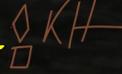


Watts New

November, 2020

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager 

The end of the hot weather is here and we're on to the next season! We have all experienced a wild and somewhat weary 2020 in many ways. From winds and heat, to fire and virus, not to mention the political firestorms that abound.

Here at the REA, we have stayed very busy through it all. Line crews have set a record number of pole replacements in 2020 and the year is not done yet! Through the end of September, Operations has replaced over 400 poles that needed attention. The previous record was just over 260 poles and that was during 2012 when many poles were damaged due to fires. The replaced poles had been identified by either pole testing or overloaded conditions. Many were sporadic poles not all in a line. The Association has about 30,000 poles throughout the system, and our goal is to replace 600 poles each year. At this rate, we will have replaced every pole on the system every 50 years. We will see what the future brings this year for these replacements. If the weather holds for a while, we should be able to come very close to the 600-pole goal. This is a testament to Jason and the crews in getting this work done. The dedication of the employees here at the REA is phenomenal and I applaud them for their dedication and work ethic!



Not to slight the inside staff in the shout-out to Operations! With all the work on the outside, the inside staff needs to maintain all the records, paperwork and financial aspects that go with all the retirements, installations, and maintenance. This is a huge and tedious task! My thanks to Rhonda and the inside staff as well, for their diligence in keeping the inside running smoothly! Thanks to all the staff at the REA!

Recently, I told you about the good news at Tri-State with the ruling from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). FERC decided the Commission had jurisdiction over the disputes with some of the Colorado utilities, instead of the Colorado Public Service Commission (CPUC). Well, that celebration did not last long. There is a push from these dissatisfied Colorado utilities to pressure the Colorado legislature to get involved, as well as the CPUC. These utilities claim that the CPUC should have jurisdiction, as they take the interest of the utilities into consideration and make an impartial decision. I find this hard to believe, since when the case was first filed, many of the other Tri-State member systems (including other Colorado systems) attempted to intervene, and we were told that we did not have standing with the CPUC. How can they take our interests into consideration when they won't let us present our case? We continue to fight this fight. I would like to think that at some point the disgruntled system will back off and actually honor the contract that they voluntarily signed, however, I am more of a realist and know that will probably not happen, and this is a battle that will continue for some time. We will continue to keep you informed.

On to another weary battle, the 2020 election season. By the time you receive this WREN magazine, we will know the outcome of the elections. Some will be happy, and some will be sad. In all my years of voting, I have never been so nervous and concerned. That is just the way it is and the way our electoral system works, for the good and bad of it all. I hope you were able to study the issues and the candidates and then make it to the polls and exercise your Constitutional right to vote. Regardless of the election outcome, we will continue to move forward in all we do. My prayers are with this country.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving and are able to share it with friends, family and loved ones, and remember the things we have been blessed with in this great country!

As always, thanks to you for letting us serve you, the fantastic members-owners of Wheatland REA. It is truly a pleasure to serve you!

www.wheatlandrea.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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From the office of RKA...

It is November 2020 and in talking with lots of people, the major consensus is that we are just that much closer to getting rid of 2020! Let us hope that 2021 is not so much of a roller coaster for us all.

As we get to the end of 2020, it seems that momentum picks up here. Year-end requires us to complete next year's budget, close the books, and complete "special" projects that affect the current year's margins. We, as management, review expenses vs. revenues for the next year. So, in 2019, we sold over approximately 10,600,000 kwh's in the irrigation class. This year, we are approximately 55% ahead of that. If you recall, 2019 was a very wet year... lots of moisture. Well, we know how 2020 has been. This is just one comparison of one class. Revenues are much more difficult to predict because there are so many factors involved; weather, economy, growth, etc. Expenses are a little easier to pinpoint because of our four-year work plan. Although, one bad storm can change the direction of your priorities and what needs to be built immediately. With every budget, we continue to strive to offer you reliable and affordable electricity.

Every year in the fourth quarter, we begin making plans for our annual meeting. As you know, our 2020 annual meeting scheduled in March 2020, was cancelled because of the COVID19 pandemic. Right now, all I can say is that we will have an annual meeting, but we have no idea what it is going to look like. Until we get closer into 2021, we will not be able to say for sure what exactly we are going to do, but we will keep you informed!! Stay tuned!

November 11th is Veterans Day. Please thank a Vet for his/her service to defend our great nation. Without them we would not be able to enjoy the freedom that we have each day. If there are any activities around the area for our Vets, I hope that you will take the time to participate!

Fall is my favorite time of the year. But this year, I have worn anything from short sleeves to sweaters. The weather has been very temperamental. My dogs love the cooler weather, and somehow, they know with the change of the weather comes hunting time. Although I do not hunt, I love to go and watch the dogs work the field. They are the absolute laziest dogs at home, but when it is time to leave for hunting, they act like puppies! Then there is goose, duck and sandhill crane hunting intertwined with pheasant hunting. Well, you know, it is important to get all the hunting in that you can. (really???)

Stay healthy and safe!!!

Until next month...



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®





Happy Thanksgiving

from our REA family to yours!

We will be closed on November 26 & 27
to enjoy the holiday with our families.



DID YOU KNOW?



Electricity travels at 6,696,000 miles per hour.



A spark of static electricity can measure up to three thousand (3,000) volts.



A bolt of lightning can measure up to three million (3,000,000) volts, and it lasts less than one second!



Electricity always takes **ALL PATHS** to the ground.



The first successful electric car was built in 1891 by American inventor William Morrison.



Electricity can be made from coal, natural gas, oil, wind, water, the sun and even animal waste.



A 600 megawatt natural gas plant can power 220,000 homes.



The first power plant - owned by Thomas Edison - opened in New York City in 1882.

Winter is knocking on our door!

DO YOU NEED A NEW FURNACE?

**DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE
TEMPERATURES PLUMMET.**

**CALL US & SAVE
with low-cost,
off-peak electricity.**

307-322-2125





Don't miss the annual Parade of Lights on November 28th at 6pm in downtown Wheatland! Lighting of the Courthouse to follow.

**Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)
Winter 2020-2021**

Applications are available online until February 28, 2021:

Department of Family Services
<http://dfsweb.state.wy.us>
-OR-
Wyoming LIEAP
<http://lieapwyo.org>

Applications can also be picked up at your local Department of Family Services office.

LIEAP assistance dates:

November 1, 2020 (Dec. 1st bill) through May, 2021 (June 1st bill).

Call 1-800-246-4221 if you would like to request an application or if you have questions.

AUTO PAY



Are you too busy to sit down and pay your Wheatland REA bill? We can help!

Call the office to learn what payment options are available.

Call 307-322-2125

EAT BEEF!



**OPEN MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
8:00 AM TO 4:30 PM**

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