



Fall is here! A few days ago, we had an “early” snow storm with colder temperatures, and today, it is a fabulous day, no “W” and 68 degrees! I love this time of year!

As an update on the Britania Mountain Fire, we have completed quite a bit of the repair work, however, we still have some to go. To date, we have spent about \$125,000 on repairs. We will see where we end up. We have been asked a few times about insurance covering these costs. Unfortunately, our actual lines are not insured. Our insurance covers the buildings, substations and vehicles. Because of the vulnerability of our lines and variables such as weather, fires, vehicles, etc., the costs to cover the lines would be extreme. We do our best to maintain them, and take the hit if and when it comes. As I mentioned last month, the fire retardant wrap our crews used was a huge help in minimizing the damage. Thanks again to our crews for making the effort to protect these lines!



Recently, I attend a Tri-State Member Managers meeting and at the last meeting I heard reports on various aspects of our industry. One of the reports was in regards to the status of the Clean Power Plan (CPP) which, if you recall, caused significant impact to the Wyoming economy. When the CPP was first released, it was reported that 40% of Wyoming’s economy would be affected. Soon after the Trump Administration settled in, the CPP was on their radar. The administration realized this would not be an immediate switch, as the CPP was locked in to the final rules. Now, after nearly two years, the EPA has proposed the Affordable Clean Energy Rule (ACE) as a replacement to the CPP. While the ACE is not perfect, and Tri-State is still in the process of reviewing the details, it is a far cry from the CPP. Many experts feel it is a rule that can stand up in court. If you are on the “Grassroots” electronic mailing list, you should have received a notice from NRECA, on behalf of Wheatland REA, to support the ACE. Hopefully, this will result in a more reasonable rule with levels that are achievable in the real world and not just in theory. If you have any questions on either the CPP or ACE, please give me a call and we can learn together!

In the same presentation at Tri-State, they talked about another action from the previous White House Administration that is being dealt with: the Waters of the United States (WOTUS). This rule placed a significant burden on private landowners in that many “waters” were placed under federal jurisdiction. Even an occasional stream or dry streambed would now fall under the definition and require federal oversight resulting in permitting burdens on private landowners. This is being reviewed, and “the powers that be” are looking for a replacement rule. More to come here as well.

With both “rules” as well as with our elections and other aspects of our freedoms, which are the basis of our country. We must remain diligent and actively engaged in the process, to make our voices heard. I recently read an article where the author, Lance B. Wickman, stated: “I sometimes fear that we have relied too much on the Constitution to do the hard work of citizenship for us. The Constitution – including the First Amendment – was never intended to make us lazy citizens, to absolve us from the duty and imperative to be vigilant in defense of our religious rights and interests.” I feel this is very true. We must remain vigilant to protect all our freedoms. I believe that “if we are not at the table, then we are on the menu.” I would rather be engaged in the conversation and help determine the direction, than to have someone else, especially someone who does not have a clue what it is like outside of their own little bubble, determine what is best for me and my family. Please make sure the people you elect, (local, state, or federal), know how you feel. Make sure your voice is heard! “A Government of the People...!”

Thank you to all of those who are involved. Thanks to all of the veterans and others who have served to help us protect our freedoms! And thanks to you, our member-owners, for allowing us to serve you. Hope to see you all at our annual Veterans Day open house here at the REA office on November 12th!

Thanks again everyone!

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From the office of RKA....

Well, I believe that fall is here, though I question how long it will be here, only because, as you know, we had 80 degrees one week and the next week we had snow on the ground. The fall season is my favorite time of the year so I was hoping it would stick around just a little bit longer!

I want to remind you that Veteran's Day is November 11th. I hope everyone takes the time to thank our veterans, current and past, for their time in the service. They have given us the privilege to enjoy our freedom in this great country of ours. Once again, we will have an open house for our veterans on Monday, November 12th. Please stop by and enjoy some refreshments with us.

As we get closer to the end of the year, we stay pretty busy here at the co-op. This is a critical time to complete specific projects, such as budget, closing the books, etc. As we complete the budget, management must weigh every detail of expenses as well as estimate revenues for the ensuing year. We, as management, keep attuned to expenses vs. revenue as this clearly defines what rates we charge you as members. Our goal is difficult. We want to keep rates affordable but also need to replace and upgrade the distribution system to keep electricity reliable.

As we get to the end of the year, it is also time to start preparing for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be on March 20, 2019. Please mark your calendars for this date. We will again have the health fair. There will be one board of director's position up for election.

I want to talk a little bit about some different options for members that can make life a little bit easier when receiving or paying your bill. First, we have e-bill notification. How this works is once we have completed the monthly billing process, our system will send you a notice that you can look at your bill on our website. All we need is your email address. This way you can look at your bill as soon as you receive the e-mail notice. In paying your bill, you can pay it on-line on the website with either a credit/debit card or e-check (checking account). We can also set your payments to automatically deduct from either a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card on the 16th or 17th of each month. Payments would continue to automatically pull every month, to the account/card number that you give us. If you have any questions about any of these options, please feel free to call the office.

As I said before, this is my favorite time of the year. It's also the dogs' favorite time of the year: pheasant hunting!!! My husband and son just have to grab their hunting boots and both dogs know they are getting to go someplace fun. I enjoy going just to watch the dogs work. If you were to come to my house and see them, you would think they are the laziest dogs in the world, but get them out in the field and they don't give up. Also, on the home front, you will be happy to know that in all of my husband's extra time, he did get me a new dishwasher but its name isn't Lee...its Maytag!!!! LOL!

Until next month....



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**DON'T FORGET TO
CHANGE THAT
FURNACE FILTER!
YOUR FURNACE WILL
THANK YOU.**



Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

Winter 2018-2019

Applications are available on the
Department of Family Services website
October 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019:
<http://dfsweb.state.wy.us>

...Or...

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

LIEAP starting and ending dates for
electric service are: November 1, 2018
to May, 2019

Call 1-800-246-4221 if you need help
with your application.

STEFFES

Heating Systems



Hey there, I am Bob Anderson, an Apprentice Lineman at the REA. I want to remind you that winter is coming. Have you asked yourself if your furnace will get you through the winter? Is it making funny noises? Winter is a terrible time to be caught without heat. Call Wheatland REA at 322-2125 and ask for Al. He will gladly help you with any of your questions or concerns.



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Happy Thanksgiving from our family at the REA to yours!

We will be closed on November 22 and 23 so we can enjoy the holiday with our families.

WE HAVE SOME EXCITING NEWS!

We are getting ready to update our website and we want your help. What changes would you like to see? Our goal is to make our website easier for you to use.

Your opinion matters to us!

Contact LaRon Eller at 307-322-2125,

LaRon@wheatlandrea.com, or

come in and talk to her about your ideas for the website.



Don't Forget!



is offering to check your Steffes ETS furnaces and room heaters for Wheatland REA Members.

Time flies and some of you have had your ETS heating systems a long time. Giving your furnace a tune up may be a good idea.

Southwest's technicians are Steffes factory-trained.

Call them at 307-322-1595 for details and pricing.