



**Ryan Schilreff**  
General Manager



DECEMBER 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.



**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**  
Joe Kinnan  
*Operations Manager*

Miles Duffy  
*Assistant Operations Manager*

Tiphonie Fuss  
*Office Manager*

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

# Have a Wonderful Holiday Season

I hope this article finds you and your family well as we head into the holiday season and closer to a new year. I am eager to get 2020 behind us and get a fresh start, but it appears 2021 could be quite challenging as well. The topics below should give you some insight on what we got accomplished this year and where we are headed next year. From all of us at Wyrulec, we appreciate your support and wish you a Happy Holiday and prosperous New Year!

## Operations Manager Transition

After 44 years of service to the cooperative, Joe Kinnan is slated to retire at the end of this year. Joe has been a great asset to the cooperative and it has been my privilege to work with him the last seven years. We all want to wish Joe and his wife Lynn the very best in their retirement years.

Miles Duffy will take over the reins as Operations Manager starting January 1st. Miles has been serving as our Assistant Operations Manager over this past year and has done a great job.

We would like to congratulate him on his promotion and wish him well with his new responsibilities.

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After 44 years of dedicated service, Operations Manger Joe Kinnan will be retiring at the end of the year and Miles Duffy will take over the duties of Operations Manager.

Your cooperative is a proud member of these fine organizations



## Capital Credit Retirements

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During our October board meeting your Board of Directors authorized the retirement of approximately \$835,000 in capital credit allocations back to the membership.

The \$835,000 represents retiring all the 1998-1999 operating margin allocation from Tri-State Generation & Transmission and all the 2008 operating margin allocation from Wyrulec.

If you were a member of the cooperative in 1998, 1999, or 2008 you should be receiving a check in the mail the first part of December!

### 2021 Operating Year

I have started to put the 2021 annual operating and capital budget together for the board to look at and give approval.

The Wyrulec board will look at the first draft of the budget in November and then again in December for final approval.

This year's budget process has been a little more challenging than in the past. When COVID-19 initially hit back in March we saw our oil & gas load decrease 60 percent, which is substantial for our co-op.

This load seems to be regaining some of its momentum, but we are a long way from normal. However, we did realize one of our largest irrigation seasons due to the lack of moisture and extreme heat this summer, which has helped

our margins going into the last quarter of the year.

When I input the oil and gas projections and normalize the irrigation season for 2021, it reflects the need for a rate increase or the use of deferred revenue to meet our financial goals. This is something we will need to keep on the radar as we move into the 2021 operating year.

We also completed a cost of service study earlier this year with the intent to look at each rate class and make sure that each rate class is providing their fair share of revenues to the co-op based on the costs allocated to them.

Doing this does not increase margins to the co-op, but it does adjust rates for each rate class up or down based on their return to the co-op.

Due to the timing of Covid, loss of oil & gas load, and the irregular irrigation season, the board decided to hold off on any relocation of rates at this time. We will take another look at this process later in 2021 to see if any action is required.

On a positive note, the Tri-State board of directors set a goal to reduce wholesale rates by eight percent by the end of 2023. How this will affect Wyrulec exactly is unknown at this time, but it will absolutely be a positive move in the right direction for the membership and is very good timing for our company.

### Construction Projects

In addition to our normal maintenance and work plan projects, we completed several large additions to the cooperative.

We completed construction of 5.5 miles of new transmission and distribution line to feed the new ONEOK Meriden II pumping station located west of LaGrange. The new line replaces line that has served that area for over 50 years. This was a great project for our cooperative and will bring reliability to that area for several years to come.

In addition to the new line, we also completed the construction of the new ONEOK Meriden II Substation. This substation was built to serve up to 10 megawatts and is now the largest substation on our system.

In the Ft. Laramie area, we completed the expansion of the Plains Pipeline Substation and energized the new Bridger Pipeline Substation.



## Construction Projects

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Also in Ft. Laramie, we added new regulators and a new transformer in our Ft. Laramie Rural Substation, which will allow us to switch our loads between Guernsey and Ft.

Laramie, providing redundancy to those members.

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](mailto:rschilreff@wyrulec.com).

feeling chilled?  
**HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY**

\* Thomas Smith \*

Safe Electricity.org

1. Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away
2. Place on a flat, level surface
3. Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked
4. Plug it directly into an outlet
5. Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab
6. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat
7. Do not use around small children or pets
8. Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

\* Jerry Belbert \*

## Four Ways Santa Saves Energy

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop — how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.



Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's

able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.



Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys.

That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov), if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of

electricity could be saved — that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!



Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.



Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

# Electrical Safety Activity



The holiday season is a festive time of year! Remember to keep electrical and fire safety in mind as you decorate your home.

*Can you find the four hazards in the home below?  
Use the safety tips for clues.*

## Electrical Safety Tips:

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or appliances.
- Never leave a candle burning if you're not in the room.
- Make sure your tree is watered daily.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should be checked for fraying/damaged or exposed wires.

