



October, 2017

Tammy Gonzalez, Editor

*From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager*

Greetings everyone! It is hard to believe we are already into October as you read this! The summer has been busy at the REA! In addition to the typical workload, we coordinated, for the second year, the participation of the Wyoming electric cooperatives in the Wyoming State Fair. We also prepared for the eclipse event during this time.

As for the State Fair, by all reports, the Cooperative booth was a resounding success! The Wyoming Department of Agriculture awarded Wyoming Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Tri State Generation and Transmission the Wyoming State Fair Sponsorship Honor Award! Part of the citation reads “... *You have repeatedly chosen to support our State Fair and Fairgrounds knowing your customers have deep roots in the programs and experiences made here. Most recently, your commitment to the naming rights of the Show Center Building will serve to further the programs and facilities available year round for Wyoming Agriculture and for Wyoming Youth.*” This is a huge honor for Tri State and the Wyoming Touchstone Energy Cooperatives! Our emphasis is placed on the rural residents in the state and the recognition we received from these awards is greatly appreciated! To me, the fact the Department of Agriculture specifically mentions Wyoming youth struck a significant chord, as I have a true passion for these future leaders of our communities and our nation. They truly are our future! In addition to these awards, the booth also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Wyoming Army National Guard for our dedication and support for the military and an award for Outstanding Outdoor Commercial Exhibit.



I believe all these awards are great recognition of where we should place an emphasis in our communities and our state; the rural residents of Wyoming, the youth, as well as the military. They are what makes and keeps Wyoming the great state that it is! I would like to thank everyone who participated in any way with the State Fair. There were many hours spent by many people to bring this all together. And while it took many people to make this all happen, there are a couple of individuals (who would rather I not mention them by name because they prefer to run in the shadows and make things happen), but none of this would have been possible without our own Al Teel, of Wheatland REA and Morgan Richards of Tri State G&T. These two worked tirelessly to coordinate all the aspects of the booth. My heartfelt thanks go out to Al and Morgan, you are appreciated!

As for the 2017 Eclipse, it was a great event to observe! The REA put in many hours planning to ensure everyone in our service area had a “non-event”, if you will, when it came to their electric service. It worked! We did not have one call regarding any electrical problems. This was a success for us as our only report was, “nothing to report,” even given the huge influx of visitors. Again, thanks to the great crews at the REA for making the eclipse a once in a lifetime experience without the distraction of power outages!

Unfortunately, these events are not all we have going on at the REA, there is the reality of politics. I received notice this morning that the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will be holding meetings for recommendations on a new Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule likely to be proposed in 2018. NRECA will present comments on behalf of electric cooperatives around the country. It is anticipated that the EPA and Corps will propose to withdraw the 2015 WOTUS rule that, as you may recall, was never implemented due to federal courts issuing a “stay” resulting from various legal challenges over the rule. I would encourage any of our members with an interest, to find out about these meetings and give your input to these rules.

As always, it is great to be here at Wheatland REA and to serve you! Please stop in and say hello! We are always happy to see you! Again, thanks to everyone who works so hard to make this a great state!

## **WINTER HOURS BEGIN OCTOBER 2ND, 8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.**

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Association  
P. O. Box 1209  
Wheatland, WY 82201  
**www.wheatlandrea.com**  
(307) 322-2125  
(800) 344-3351

### **REA WINTER HOURS Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7

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(800) 344-3351  
**24 hours a day**

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From the office of RKA.....

Fall is in the air and October 2017 is here!  
You can feel the change in the air with cool,  
crisp nights, darker in the early morning hours  
and not so darn hot!

In my September article, I wrote about the  
“green slip” in with your bill. If you haven’t  
completed the form, please do so. We would  
like to have up to date information for our  
members in case of an emergency outage or a  
planned outage. If you did not receive one or  
misplaced it, please stop by the office and we  
will have them available for you to fill out.

By now you should have also received a capi-  
tal credit allocation notice. This allocation is for the 2016 margins that were posi-  
tive. This notice tells you what has been credited to your capital credit account  
based on the year end 2016. This is not a notice telling you about your capital cred-  
it retirement check that we send out annually based on the board of directors ap-  
proval. Those checks are done right before the annual meeting in the first quarter  
of the year. If you have any questions about the allocation notice, please give me a  
call.

October is also the month we start preparing our budget for 2018. Our challenge  
for this is always to budget for items and purchases needed but at a manageable  
cost basis. The hardest part of the budget is revenue. Will we have drought, lots of  
moisture, a hot summer, or an extremely cold winter for 2018? If only I had a  
crystal ball....it would make my job a whole lot easier.

Since we are a few months into the school year, I want to mention that our coop  
participates in electric safety classes at all the schools in the Platte. We have also  
given classes for early childhood centers, the Cowboy Challenge Academy, the  
Wheatland fire district, and many others. When I was volunteering at the State Fair  
in Douglas in August, we did various demonstrations for the public on electric safe-  
ty. It was amazing how many people stopped and took part in the demos. Every-  
one that I spoke to found it very interesting. One person told me that it “refreshed”  
their memory on the importance of safety. If you have a club or group that would  
like to have electric safety, please give us a call. I know that “Big Al” would love  
to add you to his list!

Home front is quiet. The dogs will be able to hunt here in no time. I have been  
running with them a little bit but not as much as THEY would like me to! I am  
participating in a 5K in Colorado that serves you margaritas afterwards. Who  
wouldn’t want to run in that 5k!?

Until next month.....



# SAVE MONEY ON HEATING THIS YEAR!

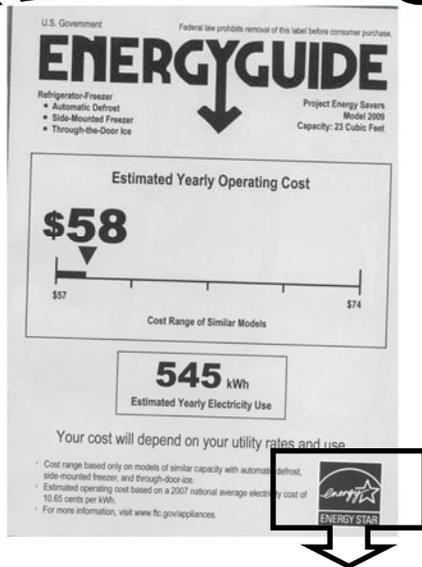
GO ETS\* FOR YOUR HOME HEATING NEEDS!

\* Could save 51% over the cost of standard electric heat.

**Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)** is the technology of converting off-peak electricity to heat and storing this low cost heat for use in satisfying comfort requirements of a home or business 24 hours a day. An **ETS** system contains electric **heating** elements which lie within special, high-density ceramic bricks.



## LOOK BEFORE YOU BUY!



**YOUR PHONE NUMBER PLEASE, WE NEED IT!**

*We must be able to call you concerning electric problems!*

*If your new appliance has the little energy star sticker in the lower right-hand corner, you might be eligible for a rebate!*



# 2017 STATE FAIR HIGHLIGHTS



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