

July 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



BIG HORN REA OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED JULY 4TH – HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

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Manager’s Message

At the board meeting on May 28th, Big Horn scheduled the next upcoming three board meetings to be held in our service areas (see dates/places/time posted below).

It is our job to educate and inform our members about the operations of our cooperative. By attending you will learn about such things as: issues impacting your cost of power; financial position of the cooperative; and construction plans. The meetings are a great opportunity to also meet your board members and ask questions.

Every once in a while someone will ask “what does the cooperative do for me”? This is not a difficult question to answer. One of our goals is to provide reliable power. In the year of 2013, each member was out of power only an average of four hours during the entire year. That is a 99.95% reliability standard. When there is an outage, Big Horn’s skilled lineman and office personnel respond quickly and are there to see that your power is restored in the quickest and safest manner possible. In 2013, Big Horn refunded \$675,000.00 in cash as refunds towards capital credits. That means Big Horn has refunded over \$2,500,000.00 in the past 10 years. Big Horn still provides a line construction cost contribution towards every new permanent service. Big Horn provides safety demonstrations

to such organizations as schools and fire departments. Big Horn funds scholarships and leadership camp opportunities to area youths through unclaimed capital credits. Big Horn purchases fair animals from 4H participants and the processed animals are award as “meat bundle” door prizes at the annual meeting. Through the Co-op Connections program, which is available to every member, Big Horn has saved our members \$24,108.37 on prescriptions alone. Through Big Horn REA, the Big Horn REA Roundup Foundation was founded in 1999 and to date has given over \$50,000 to worthwhile organizations and individuals. Of course, this is not everything that Big Horn does for its members, but it certainly shows there is value in being a member of Big Horn REA.

I trust that you will see through the above mentioned items that you, your family, your neighbor, and your community benefit from what Big Horn REA does for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

- Upcoming District Board Meetings
- Lunch 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm
- June 25 Deaver Community Hall
- July 30 – Meeteetse Senior Center
- August 27 – Hyattville Community Center

EPA Regulation FAQ - Coal

On June 2, the EPA rolled out more regulations that will add to the price of electricity and threaten the power plants we rely on. These regulations will have serious consequences for our communities, jobs and families. It's time for the second half of this fight.

What are the details of EPA regulations?

- On June 2 the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington (EPA) unveiled a rule to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from fossil-fuel based generation by 30 percent by 2030 when compared to 2005 levels. The rule is expected to be finalized next summer with compliance required between 2020 and 2030.
- These rules will have little positive impact on climate change and will increase electricity costs for many Americans. By effectively cutting coal out of the equation, they will also reduce the reliability of our power supply and could force some plants to shut down.

What is the impact of EPA regulations on our power supply?

- The likely result will be higher electric bills for you and your family or business as we see the low-cost option of coal reduced or eliminated.

What is the impact of EPA regulations on the price of electricity?

- The likely result will be higher electric bills for you and your family or business.

What about the impact of the EPA regulations on the jobs in our communities?

- These regulations on coal-fired power plants will increase costs for businesses, which could result in significant job losses.

What can you do to help fight these EPA regulations?

- To combat the EPA's aggressive new regulations, we're asking co-op members across the country to join together and tell Washington not to impose these regulations on existing coal-fired power plants and to keep energy costs low for hard-working consumers and their families.
- We're asking you, your friends and neighbors to add your voice by signing one of the comment cards available in our office or at the www.Action.coop website.

How will our Action Cards and www.action.coop website help you?

- By sending in your comments, you are letting the EPA know that greenhouse gas regulations are going to hurt hard-working Americans who can't afford higher electricity bills. New regulations will affect our families, communities and our nation's economy.
- By standing together, we can keep our access to affordable, reliable energy, and support job creation and economic growth in our community.

How is the progress of our campaign?

