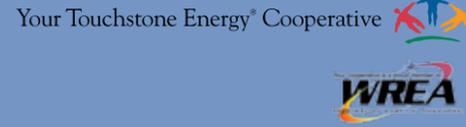


Manager's Message



At the board meeting on May 27th, Big Horn scheduled three upcoming board meetings to be held in our service areas (see related article).

you need a new service or an upgrade, please contact us well in advance of the date you need the power. Not only is there paper work to complete such as easement, deposit, and electrical permit, there is also the time frame to coordinate your project with oth-

ers that have already requested service. Further, Big Horn crews must still do necessary line building/maintenance for general system improvements.

Have a great summer and please make SAFETY one of your goals and a habit.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption by between 5 and 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

These district meetings are made with you the member/owner in mind. That is, it is your opportunity to become involved with the company you own by coming and learning what issues have an impact on Big Horn. At the meeting, you will: be able to ask questions of your directors; get a great meal; and have a chance to win a door prize. There are very few companies that you deal with and pay bills to every month that are "open" to you the member/owner. Please attend and take advantage – we hope to see you there.

Summer is a busy time, so if

HIGHLIGHTS

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BIG HORN RURAL
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Carrie Hunt Ron Tilley
Sheila Kampbell Kendal Wambeke
Bill Phillips

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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HIGHLIGHTS

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Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com



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GMD's and EMP's



What are they and how do they impact me?

A Geomagnetic Disturbance (GMD) is a temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetosphere. GMD's are caused by naturally occurring solar events; when the sun emits streams of charged particles that interact with the Earth's magnetic field. The phenomenon is also known as a solar flare, solar storm or geomagnetic storm.

Electromagnetic Pulses (EMP's) are generated by man-made sources and are much

rarer than GMD's. The most likely cause of a large EMP occurrence would be the result of a high-altitude detonation of a nuclear weapon. Small EMP sources can be built, but their typical effective range is only about 20 or 30 feet.

Electronic devices such as TV's, cell phones, computers and the nation's electric power system can be impacted by both GMD's and EMP's.

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DID YOU KNOW

Did you know non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination?

CLOSED

Big Horn REA offices will be closed July 3rd — Happy Independence Day!



Continued from Page 1

TRI-STATE G&T'S RESPONSE

Big Horn REA's power provider is Tri-State Generation & Transmission (Tri-State G & T) located in Denver, Colorado. Tri-State has been very proactive in protecting our power system from the effects of GMD's and EMP's.

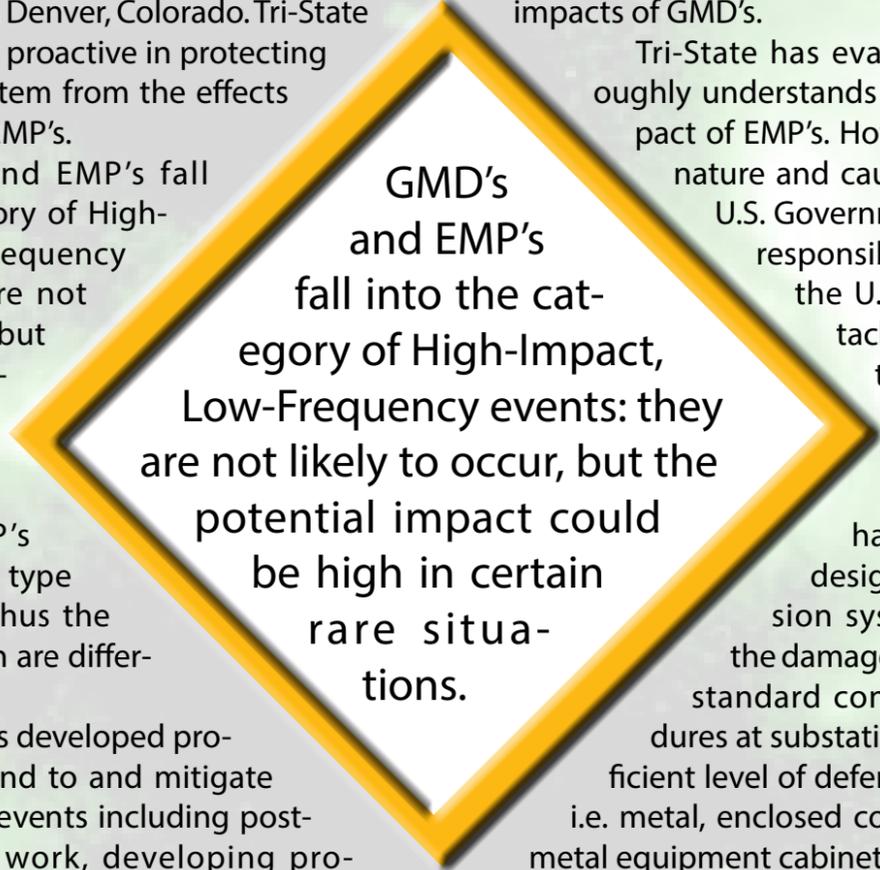
GMD's and EMP's fall into the category of High-Impact, Low-Frequency events: they are not likely to occur, but the potential impact could be high in certain rare situations. GMD's and EMP's are not the same type of disturbance, thus the responses to each are different.

