



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



\* Todd Parriott \*



JULY 2021

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

3978 US Hwy 26/85  
Torrington, Wyoming 82240

PO Box 359, Lingle, 82223

**How to reach us**  
307-837-2225 • 800-628-5266  
Fax: 307-837-2115

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**  
Kenda Knudsen  
President

Julie Kilty  
Vice President

Mark Knaub  
Treasurer

Dewey Hageman  
Secretary

Clay Peterson  
Assistant Secretary

**General Manager**  
Ryan Schilreff

**Senior Staff**  
Miles Duffy  
Operations Manager

Tiphanie Fuss  
Office Manager

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



# New Energy Resource for Wyo

I hope you were able to spend some quality time with your family over the 4th of July weekend and celebrate the independence of this great country. I normally spend the 4th of July at the lake with my family and friends, but I also make it a point to visit with my children about what the 4th of July really means and why we celebrate it.

We proudly fly the American flag and the Wyoming state flag at the lake each weekend but this year we also installed a flagpole at our house. When it was time to put the pole in the ground and

raise the flag, I made it a family event.

While my children think most of the things I make them do are annoying, it is my hope one day they will remember how important I thought it was that we were all together when we raised the flag for the first time at our house.

## Wyoming to Lead the Coal-to-Nuclear Energy Transition

I was pretty excited when the state of Wyoming announced a partnership with TerraPower, PacificCorp, and the

Continued next page

### Natrium Reactor

1. Reactor creates heat
2. Heat increases the temperature of molten salt
3. Salt is deposited in a hot-salt storage tank
4. Operators independent from the reactor can use the heat to generate electricity immediately or reserve it for later
5. Stored heat ensures flexibility so electricity generation can rapidly be increased or decreased depending on demand

# Wyoming to Lead Coal-to-Nuclear Energy Transition

Continued from previous page

Department of Energy to build an advanced small modular reactor (SMR) at a retiring coal plant. The SMR is safe, reliable, dispatchable, and has a zero carbon footprint.

As more and more utilities either choose or are forced to close their coal fired power plants and transition to more intermittent generation like renewables, the topic of reliability has been a big concern for us here at the cooperative.

It would not surprise me that once the attack on coal runs its course, natural gas will likely be the source that is targeted next because it is a carbon emitting fossil fuel.

Wyoming is uniquely positioned to take advantage of the nuclear transition as we have a skilled workforce already in place at the coal plants and

mines. Some of the infrastructure at the coal plants can be utilized for the reactor. Wyoming also has the largest known uranium reserves in the United States and a work force to mine it.

Here at the cooperative, we have always believed in an all-the-above approach when it comes to generation. We absolutely want to take advantage of the low cost of renewables, but we also need to know we have reliable, dispatchable sources online as well, and I think nuclear energy can and will play a part in assuring reliability.

## Reliability and More

The proposed natrium reactor will not only provide reliability but the heat from the reactor can be used to operate a molten salt storage system that can store more energy than the

largest battery storage system currently deployed on the grid.

This gives operators flexibility and allows a natrium plant to operate as a baseload power source or a flexible, load-following system to integrate into grids with high levels of intermittent renewables.

It is important that our industry is allowed the time to let technologies such as Small Nuclear and Carbon Capture develop so we can make a smart and responsible transition in eliminating carbon emissions.

For more information about Wyoming's nuclear project, you can visit their website at [wyomingadvancedenergy.com](http://wyomingadvancedenergy.com).

If you have any questions about your cooperative, you can reach me via email at [rschilreff@wyrulec.com](mailto:rschilreff@wyrulec.com) or on my cell phone at 307-575-2435.

## New Journeyman

We would like to congratulate Doug Bremer, as he recently completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel.

The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in more than 40 states throughout the United States.

Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their trainees by administering closed book testing. In addition to the book work in the Merchant program, apprentices are required to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training in a variety of categories.

Doug has worked hard and completed his training and testing in June. We look forward to having him continue his career as a journeyman lineman on the Wyrulec crew!



If you see your name in these pages, contact Wyrulec Company at 307-837-2225 for your **\$25** bill credit!

Check your Wyrulec account online!

It's fast.

[www.wyrulec.com](http://www.wyrulec.com)

# Boat and Dock Safety

-  Water is a powerful conductor of electricity. It is especially important to be aware of electrical hazards around water.
-  Watch the forecast and make sure you are inside when a thunderstorm approaches. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder or lightning before returning outdoors.
-  When boating or fishing, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards. Always check the location of nearby power lines before boating or fishing.
-  Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
-  If fishing, make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid potential contact.
-  Always lower masts of sail boats before using boat ramps to exit the water.
-  If your boat does come in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water — the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat until help arrives and warn others to stay away. \* Kerry Birdsall \*
-  Ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment on docks and boats. All electrical installations should be done by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards and should be inspected at least once a year.
-  Have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breaker installed on the circuit(s) feeding electricity to the dock. A GFCI will trip the circuit and cut off power quickly if there is a problem.
-  The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal to the AC safety ground at the power source.
-  Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbor aware of the need for safety inspections and maintenance. Marinas and docks should comply with the National Electrical Code (NEC) and NFPA standards.
-  Check cords that are plugged into docks to make sure there is no broken casing or exposed wires.
-  Regardless of the size of boat, maintenance of the electrical system should be done by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes.
-  Boats with alternating current (AC) electrical systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with American Boat & Yacht Council (ABYC) standards, and should be serviced by an ABYC Certified Tech.
-  Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the appliance. If a fuse blows continuously, it should NOT be replaced with a larger one just to keep it from blowing again — something else is wrong. It needs checked out.
-  Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
-  If you are swimming and feel a tingle, get out of the water as soon as possible. It may be electricity leaking into the water. Swim away from potential sources of electricity.
-  If someone is suffering from an electric shock, do not enter the water to rescue him or her. The water may be energized, and you could be shocked or electrocuted yourself. Shut off power at the source, and then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.
-  If you are still wet when you are back on shore, do not touch electronics, including radios and lights. Wait until you are dry.

The Energy Education Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety and energy efficiency. Established in 1952, the Council serves as a forum for diverse utility and energy organizations to collaborate on the mutually vital issues of efficiency and safety. Learn more at: [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org), [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org), [EfficiencyResource.org](http://EfficiencyResource.org) \*Robert Stephenson\*

STORMS CAN BRING

\* James Pontarolo \*

# HIDDEN ELECTRICAL DANGERS



## Outside

Severe weather can sometimes cause damage to overhead power lines. That damage could be noticeable — a downed line across an open road, for instance. However, it may not be as obvious if it is camouflaged by storm damage.

In either case — whether you see a downed line or you suspect one could be hidden under debris or standing water — do not go near the area. Stay away and call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to deenergize the line. Warn others to stay away as well.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame), or on fire to be energized.

## At Home

Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.

If your home's electrical system has been damaged, water-logged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by a professional electrician before using any electricity (inside or out).

Learn more at:

 **Safe  
Electricity.org**

**Always assume a downed power line is energized, dangerous and deadly.**



\* Vance Underwood \*