



SEPTEMBER 2026

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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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Your cooperative is a proud member of these
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CO-OP NEWS

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Fall is here, and with it may come some welcome relief from the heat. We have had a very busy summer completing maintenance projects and constructing several new services throughout the cooperative's territory. This month, I want to discuss the potential for third-party generation in our service territory, wholesale electric rates, our newest substation and the construction project of our main lobby.

Kinnan Delivery Point

We have been working on this new delivery point for the past couple of years and energized it in August. Located south of Fort Laramie, this substation provides much-needed relief to the valley and improves our ability to move load for redundancy and reliability. It is now our largest delivery point, with a 40-megawatt transformer capability. This was a strong collaborative project among Wyrulec, Tri-State, and ONEOK.

Third Party Generation

This is a topic I've discussed several times in past WREN articles and at our annual membership meetings. So, what is third-party generation? It occurs when an entity is allowed to enter our service territory and serve a large load, such as a data center, without providing any benefit to our membership. The Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) has passed a rule that would allow **unregulated** entities to serve large loads in our territory without benefiting our members. Why? Because they believe we cannot serve these loads quickly enough. We are also firm that these entities must pay 100% of their costs and not shift those costs onto our current ratepayers. We have proven not only that we can serve these loads, but that it is better for us to do so because our members have made substantial investments in our infrastructure and should benefit from those investments. In addition, who is better to serve our communities than the cooperative owners who are part of those communities? Fast is not always better, especially when the entity is **unregulated** and has very few guardrails to follow. We also question the legality of implementing this rule through the rulemaking process. I find it interesting that the entity that regulates all public utilities is the same entity drafting a rule to allow an unregulated entity to serve electricity in our territory. A few legislative committees have drafted bills this summer in anticipation of the next legislative session with similar language as the WPSC. We will meet that challenge head on as well.



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager

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Rates

We anticipate another rate increase from our wholesale power provider of about 6.5%, effective January 1, 2027. This increase was expected for both this year and next year. Once we receive confirmation and understand how the rate components will change, the Wyrulec Board will discuss the information and determine the next steps. In 2027, I also plan to recommend that the Board implement an approximately \$1.00 residential demand charge and reduce our kilowatt-hour charge accordingly. This change would not create new revenue for the cooperative; instead, it would better align cost recovery with how costs are incurred. About two years ago, we began including your maximum demand (kW) on your monthly electric bill so you can review it each month. We will provide several examples in upcoming newsletters to help you understand how this change will work and why

demand billing is important. We will also be able to show how your bill may change after implementation based on your past usage.

Front Lobby Construction

Our front lobby will be under construction for the next few weeks. We have been discussing employee safety because our lobby is open and our location is about five miles from town in either direction. Given our location, we have held several safety trainings, including active shooter training. We have been working to make the lobby safer while preserving the close member interaction we value when members visit Wyrulec. Most, if not all, other utilities in the state have some form of employee protection in their front areas. Construction will not interrupt operations, and we hope the updates will provide a safer environment for our employees while maintaining the personal interaction with our members we enjoy so much.

SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.



USE CAUTION WHEN USING BACK-UP GENERATORS

Make sure you know how to operate the generator safely. Unsafe operation can threaten you, your family, neighbors and even the lineworkers working to restore power.

Unsafe installation or operation may also result in a lawsuit and your insurance may not cover your liability.

- Temporary-use generators should not be connected to the circuit breaker or fuse box and should not be plugged into a household outlet. Portable generators should only be used with extension cords to power certain items.
- Permanently installed generators should be wired into your home by a qualified electrician, using a transfer switch that prevents potentially deadly backfeed.
- Generators should only be operated outside a home and garage, and away from windows or doorways, to prevent toxic and potentially deadly exhaust from entering a home.
- Keep generators away from children and pets.
- When starting a generator, disconnect all appliances that might be connected to it. That will not only protect them but prevent a fuse from being blown on the generator.
- Connect appliances to your portable generator after it has been started. Use only three-prong plugs that allow connections to be grounded.
- When refueling generators, allow the engine to cool in order to prevent a fire should the gas tank overflow.
- Be sure to use a heavy-duty extension cord rated for the wattage of the load being connected.
- When the generator is no longer needed, allow it to cool down before storing it.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy



SAVE ENERGY THIS FALL

Stop drafts. Seal gaps around doors and windows.





POWER LINE SAFETY for Drone Pilots

POWER LINES AND DRONES DON'T MIX

Drones are helpful tools in many industries, including inspection, construction, agriculture, emergency response and photography. But near power lines, they can be hazardous.

RISKS:

- ⚠ Power outages.
- ⚠ Electrical hazards.
- ⚠ Falling debris.
- ⚠ Injury or damage.

BEFORE YOU FLY:

- Check the site.
- Look for lines, poles, guy wires and substations.
- Watch the weather.
- Coordinate with utility providers when needed.

DURING FLIGHT:

- Keep your drone in sight.
- Stay a safe distance from power lines, substations and equipment.
- Be extra cautious when near power infrastructure.

IF YOUR DRONE CRASHES or gets tangled in power equipment:

- ✗ Do not retrieve it. Stay clear.
- ✗ Contact the local electric utility.
- ✗ Call 911 if needed.

Learn more at:

 **Safe
Electricity.org**[®]



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