



## NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY.

**APRIL 10, 2017**

### Lives on the Line

**E**very year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Eight lineworkers maintain 1,306 miles of line in Big Horn REA's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Big Horn running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!

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#### DID YOU KNOW

***Your new appliance may be eligible for a rebate!***  
***Call us to find out more.***

#### IRRIGATORS

- Be sure to read page 4.***
- Return your Irrigation Instruction Form.***
- Annual Horsepower Charge billed this month.***

# Burning Poles - NO!!

## Fire and Power Poles a Dangerous Combination

**E**ach spring, several of Big Horn REA's power poles are inadvertently set on fire by people conducting debris burns.

And according to Line Superintendent Kendal Wambeke, the problem seems to be on the rise. "It seems to be occurring more frequently over the last couple of years. We are getting more reports of burnt poles all the time."

For durability through extreme weather events, power poles used by Big Horn REA are treated with a preservative known to be highly resistant to rot. Wambeke says they are also, however, highly flammable. "If fire reaches one of these poles,

there's no stopping it. Our crews, along with various fire departments, have to respond several times each year." Just as it's essential to have power lines located before digging in the ground, Wambeke says it is equally important to be aware of the location of power poles and overhead lines on or near your property. "They're expensive to replace, and when you add labor costs of installation and restoration from power outages that might occur, you have a pricey situation for members and all concerned." Members are reminded that they will be billed for the cost of replacing poles they are responsible for burning.



A big thank you to those members who attended our Annual Meeting! As our newsletter deadline was before the Annual Meeting, you will find meeting news and photos in next month's Highlights!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



**Dishwasher Efficiency Tip:** Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

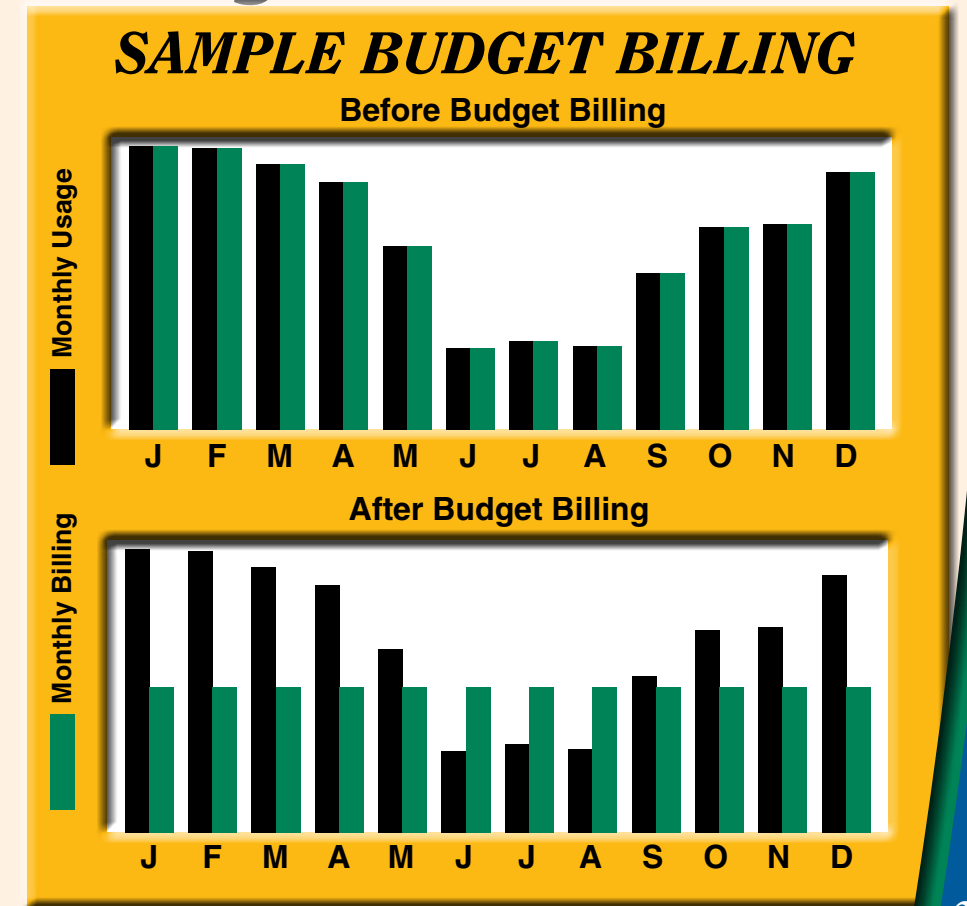
Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

## Balance Your Budget and Your Time

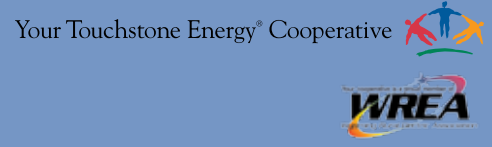
**B**ig Horn Rural Electric realizes how busy life can get for our members. We would like to remind you of the convenient billing and payment option we have available that may help you balance your budget and your time.

**Budget Billing - Pay the same amount every month.** During the months of **April, May and June** you can sign up to take part in our budget billing program. The idea behind budget billing is to average your high usage bills with low usage bills. Big Horn will need at least twelve months of usage history before enrolling a member in this program.

April 2017 Highlights



# Important Information for Irrigators



**If** you have not mailed in your 2017 Irrigation Instruction Form, Big Horn needs this information as soon as possible. If the form is not returned, we will assume you **DO NOT** want the irrigation service energized. When completing the Total Horsepower section, please be aware that this includes not only the motor, but end guns and wheel motors as well. A minimum charge will be billed on all irrigation services in place whether they are energized or not. The non-use minimum is the greater of \$26.00 per horsepower or \$200.00 which will be billed in April – you will receive this bill the first part of May. **REMINDER** – all irrigation bills are expected to be paid the month you receive the bill. Any delinquent irrigation accounts will be required to pay a deposit in order to keep the electric service.

required efficiency standards. You can receive up to \$8 per horsepower for an energy efficient electric motor. If the electric motor is used to replace a fossil-fueled engine or is a new installation, you can receive an additional \$1.50 per horsepower for wiring assistance. An energy credit application must be completed and an invoice or bill of sale is required. The rebate must be applied for within 120 days of installation. For more information, contact the Basin office at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419.



## Energy Credits

Big Horn Rural Electric Company would like to inform our members that we give rebates for electric motors that meet the

## HIGHLIGHTS

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**BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY**

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For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**  
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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