



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                                                           |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|
| <i>SmartHub</i>                                           | 1 |
| <i>2018 Rates</i>                                         | 2 |
| <i>Rates Continued</i>                                    | 3 |
| <i>Nominating Committee &amp; Scholarship Information</i> | 3 |
| <i>Manager's Message</i>                                  | 4 |

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
- Bloomers



# SmartHub

We are pleased that so many of our members are currently enjoying using the SmartHub, which launched in 2015. We encourage anyone who has not yet signed up at <https://niobraraelectric.smathub.coop/#login>: to consider using this valuable online tool.

**SmartHub is user friendly and is a 24/7 option for timely account information as well as billing/usage history. The secure site allows you to make payments safely, with the touch of a button.** In addition, the two-way communication available with SmartHub allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about special offers, programs, events and more.

Contact our Billing Department to get signed up with SmartHub. There is a FREE app available from Play Store & App Store.

Current payment options are EFT Auto payment & E-Checks.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF NIOBRARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
OF PROPOSED INCREASES AND DECREASES TO RETAIL RATES  
TO TRACK REVISIONS IN SUPPLIER'S WHOLESALE RATE  
BY NIOBRARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

You are hereby notified that Niobrara Electric Association (NEA) proposes to make the following changes in its tariffs to become effective January 1, 2018. The changes proposed will result in an overall annual increase of approximately \$301,226 in annual revenue or 2.5 percent average increase overall based upon the test period twelve months ending August 31, 2015. The purpose of these revisions is to better track our wholesale purchased power costs from our supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, which were placed into effect on January 1, 2017. The proposed rate increase for each rate class is stated below.

| RATE CLASS                                   | CURRENT<br>RATE | PROPOSED<br>RATES<br>1/1/2018 |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SINGLE PHASE -<br>(1, 10, 13, 20, 40, 60) |                 |                               |
| FACILITIES CHARGE                            | \$33.00         | \$35.50                       |
| ENERGY CHARGE                                | \$0.10600       | 0.10600                       |
| Average Increase for class 2.30 percent      |                 |                               |
| 2. SINGLE PHASE – SEASONAL<br>(111,)         |                 |                               |
| FACILITIES CHARGE                            | \$33.00         | \$35.50                       |
| ENERGY CHARGE                                | \$0.10781       | \$0.10781                     |
| Average Increase for class 5.05 percent      |                 |                               |
| 3. TIME OF USE<br>(5, 25, 65)                |                 |                               |
| FACILITIES CHARGE                            |                 |                               |
| Single Phase                                 | \$33.00         | \$35.50                       |
| Three Phase                                  | \$40.60         | \$49.00                       |
| ENERGY CHARGE                                |                 |                               |
| On-peak                                      | \$0.15366       | \$0.15366                     |
| Off-peak                                     | \$0.05879       | \$0.05879                     |
| Average Increase for class 1.74 percent      |                 |                               |
| 4. THREE PHASE<br>(41, 42, 47, 61)           |                 |                               |
| FACILITIES CHARGE                            | \$55.00         | \$60.00                       |
| ENERGY / kWh                                 | \$0.10200       | \$0.10200                     |
| Average Increase for class 2.43 percent      |                 |                               |
| 5. IRRIGATION<br>(130)                       |                 |                               |
| MONTHLY FACILITIES CHARGE (6 months)         | \$110.00        | \$150.00                      |
|                                              |                 |                               |
| DEMAND CHARGE / kW                           | \$19.45         | \$20.00                       |
|                                              |                 |                               |
| ENERGY / kWh                                 | \$0.04716       | \$0.04800                     |
| Average Increase for class 5.11 percent      |                 |                               |

*The Niobrara Electric Association will be closed on Monday,*

*December 25th for the Christmas holiday and Monday,*

*January 1st for New Year's Day.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Members!*

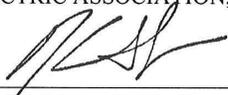


| RATE CLASS                              | CURRENT<br>RATES | PROPOSED<br>RATES<br>1/1/2018 |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6. LARGE POWER                          |                  |                               |
| (55, 56, 57)                            |                  |                               |
| FACILITIES CHARGE                       | \$300.00         | \$300.00                      |
| DEMAND CHARGE / kW                      | \$23.75          | \$23.95                       |
| ENERGY / kWh                            | \$0.05267        | \$.05450                      |
| Average Increase for class 1.91 percent |                  |                               |
| 7. Lighting                             |                  |                               |
| (70 & Security Lighting)                |                  |                               |
|                                         | \$15.00          | \$15.00                       |
| Average Increase for class zero percent |                  |                               |

Any member who desires to comment on the proposed rates may submit their comments in writing addressed to Ken Ceaglske, Manager, Niobrara Electric Association, P. O. Box 697, Lusk, WY 82225-0697.

Dated October 16, 2017.

NIOBRARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION,  
INC.

BY:   
Ken Ceaglske, Manager



As you may remember, NEA produces a newsletter insert in the WREN magazine 11 months out of the year, skipping the month of January.

During the month of January, the Board of Directors appoints Nominating Committee Members at their monthly board meeting. If you have an interest in becoming a Nominating Committee Member, contact your area Director to discuss the matter. If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors, contact the NEA office to get a candidate interest form. At this date (late October) all incumbent Directors up for re-election in 2018 are planning to run again for their positions.

2018 Scholarship applications through Basin Electric, Niobrara Electric and Tri-State G&T also become available in January. Applications can be obtained from our NEA Facebook page, website or at the NEA office; they are also available through the Guidance Counselors at the Niobrara County High School and Sioux County High School. The deadline for applications to be submitted in our office is Friday, February 25th by 4 p.m. If you have questions or concerns, please call and visit with Twyla.

[www.niobrara-electric.org](http://www.niobrara-electric.org)  
[www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric](https://www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric)



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association Inc

PO Box 697 Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



**Touchstone Energy**<sup>SM</sup>

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Fridays 7:30 am—  
4:00 pm

**Electrician Department**

**6:00 am—4:30 pm (M-TH)**

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
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.

In 2017, Tri-State increased our power bill by around 4%. We chose to pass along an increase of only about 1.5% to the membership in our rates to smooth the transition to you. However, the Board and I have decided after reviewing the financials that we will have a rate increase for 2018 to cover the increased costs from the Tri-State rate increase, and to cover other increased operating costs. You can see the details in the notice earlier in the newsletter.

Similar to last year, the bulk of the increase is in the facilities charge. This is to continue to get our source of revenue in line with the source of our costs. Our cost to keep most of the functions of the company going do not change with energy sales. There really are two components of our total costs that vary with energy sales; the cost of power and the amount of "line loss" that we see from the various pieces of equipment on the system. Historically, the rate has been heavily tied to energy and less tied to fixed charges. This creates challenges when it comes to charging customers fairly for their usage and equipment needs, as well as budgeting for what we need to function and maintain the system.

Looking forward, Tri-State has been implementing measures to limit any increases in the near future, but we will most likely need to continue to raise rates as we replace the aging infrastructure on the system, like the major rebuild project currently in the Lance Creek area. If we can economically replace all of the poles in an organized manner, versus the times that we replace when and as they fail, we are saving money in the long run and doing what we can to maintain reliability.

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 |

### **Board Room News**

- Manager Ken Ceaglske spoke about the Lance Creek work plan project, equipment replacement and upgrades, future uses for drones and the 2018 budget and rates.
- Director Greer updated everyone on WREA business.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State business report.
- Director Keener spoke on NREA business.