: "because they don't want to self-generate." When we met



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager

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with the governor and discussed the issue, I thought our meeting went well and we would get some type of pause on the rule. However, we were notified a week later that wasn't the case. I believe there must be something else at work here. The Wyoming cooperatives supply reliable power, and we have excess capacity to serve those large loads. We require those large loads to pay their fair share of the costs, so the risk isn't shifted to our other rate payers.

I will keep you updated as this important issue progresses.

PLEASANT VALLEY FIRE

Back in July, Wyrulec and our members experienced a nasty fire near Hartville, WY that burned close to 29,000 acres. Of course, it was hot and dry with the wind blowing, which made it very challenging to contain. We were very concerned about the significant loss of our infrastructure. The fire was so fast-moving that it scorched a lot of our poles, but at this point we have only had to replace around thirty of them. This fire could have been devastating for our infrastructure, and I'm sure we'll still find more poles that need to be replaced. Our thoughts go out to those members who lost thousands of acres of grassland, and we appreciate the enormous effort of the local firefighters and community members who worked on the fire; they saved numerous structures and a lot of our infrastructure as well.

COWBOY STATE DAILY NEWS

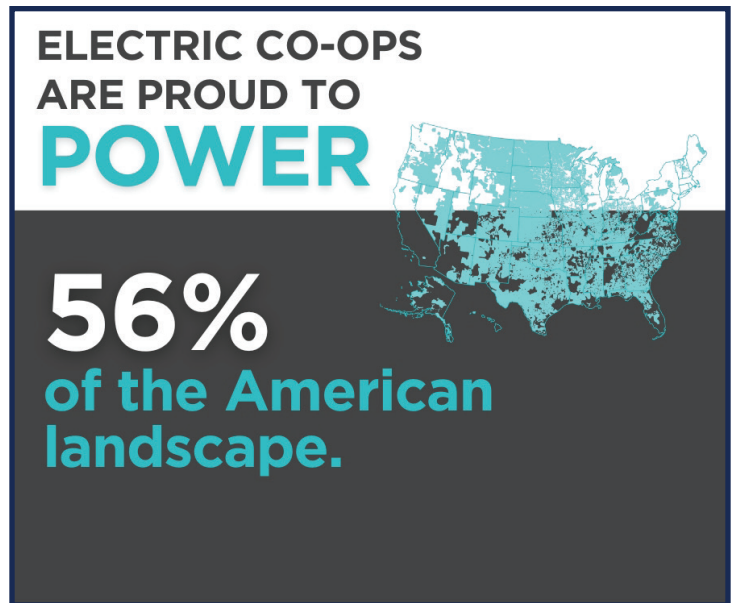
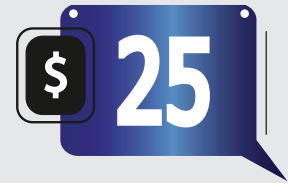
The Cowboy State Daily recently published a few articles about the eight Wyoming cooperatives that belong to Tri-

State. One article read "Colorado-Based Tri-State Ditching Coal Power Alienates Its 8 Wyoming Co-ops". It also read "some say they want to leave Tri-State because of the anti-coal decision". And most recently, "Co-ops in Wyoming and Beyond Look to United Power as Template to Leave Tri-State." These headlines are false. We are not happy about the state of Colorado forcing dispatchable coal generation to retire early, but the laws have been passed and Tri-State must follow those laws. The eight Wyoming co-ops have been working tirelessly along with Tri-State to make sure our members don't experience any reliability issues because of this transition, even under extreme weather conditions. Believe me, we don't sugarcoat anything during these discussions with the other parties involved. We will always protect reliability. Tri-State is the best place for our cooperative as far as a power supplier, and let's not forget that it's our company and we formed it.

Please be sure to give us a call at 877-WYRULEC if you have questions about any of these topics.

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

Randy Peterson
William Walker
Thomas Satery
Josh Stauffer
Marian Lovitt



Make Time for Safety

AVOID HAZARDS WITH OVERHEAD POWER LINES

Fall harvest is the most likely time of year for farm-related accidents and fatalities. The number one factor in electrocution on the farm is an auger that hits a power line when being moved. Be aware of your surroundings and look up often.

SAFE ELECTRICITY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING HARVEST SAFETY TIPS:

1. Check the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
2. Be aware of the location of power poles and lines, including field entry and exit points, and plan a safe equipment route.
3. Always keep a minimum 10-foot safety radius around an electric line.
4. Use a spotter when moving tall loads near electrical lines.
5. Lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving equipment.
6. Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
7. Know what to do if your equipment does make contact with a power line. It's almost always safest staying in the cab. Call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait until the electric utility says it's safe to get down.

Learn more at:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**



UPDATES FROM NRECA

NRECA files lawsuit over EPA power plant rule.

NRECA filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency over its unlawful power plant rule and followed up on that lawsuit by requesting a stay from the courts, which would temporarily halt the rule from taking effect.

Learn more about the EPA rule and how it will impact electric co-ops: cooperative.com/EPA111



TRICK OR TREAT

Don't Let an Electrical Mishap Be Your Halloween Trick

As you ready your yard and porch for Halloween, make sure the decorations you plug in do not become hazardous. **To avoid a Halloween scare, take these safety precautions:**

- Discard any decorations that have **cracked or frayed cords** or damaged plugs.
- **Do not** put any decorations on power poles, padmount transformers or any other electrical equipment.
- Use decorations that are endorsed by a reputable testing laboratory such as **Underwriters Laboratories (UL)**.
- If you are using extension cords outdoors, make sure they are **rated for outdoor use**.
- **Secure all cords** so they do not become tripping hazards.
- Plug all cords into circuits protected by **GFCIs** to prevent electrical shock.
- **Do not use nails or tacks** to hang lights or other electrical decor.
- Keep decorations **away from flammable items** like bales of hay, cornstalks or witch's brew.

Have a safe and festive Halloween complete with safe tricks and tasty treats.

Learn more at:

