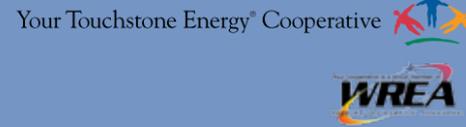


Important Information for Irrigators



If you have not mailed in your 2015 Irrigation Instruction Form, Big Horn needs this information as soon as possible. If the form is not returned, we will assume that you do not want the irrigation service energized. When completing the Total Horsepower section, please be aware that this includes not only the motor, but end guns. A minimum charge will be billed on all irrigation services in place whether they are energized or not. The non-use minimum is the greater of \$21.00 per horsepower or \$200.00 which will be billed in April – you will receive this bill the first part of May. REMINDER – all irrigation bills are expected to be paid the month you receive the bill. Any delinquent irrigation accounts will be required to pay a deposit in order to keep the electric service.

Energy Credits

Big Horn Rural Electric Company would like to inform our members that we give rebates for electric motors that meet the

required efficiency standards. You can receive up to \$16 per horsepower for an energy efficient electric motor. If the electric motor is used to replace a fossil-fueled engine or is a new installation, you can receive an additional \$1.50 per horsepower for wiring assistance. An energy credit application must be completed and an invoice or bill of sale is required. The rebate must be applied for within 180 days of installation. For more information, contact the Basin office at 568-2419 or 800-564-2419.



Staff and Crew

John Balch
Clint Getzfreid
Todd Herman
Carrie Hunt
Sheila Kampbell
Bill Phillips

JD Popkes
Kyle Reimer
Fred Sherburne
Gael Sosa
Ron Tilley
Kendal Wambeke

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.

Board of Directors

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HIGHLIGHTS

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Look for us online @ www.bighornrea.com



April 2015

Some things never change



April 13, 2015

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Pass it along, and help us honor our linemen who keep the lights on!!



Issues of Growing Concern

Fire and Power Poles a Dangerous Combination

Each spring, several of Big Horn REA's power poles are inadvertently set on fire by people conducting debris burns.

And according to Line Superintendent Kendal Wambeke, the problem seems to be on the rise. "It seems to be occurring more frequently over the last couple of years. We are getting more reports of burnt poles all the time."

continued on page 2



INSIDE

- Issues of Growing Concern continued..... 2
- Balance Your Budget 3
- Important Information for Irrigators..... 4

THANK YOU

A big thank you to those members who attended our Annual Meeting! As our newsletter deadline was before the Annual Meeting, you will find meeting news and photos in next month's Highlights!

For durability through extreme weather events, power poles used by Big Horn REA are treated with a preservative known to be highly resistant to rot. Wambeke says they are also, however, highly flammable. "If fire reaches one of these poles, there's no stopping it. Our crews, along with various fire departments, have to respond several times each year." Just as it's essential to have power lines located before digging in the ground, Wambeke says it is equally important to be aware of the location of power poles and overhead lines on or near your property. "They're expensive to replace, and when you add labor costs of installation and restoration from power outages that might occur, you have a pricey situation for members and all concerned." Members are reminded that they will be billed

for the cost of replacing poles they are responsible for burning.

Contact with Power Lines

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 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

continued on page 3

hurry and accidents happen," states Line Superintendent Kendal Wambeke. "Big Horn REA reminds all members and contractors to take the time to look up for power lines and also make sure to check for underground lines while working outside."



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This increases resistance and reduces airflow, which decreases the efficiency of your equipment. Remember to check filters once a month.

Source: EnergySavers.gov



Balance Your Budget and Your Time

Big Horn Rural Electric realizes how busy life can get for our members. We would like to remind you of the convenient billing and payment option we have available that may help you balance your budget and your time.

Budget Billing – Pay the same amount every month. During the months of **April, May and June** you can sign up to take part in our budget billing program. The idea behind budget billing is to average your high usage bills with low usage bills. Big Horn will need at least twelve months of usage history before enrolling a member in this program.

April 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

