

August 2011

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your cooperative is a proud member of
WREA
Western Rural Electric Association



Ensuring Safe, Reliable Power to our Members

Pole Testing Program Vital to Improving System

Big Horn REA's commitment to provide safe, reliable power to our members includes an aggressive pole testing and replacement program. These

programs are vital to maintaining and improving our system.

Big Horn's goal is to have poles tested annually for damage or decay. We have contracted with

Independent Inspection Company to perform testing on approximately 600 transmission poles in the Basin, Bonanza, Greybull and Shell areas and approximately 400 distribution poles in the Meeteetse area.

Next, a core sample is drilled from the butt of the pole below



A pole inspector hammer tests a pole to ensure there is no pole rot.

Independent Inspection Company to perform testing on approximately 600 transmission poles in the Basin, Bonanza, Greybull and Shell areas and approximately 400 distribution poles in the Meeteetse area.



An inspector drills for a core sample on a pole.

This project is slated to begin August 8, 2011.

During a pole test, the pole is given a visual inspection for obvious damage. Fire, lightning or sharp objects being inserted in the pole can

ground level. These samples reveal if there has been any decay on the inside of the pole. Corrosion of this type could lead to broken poles during high winds or storms.

It is important for anything connected to the pole to be inspected as well. This includes transformers, insulators and guy wires. Also, the distance between the wires and the ground is measured to ensure clearance standards are met.

Independent Inspection Company marks each pole that needs to

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From the Manager's Desk

During the past several months Big Horn REA has incurred numerous outages. Most of the outages have been weather related due to snows, extreme winds and flooding. There have been: two transmission poles break due to wind; moved transmission poles to avoid being washed out from flooding; five distribution poles were washed out; several poles moved to avoid being washed out; disconnected services due to flooding; and trees washed out and tore down power lines. These are just some of the things the crews had to contend with to restore and maintain power.

Big Horn REA serves a 3,100 square mile service territory. We provide service to 3,500 accounts through 1,296 miles of overhead and underground lines. Big Horn is committed and works diligently to maintain and upgrade our electric system in order to provide system reliability.

I would like to commend our entire line crew and office employees for their efforts in trying to restore service as efficiently, quickly and safely as possible.

Thanks for being a member of Big Horn REA and your understanding and patience during these recent outages.

Safety. . . . We Can't Stress It Enough

Nearly every month we talk about safety in this newsletter, whether it be safety demonstrations, or reminders to take the time to look up or call before you begin digging when working outside. We do this as a service to you, our member/owners. We want to keep you safe.

In recent months, we have had several separate incidents of consumers or contractors coming into contact with our power lines. Thankfully no one has been injured, but any one of these contacts could have been potentially life threatening.

Also, with the severe weather comes the potential for live power

er lines to end up on the ground. We'd like to remind you to treat every power line as if it is energized and stay as far away from the line as possible. Contact us so our linemen can fix the line as soon as possible.

"While we know this is a busy time of year and people are trying to get a lot done, don't let safety slide - people get in a hurry and accidents happen," states Line Superintendent Jeff Stocklin. "Big Horn REA reminds all consumers and contractors to take the time to look up for power lines and also make sure to check for underground lines while working this summer."

Pole Testing Program

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be replaced and provides Big Horn with a complete pole report. This report gives Big Horn the opportunity to prioritize and schedule a time to replace the weakened poles before they create major problems or outages. If a pole poses an immediate danger, Big Horn is notified at once.

Pole Replacements

Big Horn tries to replace identified poles within a year. Once the poles have been located, new pole structures are assembled and placed near the old poles. Digger trucks are used to set the poles. The bucket trucks are used to work with the wire while it is energized, eliminating the need for an outage.

As some of the poles are located near the highway right-of-way, Big Horn would like to remind its members to look for the orange safety signs and cones that tell you when utility work is being done in an area. Please use caution when approaching the work zone as there are digger trucks, line trucks and several linemen near the highway.



The inspector then inputs a GPS location for the pole that has been inspected.

FLOODING!!



Property near Greybull was the victim of Greybull River flooding.



Vehicles under water near Greybull.



The creek in Ten Sleep canyon tried its best to wash out this pole.



This road is completely under water near Shell.



Near Shell.



Another pole in danger.

2011 Upcoming Events:

- July 31 - August 7**
Big Horn Co. Fair, Basin
- August 1-6**
Washakie Co. Fair, Worland
- August 12-14**
Nowoodstock, Ten Sleep
- August 13**
Hands Across the Saddle,
Wilford Brimley Arena,
Greybull
- August 13-20**
Wyoming State Fair,
Douglas
- August 19**
Heart Mountain Interment
Camp Learning Center
Dedication
- September 3-5**
Meeteetse 99th Annual Labor
Day Celebration

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...
Upcoming District Board Meetings

We have had great attendance at the meetings held so far in Deaver and Ten Sleep! Thank you to all who have turned out! One of the benefits of belonging to a cooperative is local access to the Board of Directors that you have elected.

There is one meeting remaining. In **August**, the meeting will be held at the Shell Hall on August 31st. Look for the invite in your mailbox.

Hamburgers will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held from 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm. Two \$75 bill credits will be drawn for from members in attendance.

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

HIGHLIGHTS

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Staff and Crew

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Warren Adams | Bill Phillips |
| Todd Herman | Fred Sherburne |
| Carrie Hunt | Gael Sosa |
| Dan Johnson | Jeff Stocklin |
| Sheila Kampbell | Kendal Wambeke |
| Floyd Mitchell | |
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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).



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third—and water costs by more than half—by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy