

February 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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



Big Horn REA offices
will be closed
February 18th in
observance of
Presidents
Day.



Manager's Message A New Year Brings New Challenges

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year's Day! The new year of 2013 will bring challenges and opportunities for your electric cooperative which will be effectively evaluated and decisions/actions taken for the best interest of the cooperative. I want to assure you, the member/owners that our dedicated team of directors and employees are committed to providing you with reliable electric energy and quality customer service. We sincerely appreciate working for the member/owners.

In 2013 our crews will be performing just some of the following: replacing/upgrading transmission lines and facilities; replacing poles that have

been tested and failed structural integrity standards; performing infrared review of all substations; right of way maintenance involving tree removal; and building of lines to new services. Our mission will be to continually upgrade the system's infrastructure and to maintain our lines and facilities to help minimize outages.

To learn more of what your cooperative is doing and involved with, I invite you to attend your upcoming annual meeting on March 9, 2013. It is also an opportunity to vote for directors and become more informed of the electric industry. Hope to see you at the annual meeting and if you have questions please stop by or give me a call.

Capital Credit Refund Checks Will Be Available at Annual Meeting

One of the cooperative principles that make Big Horn Rural Electric Company a cooperative form of business entity is Members' Economic Participation. Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Big Horn was established to provide at cost electric service. Our net margin above expenses and reserves belongs to the members and are called capital credits. These capital credits are reinvested in poles, wire and other elements of our system for a period of time before they are refunded to the members.

At the December 21, 2012 board meeting, Big Horn's directors approved a refund of capital credits to the membership. Refund checks will be handed out to members that attend the Annual Meeting scheduled for March 9, 2013 in Greybull. Those members that are unable to attend will receive their refund checks by mail after the meeting. Checks will be issued to those members who received power from Big Horn during years yet to be determined. Check your newsletter next month to find out the years to be refunded. *(continued on page 3)*

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NOTICE OF ADJUSTMENT TO RETAIL RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2013	Current Approved Rate	Tri-State A-37 Adjustment 1/1/13	Rates Effective 1/1/13 TOTAL
SMALL GENERAL SERVICE (SGS)			
Basic Charge 1-Phase	\$27.50	\$0.00	\$27.50
Basic Charge 3-Phase	\$37.50	\$0.00	\$37.50
First 1,000 kWh/Month	\$.09565	\$.00058	\$.09623
Over 1,000 kWh/Month	\$.08165	\$.00458	\$.08623
SMALL TIME OF USE (STU)			
Basic Charge 1-Phase	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
Basic Charge 15kVA	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00
Energy Charge May - Aug:			
First 1,000 kWh/Month	\$.09565	\$.00058	\$.09623
Over 1,000 kWh/Month	\$.08165	\$.00458	\$.08623
Energy Charge Sep - Apr:			
On-Peak kWh	\$.12049	(\$0.1324)	\$.10725
Off-Peak kWh	\$.03645	\$.03738	\$.07383
MEDIUM GENERAL SERVICE (MGS)			
Basic Charge	\$47.50	\$0.00	\$47.50
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.10993	(\$0.0282)	\$.10711
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.07713	\$.00998	\$.08711
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$.03270	\$.02441	\$.05711
LARGE GENERAL SERVICE - COMMERCIAL LARGE (LGS)			
Basic Charge	\$47.50	\$0.00	\$47.50
Billing kW	\$5.80	\$0.30	\$6.10
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.08836	(\$0.0152)	\$.08684
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.06836	\$.00348	\$.07184
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$.03090	\$.01594	\$.04684
IRRIGATION (IRR)			
Annual HP Charge	\$19.50	(\$0.50)	\$19.00
First 150 kWh/HP/Month	\$.09124	\$.00170	\$.09294
Next 150 kWh/HP/Month	\$.07391	\$.00903	\$.08294
Over 300 kWh/HP/Month	\$.03589	\$.02205	\$.05794
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL/LARGE POWER (CI)			
Basic Charge	\$90.00	\$10.00	\$100.00
Billing kW	\$5.25	\$0.15	\$5.40
First 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.09815	(\$0.00504)	\$.09311
Next 200 kWh/kW/Month	\$.07815	(\$0.00004)	\$.07811
Over 400 kWh/kW/Month	\$.03074	\$.01737	\$.04811
LIGHTING			
SECURITY LIGHT RENTAL (RSL)			
175 Watt MVL – 80kWh	\$10.04	\$.06	\$10.10
100 Watt HPS – 40kWh	\$10.04	\$.06	\$10.10
STREET & HIGHWAY LIGHTING (SL)			
75 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$7.40	(\$0.23)	\$7.17
175 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$10.04	\$.06	\$10.10
250 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$15.17	\$.23	\$15.40
400 Watt Mercury Vapor	\$20.52	\$.48	\$21.00
150 Watt Incandescent	\$8.00	(\$0.83)	\$7.17
200 Watt Incandescent	\$9.58	\$.52	\$10.10
100 Watt High Pressure Sodium	\$9.12	\$.98	\$10.10
250 Watt High Pressure Sodium	\$18.74	\$2.26	\$21.00

Put Money in Your Pocket with Rebates

We would love to give you some money!