- Already, America's rural electric co-ops have sent more than 500,000 comments to the EPA from Americans like you concerned about access to affordable and reliable energy.
- We can't afford to rest for a minute in our mission to make sure electric cooperatives are heard on these monumental EPA regulatory efforts. I'm asking you to join the process right now as we mobilize for another round of comments to EPA. One million comments is well within our reach.

How do you send your own comments to the EPA?

- Signing up and speaking out against these new, costly regulations is easy. Just go to www.action.coop and sign up. Or if it's easier, come in to our co-op and fill out an action card.

What if you have already signed up?

- The EPA's existing plants rule could threaten affordability, jeopardize reliability and endanger American jobs. It's vital that we quickly shift gears and turn our focus to the looming existing plants rule so that our members have a voice and we can help turn the lights on in Washington. Together, we can send another strong message to the EPA and tell them to keep their hands off of the affordable and reliable electricity that co-ops provide to millions of Americans.

Who can send comments to the EPA?

• It's critical to spread the word about this campaign and recruit fellow consumers, members, friends and family to send a clear message opposing the EPA's new plans to regulate power plants. Together, we'll stand up for our right to affordable and reliable power.

• The window to comment on the EPA's new rules is limited. Those on the other side of the issue are making their voices heard.

your voice heard is by getting in the game and taking action. Sitting on the sidelines ensures that the rules will take effect without your input.



What if I believe that my voice will not make a difference?

• If you think you're too small to make a difference, think about sleeping in a tent with a mosquito.
 • Every single comment card grows the number of voices and strengthens the message to the EPA. Join us and take action.

I won't sign a card because the EPA will ignore my voice anyway...

Get involved.

For more information, visit: www.action.coop

Name _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____



Grain Bins: Harvesting Safety

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At Big Horn REA, safety is top priority for all—our employees and our members.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations. Grain bins are siloed spaces built for storing grain and fermented feed known as silage. These bins play an integral role in the efficiency and profitability of farm and ranch operations, and safety regulations should always be considered when working around these structures.

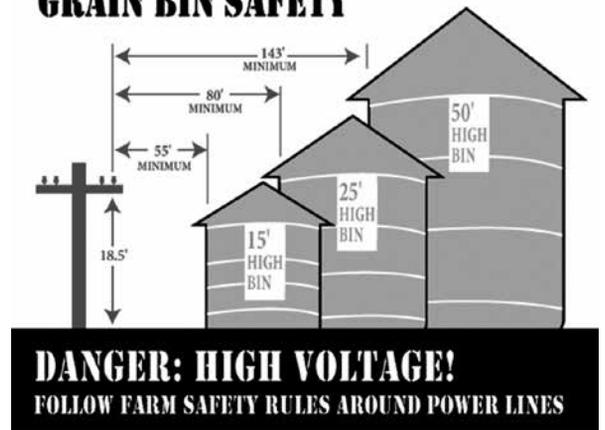
Whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that

contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

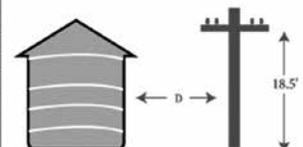
Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

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GRAIN BIN SAFETY



Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.



*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22kV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

PSC Inspection

McCollom Visits Big Horn REA

Recently, Perry McCollom, with the Wyoming Public Service Commission visited Big Horn Rural Electric Company as part of an inspection process that each co-op undergoes. While he was at Big Horn REA, McCollom reviewed inspection forms and meter tests, as well as projects in the Greybull, Lovell and Meeteetse areas.

Journeyman Lineman Colton Whisonant discusses a recloser pole with Perry McCollom of the Wyoming PSC.



Grain Bins: Harvesting Safety *continued from 3*

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why Big Horn REA reminds you to always use caution when

working near power lines. If you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Big Horn REA at 800-564-2419 and let us assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Replacing your conventional power strips with advanced power strips (APS) can help reduce the electricity wasted when electronic devices are idle. These power strips are a convenient and low-cost way to save.

Source: Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS

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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.