



June, 2017

Tammy Mills, Editor

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

Change is in the air! Not only with the weather, but in the political environment as well. As I write this article, it is the end of April, and we have a nice wintry event occurring with a mix of rain and snow. It is great to see the always needed moisture but I get nervous this time of year when the leaves are coming out and we get wet snowfall. This combination can wreak havoc with the system, as heavy snow loads bend and break branches, inevitably impacting our lines. That is just the way it goes in this part of the country. The REA crews will do their very best to keep your lights on!

The other change in the air is in Washington DC. Today I received notice that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted the White House's request for a pause in litigation on the Clean Power Plan, holding the case for 60 days. This just means that they will not have any ruling for the next two months allowing the "experts" time to look at the rule and come up with changes. While 60 days may not seem like a lot, this is a positive indication of things to come. This court has also recently granted delays in other EPA standards issued under the previous administration.



These decisions, from this specific court, show positive movement for more reasonable approaches to new environmental standards. The DC Court is the last step before the United States Supreme Court. If there is a ruling either way at the DC Court, the losing side will inevitably appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. Also indicative of the changing political climate was the annual Legislative Conference in DC, which I recently attended. The conference was organized by our national organization, NRECA. During this conference, each state met with their elected officials, as well as various agencies we deal with. In our case, the Wyoming delegation met with Senators Enzi and Barrasso, Representative Cheney, BLM, and The U.S. Forest Service. For the most part, these meetings went well and the elected officials gave us personal updates on their activities, as well as some of their thoughts on the DC happenings. The meeting with the BLM also went well and was much more positive than the last meeting I attended two years ago under the previous administration. The meeting with the U.S. Forest Service was not quite so productive or positive. As one person said, "It sounded like they were still working off the old administration talking points." It was also observed that the new Secretary of the Interior, which the BLM falls under, took his position about six weeks before our meeting. In contrast the Secretary of Agriculture, which the Forest Service falls under, was approved for appointment while we were in DC; in fact, the night before we met with the agency. I wondered if the Forest Service has new marching orders now that they have a new boss...time will tell!

Like I said, "change is in the air"! The happenings are not status-quo. We are all very hopeful, even optimistic of the political future. We are looking forward to not just rollbacks in the regulations, but rollbacks in the overreach of things like the Clean Power Plan, and the Waters of the U.S. Even if these things are repealed, or even revised, we must stay diligent and make our voices heard. After all, this is supposed to be "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

In recognition of our great country, please remember June 14 is Flag Day. This day is set aside to commemorate the adoption of our awesome flag.. Let's get those flags out and fly them proudly!

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you, our wonderful member-owners! Please stop in and see us! Thanks everyone!

Watts New is a publication of
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From the Office of RKA.....

June 2017.....halfway through the year! Summer is just starting for us here and we already have advertisements for Christmas. Whatever happened to celebrating each holiday month to month and not six months ahead!?!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and safe Memorial Day weekend. Let us not forget the reason for Memorial Day and remember the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. Please let us all take the time to thank our veterans past and present for their sacrifices for our freedom!

June is the time for our annual audit. This is especially important, not only to us as management staff, but to you as members. The audit is to assure that we are keeping accurate records and financial reports. Remember, as a cooperative, all our margins go back to you as capital credits. Once the audit is complete, I will inform you of the review.

With regard to capital credits, if you received a capital credit check from us, you have until the end of June to cash/deposit your check. At the end of June, 2017, all outstanding capital credit checks will be voided. If you have a question about this procedure, please give us a call.

Over the past few months, we have received several telephone calls from members who did not receive their electric bills. Since I do not want to "point fingers" or "assume" I know what the reason is, I would like you to remember that you can look at your bill on our website. As soon as the billing is completed for the month, bills are available for your review. If you have any problems viewing them, please give us a call here at the office. We would be more than happy to walk you through the procedure. We can also fax or e-mail you a copy if you call us.

