



27th year 5th Issue

June 2016

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CO-OP CONNECTIONS LOCAL BUSINESS PARTICIPANTS (CHECK WEBSITE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DISCOUNTS):

- Herren Brothers True Value
- Same As It Once Was
- Country Corner Hair Shop
- Rough and Refined
- Miller Soap Company

Niobrara Electric, together with Tri-State Generation & Transmission, offers many different rebate options to its members. Go to our website www.niobrara-electric.org and look under Services/Products for more information.

Please remember that these incentives are only available for MEMBERS of Niobrara Electric. Members, please remember that units/items must be installed within Niobrara Electric's service territory in order for it to be qualified for an incentive. Also, incentives must be applied for within 180 days of installation of unit/item. If you have any questions regarding rebates or for application of rebates please call NEA and ask for JoAnn.

Motor Rebates...

- Applies to the installation of a new premium efficiency motor with a minimum of 10 horsepower, which is to operate at a minimum of 15% load factor or for a minimum of 3 months each year. Motors less than 10 horsepower qualify if the aggregate for a single application, which requires all motors to operate, is at least 10 horsepower.
- The Member System and Member Customer must certify that the motor is new and neither re-wound or moved from another location.

Water Heater Rebates...

- Program requires a minimum size of 30 gallons capacity.
- Program includes heat pump water heater (unit that utilizes direct exchange from a ground source or air source heat pump).
- Must be Energy Star rated.

Air-Conditioner Rebates...

- Must be Energy star rated.
- Minimum equipment size is 1 tons.

Appliance Rebates...

- Must be Energy Star rated
- Refrigerators and Freezers (must be 7.75 cubic feet or greater)
- Clothes Washers/Dryers
- Dishwasher

Efficiency Standards:

Energy Star Rating - The following Energy Star rating criteria shall be used to qualify split-system air-conditioners for an efficiency incentive. A complete list of qualified equipment is available at www.energystar.gov (Products -> heating and cooling.)



Pole replacement is never ending on our distribution system, as pole damage and deterioration can be mitigated, but not eliminated.

NEA conducts pole testing every Summer to identify and record poles needing replaced. These replacements happen year round as crews are able to schedule the work, but good weather conditions during Summer and Fall spike the hours committed to the process.

According to WY Line Foreman, Jason Fish, 2016 plans are for crews to be diligently working on the replacement of around 150 "rotten" poles, they will also be looking at changing out around 80 "soft" poles and then addressing the 3—4% of our line's standing poles which have been identified as having deformities, like small or split tops.

"It's a lot of maintenance. Dedicating one full crew to the task for the next several months would be ideal. However, as a small Co-op, the manpower doesn't exist. So, we schedule it and hope for the best. Knowing that, inevitably, some crew members will be redirected daily to other tasks that present." Said, Line Superintendent Rick Bridge.

Both pictures are of a Wyoming Linecrew working South of Manville on a single phase line, where they upgraded a service and set a new pole.

From the bucket truck basket, Brent Juergens has the two phases detached from the original pole and held out of the way of work. From the digger truck, Will Smith controls the boom and auger preparing a hole for the pole and on the ground, Jeff Sinkular directs pole placement and will tamp in the dirt.



10 years



Three NEA Directors reach service milestones this year.

Andy Greer (District 1) was elected in 2006. He has also been serving on the WREA Board of Directors since 2009, and has been on the NEA Scholarship Committee since he became a Director.

15 years



35 years



John Hester (District 1) was Appointed to the Board in 2001 and is the current NEA Board President.

Bill Wilson (District 3) was elected to the Board in 1981 and has previous served in various capacities, including as Board President.

Thank you for your service, Gentlemen!

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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

**Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm**

Electrician Department

7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-F)

Outages1-800-322-0544
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

Summer is here and with that come the thunderstorms. There are a few risks to the electric system when these storms hit us. One of them is the high wind or tornados that can bring poles and wires to the ground. When the linemen fix one of these problems, the cause is fairly obvious, and so is the repair. They can feel pretty confident that they should have all the customers back on.

The other major risk to the system is the lightning. This past weekend we had quite a light show. The problem with the lightning is that the damage is from the high voltage and current in the strike, and the cause of the outage (the lightning strike) goes away before we get on site. Lightning strikes are capable of tripping our breakers on the line, as well as the fuses on the transformers on the same line. So the linemen go out and reset the line breaker and think they have everybody back on, with no major damage found, when in reality there are more fuses blown down the line.

This is why we do call backs on outages to a few customers on the line to see if anything is still out. We don't call every service, and sometimes it is tough to know if it is the residence or a well site or some other unoccupied location. In some of these cases, we may have to move on to the next outage. This can set up a location for an extended outage. If you ever wondering if you've been out too long, or if you see your neighbors are back on and you are not, be sure to check back in with us.

When reporting an outage, please try to check your meter, and get the number off of it. If it is an outage on the coop side of the line, your display will not have any numbers where the reading should be. Also, take a look at your main breakers to be sure it isn't a simple reset (turn them all the way off, then back on) to get your power back on.

It is also good information to know if your neighbors are out, too. While not always a guarantee, many times neighbors are fed from the same main line and that information can help the crews out. From there, a phone call to the office to report your power outage, we will get the crew headed out to get your power back on.

If you can also report the meter number of the location without power, please do. It is a big challenge for us to route the crews with only a name, especially if it is to go to "XYZ Ranch" and they have 10 services in their name. Even more of a challenge when it is the hired hand calling in to report an outage at their house, when the service is in the name of "XYZ Ranch" not the hired hand. A meter number is unique to that location on our system and the crew can pinpoint what locations are without power.

Kenny Ceaglske

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

April Board Meeting

- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke about planning for the Van Tassel sub overhaul, the bypass will be built this summer, with the overhaul planned for Fall. Updates on the two way radio system, crew on-call scheduling, and possible building expansion at Harrison.
- General Manager Kenny Ceaglske informed the Board of PURPA QF waiver to Tri State & Work Plan updates. The Capital Credit policy update/discussion and Tri State 115 line updates.