Earn extra savings! When you upgrade to energy efficient equipment in your home, you'll help lower your electric bill and qualify for rebates.

Rebates are available on Energy Star refrigerators and freezers, clothes washers, dishwashers, heat pumps, electric water heaters and air conditioners. In order to qualify, you must be a member of Big

Horn Rural Electric, *you must let us know of your purchase within 180 days*, the appliance must be installed in a location served by Big Horn Rural Electric, the appliance must be Energy Star or qualifying model and we will need a copy of the receipt. You may find Energy Star qualified appliances at www.energystar.gov.

Once you have made your

purchase, give us a call! It's just that simple. We will gather some basic information, have you mail us a copy of your receipt and we will submit the rebate form to Tri-State G & T (our power supplier). Tri-State will process the request and send Big Horn Rural Electric a check. Big Horn will then match Tri-State's amount and in turn, send you, the member, a check.

TRI-STATE REBATE AMOUNTS

- Heat pumps** - \$85 - \$150 per ton; \$150 additional per Energy Star unit
- Water heaters** - \$50 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for lifetime tank warranty; \$25 per unit additional for low wattage elements. Super Efficient Unit - (primary heating by direct exchange ground source or air-source heat pump) - \$100 per unit; \$25 per unit additional for life time tank warranty
- Air Conditioners** - \$150 per unit Energy Star rated air-conditioners 3 tons and over
- Refrigerators** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated refrigerators
- Freezers** - \$40 per unit for full size Energy Star rated freezers
- Clothes Washers** - \$40 per unit for Energy Star rated clothes washers
- Dishwashers** - \$30 per unit for Energy Star dishwashers
- Electric Motors** - \$8 per horsepower for premium efficiency motors; minimum 10 horsepower

Capital Credit Refund Checks *(continued from page 1)*

Registration for the Annual Meeting will begin at 9:45 a.m. There will be displays featuring new and innovative energy products. Members will be able to visit with directors, employees and one another until the business session begins at 11 a.m. The business session will include information on the cooperative's financial status, speeches from director candidates, presentation from our power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission, and door prizes. We will be giving away a \$50 energy bill credit to one

member from each of our five districts and the grand prize of a \$250 energy bill credit.

There will be some great registration gifts. A meal of roast beef au jus, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls and dessert will be served at noon.

During the meeting you will elect one director to represent you on the board. The 2013 Nominating Committee has nominated Tom Delaney as candidate for Directorate District # 2

- Greybull, Shell area and John Joyce as candidate for Directorate District #3 - Ten Sleep, Hyattville areas.

Big Horn's board members, employees, and Annual Meeting Committee members are dedicated to bringing you and your family an interesting and informative meeting. We are counting on you to make this annual meeting a success. Be sure to read the March issue of *HIGHLIGHTS* for more details.

Co-op Connections

Don't forget to use your Co-op Connections card when you pick up your prescriptions! To date, our members have saved almost \$20,000 on prescriptions alone, just by showing the pharmacist their Co-op Connections card when filling a prescription. Be sure to take advantage of this co-op membership perk!

Co-op Connections® Card



\$19,284.99 saved

If you've misplaced your card and would like a new one, please call our office at 1-800-564-2419

Stay Warm and Save Energy this Winter

On top of staying warm throughout the winter months, a lot of people worry about saving money and energy. According to a poll by the Consumer Reports National Research Center, four out of 10 consumers are worried about money this winter season.

The average family spends \$2,024 a year on energy; nearly half of that goes towards heating and cooling costs. Stay warm and save energy with these helpful winter tips:

- Pick smarter lightbulbs. Light your home more efficiently with compact CFL bulbs or light-emitting diodes (LEDs).
- Check furnace filters. Be sure to clean or replace your heating and cooling system's air filter. At a minimum change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Is your home alone most of the day? Programmable thermostats can knock up to 10 percent off heating bills with the ability to automatically turn temperatures down 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours a day.
- Insulate water heaters and pipes. Wrap water pipes connected to the water heater with foam, and insulate the water heater, too. To save about \$75 annually, consider lowering the water heater temperature from 130 degrees to 120.
- Bundle up your home. The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Use an incense stick to spot air leaks. When it's windy outside, hold a lit incense stick near your windows, doors, and electrical outlets. If the smoke blows sideways, you've got a leak that should be plugged with weather-stripping, caulk, or expandable foam.
- Use a low-flow showerhead. About 14 percent of your energy bill funds water heating. Low-flow showerheads can minimize water use by up to 50 percent—a helpful change, especially when extended family members visit for the holidays.

Want more ways to save? Take the home energy savings tour and see how little changes add up to big savings at www.TogetherWeSave.com.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

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).