Although I'd rather not talk politics, I would like to bring up a state bill that wasn't passed; HB 64/Move Over Requirement. This bill would have required motorists to move over for our utility vehicles that are on the side of the road. This was meant as a safety measure for our crews trying to restore power, who might be parked on the side of the road. Again, this bill didn't pass. But I would like you to still consider being conscientious and move over when you see any of our coop's utility vehicles. The linemen have a huge responsibility in their tasks at hand. They really don't need to worry that they may be part of an accident while on the side of the road.

With summer, comes a lot of outdoor activities. I am hoping to take in a little baseball; Colorado Rockies, our Legion Lobos, Little League and even some minor baseball. It is just in my blood! Also, on the agenda, is some fishing in which a little competition is going to be happening in June. Some of us "fishing ladies" have a team competing against certain gentlemen in the Basin Electric Fishing Derby. I am not sure how I got roped into this, but it sounds like "Game On". I will let you know next month how we fared!

Until next month.....



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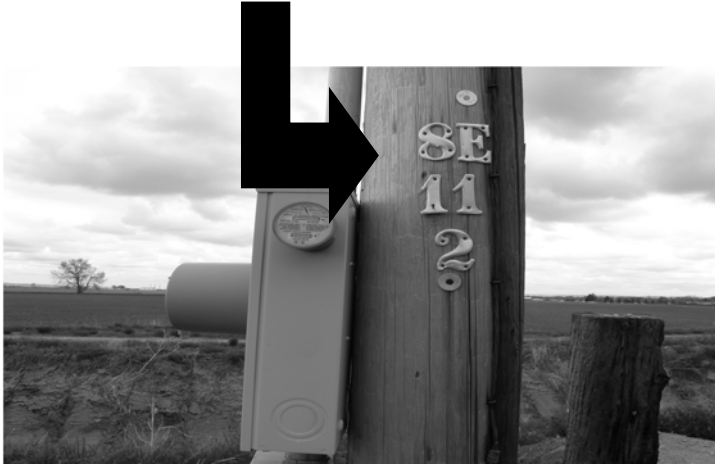


IT HELPS TO KNOW YOUR LOCATION NUMBER!

You can find your location number at the top of your bill, on the right hand side.

It is the pole (location) number for your electric service.

This one is: **8E-11-2**. If you give your pole number to the call center, the linemen will find you much quicker when your power is out.



Tips to Keep Cool and Be Energy Efficient in the Summer

- Trim back foliage and remove all debris from air conditioner.
- Replace air conditioner filters at least every year.
- Close windows when air conditioner is on.
- Use ceiling fans to make a wind chill effect while you are home.
- Set ceiling fans to spin counter clockwise.
- Open windows at night to let cooler air in.
- Use curtains and blinds to keep sunlight and heat out.
- Dress in loose, lightweight clothing.
- Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable when home.
- The smaller the difference between outside temperature and indoor temperature, the less energy you use.



SAFETY Sudoku

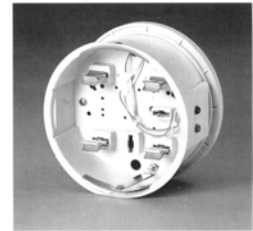
Place the word SAFETY in the grid so each column, row, and block only contain these unique letters!

Y		E		T	A
	T		E	F	
F	E		T		S
T		S		E	F
	S	F		Y	
A	Y		F		E

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Welcome Jordan Brandl to the Wheatland REA

Jordan comes to us from Clinton, WI. He went to Blackhawk Tech College, in Janesville, WI. He worked at Madison Gas and Electric, and Alliant Energy, before coming here. He has 9 year's experience as a lineman. Jordan enjoys hunting and fishing.



Answers:

E	S	F	T	A	A
T	A	A	F	S	E
F	E	A	S	A	T
S	A	T	A	E	F
A	F	E	A	T	S
A	T	S	E	F	A

May all you wonderful

Dads enjoy a

Happy Father's

Day!

June 18, 2017



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