



Ryan Schilreff
General Manager



CO-OP NEWS

* Kevin Sanders *



OCTOBER 2020

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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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



National Cooperative Month

October is National Cooperative Month and a time when we celebrate our business model, shared principals, and the value of belonging to a cooperative.

The cooperative business model is unique, as we are guided by the Seven Cooperative Principals.

Cooperatives are not-for-profit entities, meaning it is not all about how much money we can make or what kind of dividend our shareholders will get, it's about what services our members need and how we can provide those services for the greater good of the group.

Here at your electric cooperative, the residential member has just as much to say and the same voting power as a large industrial member. The member

at the beginning of the line pays the same cost as a member at the end of the line. We operate this way so all of our members can have a better quality of life. It's our goal to provide you safe and reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

A little bit of history

In the early 1930's, fewer than 1 of 10 rural families in Wyoming had electric power.

The year 2020 marks the 85th anniversary of the organized efforts to deliver electric service to the countryside. It began with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's executive order creating the Rural Electrification

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Our lines are shaped by you, the members we serve.

October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn

* Henry Boltjes Jr *

National Cooperative Month

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Administration (REA) on May 11, 1935.

Electric service was widely available in towns, but rural residents struggled to bring water to their homes in buckets while children studied by the light of smokey kerosene lanterns.

Cooperatives were formed by people who were determined to have electricity even though many thought it was not economically practical to build and maintain lines to isolated farms and ranches.

Wyrulec Company in Lingle was the first cooperative formed in Wyoming to bring electricity to the rural people. It started in October of 1937 to supply power to 101 member/consumers in

Goshen County and the surrounding areas. Today, Wyrulec serves over 5,000 meters, located in five counties in Wyoming and Nebraska. Currently, there are 11 electric cooperatives serving the rural areas of Wyoming.

Tri-State Generation & Transmission

Earlier this spring, I wrote an article about Tri-State's move to become regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, "FERC," and why Wyrulec supported that move. The main reason we supported the move was because other states, such as Colorado & New Mexico, decided to assert rate jurisdiction over Tri-State, which had costly consequences

for the members in Wyoming and Nebraska.

We also tried to intervene in a case at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, "CPUC," in reference to co-ops that were disputing the charges they should pay to break their contract and leave Tri-State. Our motion was denied, and the CPUC basically said 'we don't want to hear what you have to say,' even though their decision could have a huge impact on Wyrulec's investment in Tri-State.

The good news is that Tri-State was accepted to become FERC regulated, and FERC has stated since Tri-State is FERC jurisdictional, they preempt any

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Seven Cooperative Principles

1: Voluntary & Open Membership

Membership in cooperatives is voluntary and available to all who can reasonably use its services regardless of racial, social, religious, gender, political, or economic circumstances.

2: Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations with each member having a vote. Control remains in the hands of all consumers. Directors are elected from the membership.

** Nancy Heller **

3: Member Economic Participation

Members democratically control and equally contribute to the capital of their cooperative. Members may allocate surpluses for any of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4: Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5: Education, Training & Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees to keep them up-to-date on issues so they can effectively govern the cooperative. Communication with the general public is necessary regarding the nature and benefits of the cooperative.

6: Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

7: Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

National Cooperative Month

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decision on exit charges previously made by the CPUC. This means that Tri-State will be regulated by one entity rather than four states.

While Tri-State is now FERC jurisdictional, several tariff filings have been made and now FERC has to decide if these filings are just and reasonable as they pertain to rates, exit methodologies, and buy-down payments.

We value your input

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.



High West Energy

Are you curious about an electric vehicle, or have you ever considered purchasing one? We will have this Tesla Model 3 available for our members to test drive during the month of October. Stop in and see if the Tesla is available, or call ahead to reserve a time slot!

Preparing for the Big Hunt:

Consider Electrical Safety, Too


As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind that along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.


You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt, but be sure to look up and out for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole, or related equipment can alter the path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. (Even coming within 10 feet can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.)


In addition, do not shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage


equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.


Wyrulec Company and Safe Electricity remind hunting enthusiasts of these electrical safety tips:

 **Familiarize** yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment, especially when hunting in densely wooded areas.