Tri-State has developed procedures to respond to and mitigate impacts of GMD events including postponing routine work, developing procedures to return the system to its normal state, removing shunt reactors, and modifying transformer protective relaying. They are also

working alongside the electric power industry and equipment manufacturers to design power system equipment that is more resistant to the impacts of GMD's.

Tri-State has evaluated and thoroughly understands the potential impact of EMP's. However, due to the nature and causes of EMP's, the U.S. Government is ultimately responsible for defending the U.S. from these attacks, especially EMP threats that result from nuclear detonation. While Tri-State has not specifically designed its transmission system to mitigate the damage caused by EMP's, standard construction procedures at substations provide a sufficient level of defense in most cases, i.e. metal, enclosed control houses and metal equipment cabinets.

In Tri-State's sixty-plus year history, no GMD or EMP events have caused issues on the Tri-State system.



OUTAGES ARE UNAVOIDABLE

Outages are unavoidable in electric utility systems. Overhead distribution wires will break as automobile drivers' crash into wooden utility poles, or from the weight of ice on lines during winter storms. Wind can blow tree branches into lines, which will short circuit the distribution line, causing fuses or reclosers to interrupt the electric current. Distribution transformers or high-voltage switchgear will sometimes fail. Mother Nature will cast her spell on the weather and lightning or hail will cause problems. For these reasons, no reasonable utility will guarantee continuous electricity to its customers. Rules and regulations approved by the Wyoming Public Service Commission, and part of the membership agreement with members specify that the utility is not liable for damage caused by outages, except for "gross negligence" on Big Horn REA's part.



Will the co-op pay for food that spoils?

Unless the outage was caused by negligence on Big Horn Rural Electric's part, our insurance will not pay for food that might spoil due to electric service interruptions. Food in a chest freezer will keep for 72 hours if you do not open the freezer frequently. You can also place heavy blankets on the freezer to slow defrost.

Will the co-op pay for damage to appliances, electronic equipment or other personal property damaged in a power loss or during power restoration?

Again, unless the outage was caused by negligence on Big Horn Rural Electric's part, our insurance company will not pay for damage. Following a storm, it's possible that service restored in one spot could be temporarily impacted by work elsewhere, including an accident or emergency condition that requires us to temporarily turn power off at the request of police or fire. We encourage customers to consider precautions, such as unplugging, turning off or limiting use of electronically sensitive and/or non-essential appliances.

Take Precaution

Homeowners can protect digital electronics with surge suppressors. As the term implies, these devices suppress a fluctuating power supply by diverting excess voltage to a ground wire. There are several types of whole-house surge suppressors available, although none of them are able to fully stand up to the enormous power spike caused by lightning.

"It's important to remember that many of your devices may be connected to other outlets, like satellite, cable, phone, and Internet lines," Kendal Wambeke, Line Superintendent, adds. "Surge protectors are available with options to protect these conduits as well. And make sure the manufacturer guarantees to cover the cost of replacing any damaged equipment that was attached."

THREE PHASE PUMP OWNERS

From Kendal Wambeke, Line Superintendent

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"Three phase pump owners: do your pump motors a favor. Have a motor saver installed on your control panels to prevent motors from trying to run on load imbalance caused by Mother Nature: lighting, high winds, trees, etc. Any kind of imbalance can happen - from power outages to a loose connection at the disconnect and all the way to the motor itself.

Just a reminder before trying to start the system, turn off the disconnect and check out the control panel and motor for any problems first. It will save you time and money in the long run."

DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

Join Your Board of Directors for Lunch

Big Horn REA will be holding District Board Meetings for our members in the Shell, Ten Sleep and Lovell areas this summer. One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected.

A delicious lunch will be served from 12:00 pm -

12:45 pm. The meeting will be conducted from 12:45 pm - 1:15 pm. Several door prizes will be drawn for during the meeting. Be sure to watch for the invite in your mailbox if you live in one of these areas.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to visit with your board members.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

June 24th
Shell

July 29th
Ten Sleep

August 26th
Lovell