



29th year 9th Issue

November 2018

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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
- Bloomers



Left to right: Austin Francis, Will Smith, Coy Boland, Charles Kleinberg and Chance Wilder.

We are celebrating National Apprenticeship Week in November.

Charles Kleinberg and Will Smith have recently completed their line worker apprenticeship testing and have reached the 8000 hours needed to move on to Journeyman status. Both will soon have their Department of Labor issued Journeyman certificates—Congratulations!

With the graduation of Kleinberg and Smith, our line worker apprentice group stands at three; Coy Boland, Austin Francis and Chance Wilder. We also have one electrician, Jim Pontarolo, in his third year of apprenticeship training.

Apprenticeship years are critical in the building of a tradesman - we feel we have a great group building their skills and knowledge at Niobrara Electric and look forward to seeing each achieve their Journeyman goal.



The Basin Electric, Tri-State G&T and NEA sponsored scholarship information will be in the Niobrara and Sioux County High Schools by the first week in January. We will also have the 2019 applications on our website and in the NEA office in January.

Deadline for applications is close of business on Friday, February 22, 2019.

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, 2019. The changes proposed will result in an overall annual increase of approximately \$141,297 in annual revenue or 1.12 percent average increase overall based upon the test period twelve months ending December 31, 2017. The purpose of these revisions is to coincide with increased operational costs. The proposed rate increase for each rate class is stated below.

RATE CLASS	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATES
		1/1/2019
1. SINGLE PHASE -		
(1, 10, 13, 20, 40, 60)		
FACILITIES CHARGE	\$35.50	\$37.00
ENERGY CHARGE	\$0.10600	0.10600
Average Increase for class 1.32 percent		
2. SINGLE PHASE – SEASONAL		
(111, )		
FACILITIES CHARGE	\$35.50	\$37.00
ENERGY CHARGE	\$0.10781	\$0.10781
Average Increase for class 2.82 percent		
3. TIME OF USE		
(5, 25, 65)		
FACILITIES CHARGE		
Single Phase	\$35.50	\$37.00
Three Phase	\$49.00	\$50.00
ENERGY CHARGE		
On-peak	\$0.15366	\$0.15366
Off-peak	\$0.05879	\$0.05879
Average Increase for class 0.93 percent		
4. THREE PHASE		
(41, 42, 47, 61)		
FACILITIES CHARGE	\$60.00	\$65.00
ENERGY / kWh	\$0.10200	\$0.10200
Average Increase for class 2.44 percent		
5. IRRIGATION		
(130)		
MONTHLY FACILITIES CHARGE (6 months)	\$150.00	\$175.00
DEMAND CHARGE / kW	\$20.00	\$20.00
ENERGY / kWh	\$0.04800	\$0.04900

Average Increase for class 2.44 percent

RATE CLASS	CURRENT	PROPOSED
	RATES	RATES
		1/1/2019
6. LARGE POWER		
(55, 56, 57)		
FACILITIES CHARGE	\$300.00	\$300.00
DEMAND CHARGE / kW	\$23.95	\$23.95
ENERGY / kWh	\$0.0545	\$.05500
Average Increase for class 0.42 percent		
7. Lighting		
(70 & Security Lighting)	\$15.00	\$15.00
Lighting-energy	0.12517	0.13
Average Increase for class 0.75 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.



NEA will be closed on November 22nd and 23rd for the Holiday.



nea@niobrara-electric.org

PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

"This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
employer."



**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.

Our contractor, Ward Construction, has completed work on the Lance Creek to Manville line recently and has assisted us in increasing the clearance on the 69kv line up by HWY 270 and HWY 85 to allow safer passage for the high loads that will be passing through over the next couple months.

We also had them take care of the maintenance issues that came up on the 69kv line between Lusk and the breaks that we had patrolled by drone a couple months ago. They are soon to be working on the 69kv line south of Node. We have them doing all of the work on the 69kv lines since they have better equipment to work on the taller poles that are involved.

After they get all of the odds and ends projects cleaned up, they will be headed to work on the next work plan project on the list. We are rebuilding or relocating a good portion of the line feeding around Van Tassell and back towards Node. As with the bulk of our work plan projects, we are focusing on improving the lines that feed the most members, and provide back up support for another substation.

It is critical to have those lines be as solid and strong as we can. If you recall a few years back, we had some issues with the transformer in Van Tassell Substation during the summer. Initially it caused outages across most of our Nebraska territory, but with the ability to tie those members to the Node Substation, we were able to limit the outage time.

Similar to other work plan projects, we are also trying to relocate much of the line as close to the highway, or other roads to improve the access to the lines for patrolling and maintenance. As that line is currently routed, it can be many miles from the road in places, requiring more time to find and fix any issues that arise, while also requiring us to drive through the pastures to get there. It is a win-win if we can get out by the roads and stay clear of pastures where we can.

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 Minutes

- Operations report dealt with work plan, high loads, employee training and substation work.
- Manager Ceaglske reported on transitioning to new automated meter reading system, RMP territory borders and planning for upcoming board training.
- Director Keener updated the board on NREA news.
- Director Greer spoke on WREA issues.
- Director Hammond discussed Tri-State business.