 **Observe** all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting out a location for your tree stand.

 **Do not** use power poles to support a tree stand.

 **Do not** locate a tree stand near a power line or pole.

 **Be in the habit** of looking up and out for power lines and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.

 **Never** climb a utility pole.

Please report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so that we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months unless an outage occurs due to the vast amount of lines that cover our service area.

Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well.

Stay safe out there!

Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

John Kinvaal

1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

3 Main Distribution Lines

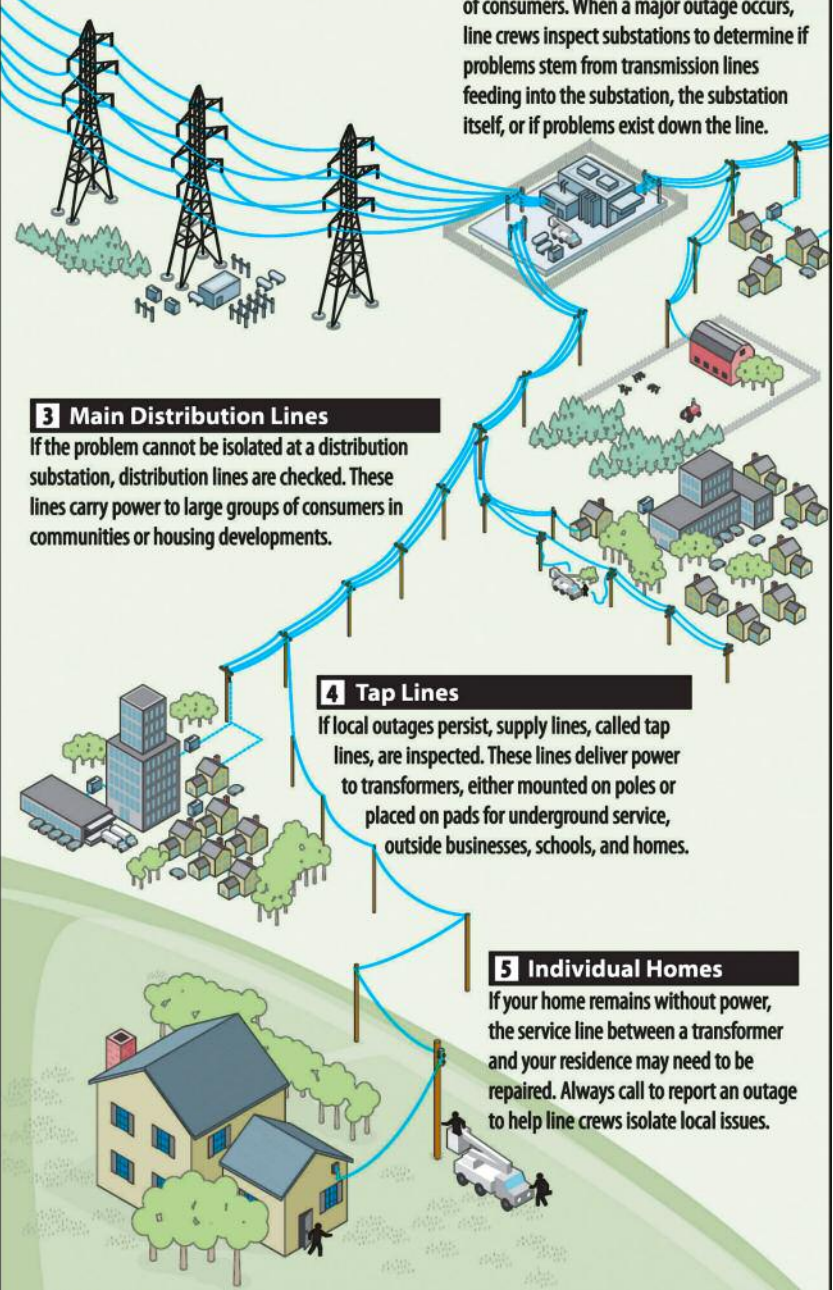
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.



graphic by Funnel Inc.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.



Learn more at www.ready.gov



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.