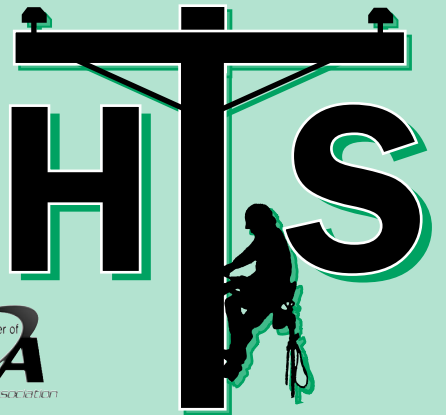


July 2010

# HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## 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 900 transmission poles in the Emblem, Shell, Lovell and Ten Sleep areas.

A pole inspector drills for a core sample on a pole.



*continued on Page 2*

## From the Manager's Desk

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is proud to be a rural electric power cooperative. Being a member of a cooperative has many advantages.

One of those advantages is cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by members, who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. Big Horn's board of directors is comprised of its members and is selected by the membership. Big Horn's directors continue to make themselves accessible to our members by bringing the board meeting to the members. In 2010, the tentative district board meetings will be as follows: June 30 - Meeteetse High School; July 28 - Hyattville Community Center; August 25 - Deaver Community Hall; and in September a meeting will be scheduled in Burlington. Notices of the meeting stating the time, date and place will be sent to all members in the particular district. So please make plans to attend the district meeting in your area. Lunch will be provided and two \$75.00 energy credits will be awarded at each meeting. We look forward to seeing our members at these meetings.

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## Pole Testing

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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 damage the protective coating that the poles are treated with. This allows moisture to enter the core of the pole and deterioration to begin.

Next, a core sample is drilled from the butt of the pole below 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, line conductor and guy wires.

Independent Inspection Company marks each pole that needs to

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



Visual inspection is needed to find damage on the surface of the pole.

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.

### **2010 Upcoming Events:**

**July 10**

Byron Day - Byron

**July 23-24**

Cowley Pioneer Days -  
Cowley

**July 27-31**

Park County Fair

**August 2 - 8**

Big Horn County Fair

**August 2 - 7**

Washakie County Fair

**August 13 - 15**

"Nowoodstock" Music

Festival - Ten Sleep

**August 14 - 21**

Wyoming State Fair

**July 5, 2010**

**Big Horn REA offices  
closed in observance of  
Independence Day**

## Manager's Message

*continued from Page 1*

Cooperatives also provide education and training for their members, board members, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. The district board meetings is an opportunity for the members to become educated in such things as the construction/maintenance plans of the cooperative; the financial position; and issues that will have an impact on the electric industry and the price you pay for electricity. Big Horn urges you to become knowledgeable about pending issues and has noted one way to become informed is to visit the web site of [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop). To learn more

about Big Horn REA you can go to our web site at [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com).

Big Horn will also be attending the upcoming local parades and celebrations in the communities within our service area. This year we again plan on handing out ice cream sandwiches during the parade.

Big Horn REA is proud to be involved with our local communities and remains committed to providing reliable electric energy with excellent customer service.

The Board of Directors and employees wish all our members a fun and SAFE summer.

# Top 10 Tips to Stay Cool, Save Money

## *Easy and inexpensive solutions for business or home*

### ➤ **Maintain air filters and HVAC equipment**

Well-maintained equipment runs more efficiently, so replace or clean filters as needed and have your air conditioner unit serviced annually.

### ➤ **Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable**

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be. Running the AC at 78°F instead of 72°F can save 6%-18% on your cooling bill.

### ➤ **Draw your drapes**

Keep your blinds, shades and curtains closed on south and west-facing windows during the day to block the heat of direct sunlight.

### ➤ **Stop cool air from escaping**

Cool air can go right out the window. Add weatherstripping on doors and windows and caulk the cracks to keep cool air in and hot air from leaking into your home.

### ➤ **Properly insulate your attic**

Install modern insulation to lower heating and cooling costs. On warm days, attic temperatures can get up to 140°F. In high cooling climates, a radiant barrier installed under the roof deck and/or a continuous ridge and soffit vent can effectively lower attic temperatures.

### ➤ **Plant trees or shrubs for shade**

A good landscaping plan can do wonders. For instance, properly placed trees around the house can save between \$100 and \$250 annually.

### ➤ **Install ceiling fans**

A ceiling fan can make a room feel 6 or 7 degrees cooler while using less energy than a 100-watt light bulb. Run fans only when people are in the room.

### ➤ **Go oven-less at meal time**

Use the microwave, toaster or a counter-top grill, all of

which use less energy than a full-sized oven, when you need to prepare small portions of food.

### ➤ **Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use**

Use multiple-outlet strips so you can turn everything off with one flip of a switch. Leaving a computer on all day can cost about 21 cents per day, or about \$75 per year.

### ➤ **Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)**

Lighting makes up about 10% of home energy costs, and CFLs can save up to 75% of that energy. They also last longer, saving money on replacements.

<http://www.energysavers.gov>

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR...** Upcoming District Board Meetings

July 28 - Hyattville Community Center

August 25 - Deaver Community Center

Lunch

from 11:30am - 12:30pm.

Meeting

from 12:30pm - 1:00pm.



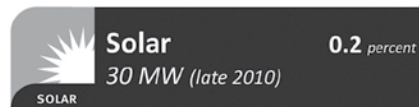
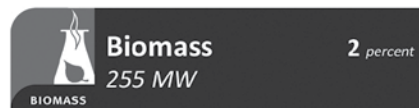
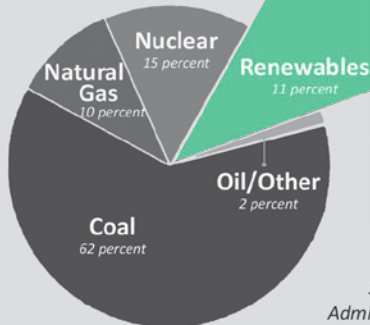


## Electric Cooperatives Focus on Renewable Energy

Electric cooperatives use a diverse mix of fuels to supply members with safe, reliable, and affordable power.

Renewable resources provide 11 percent of cooperative power needs nationwide, as compared to 9 percent for the nation's entire electric utility sector.

### Electric Co-op Power Mix:



Source: NRECA, Rural Utilities Service/U.S. Energy Information Administration 2008 Data; Represents all U.S. electric cooperatives

# HIGHLIGHTS

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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

Heat from sunlight coming through windows and hitting the roof can increase air conditioner use significantly. Use shade trees and shrubs in landscaping design to reduce cooling costs. Block heat in the summer - but let it through in the winter - with deciduous trees, which will lose their leaves in the winter.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy