



Member Owned ~ Service Proud

Carbon Light Lines

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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www.carbonpower.com

October 2015



KENNY CURRY
District 2 Director

Board Actions AUGUST 2015

Approved the Department Production and Financial Reports.

Approved Policy 3-8 Identity Theft Red Flag Prevention as presented by management and staff.

Approved the Work Order Inventory List #516 for \$87,055.89.

Selected Director Rabidue as the voting delegate for the NRECA Director Election at WREA's Annual Meeting and Director Jacobsen as the alternate delegate.

Selected Director Thompson as the voting delegate for the Mid-West Electric Consumer Association's Annual Meeting and Director Rabidue as the alternate delegate.

Selected Director Forster as the CFC Voting Delegate for the Region 7-9 Meeting and Director Hodgkiss as the alternate delegate.

Approved investing in The Alliance (Laramie Chamber Business Alliance) for the purpose of facilitating the expansion and development of existing businesses in Albany County.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

By Meghaan Evans

October is National Cooperative Month, and for the many different types of co-ops in the U.S., it's the time of year to celebrate what membership truly means. You could be a member of a lot of different places – a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different?

The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member of Carbon Power & Light you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed.

Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it right back to you. Whether we return it to you in the form of a check – you have a say in where that money goes! And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters.

As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us.

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, *Lelsie Pacheco* Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



Member-Owned Service Proud



[RUSSELL WALDNER, GENERAL MANAGER]



RUSSELL WALDNER

“ HOW DO WE INFLUENCE THESE OUTSIDE PRESSURES? ”

MOST OF THE ITEMS I HAVE BEEN OPINING ABOUT IN THIS SPACE ARE FROM OUTSIDE PRESSURES TO OUR COOPERATIVE.

Sometimes it feels like we have no control over these issues. While the influence we have is not very persuading as individuals, when we decide to do something together it is amazing what is accomplished.

When I drive around Carbon’s service territory I am amazed at what your little cooperative has accomplished in the last 75 years. Views from the high spots at night let you see where all we have shed light to help each other with this most important life enhancing commodity.

When we discuss the pressures that seem to make our task of providing this commodity to you, insurmountable and other commodity providers are saying no big problem we can do that. You may wonder why the huge disparity in assessing the pressures in providing this commodity. It is really quite simple to explain. We have developed our network to serve each other this commodity. They have developed their network to provide return on investment (ROI) to their shareholders. We are vested to make it possible to receive the commodity. They built their business

to attract business. While we work to maintain our costs, they work to get their investors a better ROI. When we get outside pressure that will increase operational costs, we have to work to minimize the impact on our commodity consumers. They now get increased revenue because their base rate cost has been increased...It’s just the cost of doing business. If their ROI is eleven percent and they generate eleven million and a new regulation or business process requires an additional six million, they still get their eleven percent.

Now... how do we influence these outside pressures? In the past we would work with industry organizations because of our common commodity. With the increase in efficiencies and the reduced margin for error it is extremely difficult to get on the same page with a business that doesn’t share your desire to serve your owner the commodity rather than maximizing the ROI. We need you to register with WWW.ACTION.COOP and engage our policy makers. Only when the people say in unison “ENOUGH”...will there be a change.

As always contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Wired to deliver power for Member-Owner consumption.

Russell

WHY ELECTRIC CO-OPS REPLACE UTILITY POLES

By Abby Berry

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Carbon's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews

check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for

immediate replacement. When possible, Carbon communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working.

Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity.

Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across Carbon's crews replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

TRICK-OR-TREAT AT THE WALK

Thursday, October 29th

Attention all ghouls and goblins!

Carbon will be participating in the Halloween Walk on October 29th in Saratoga.

STOP BY IF YOU DARE!



Pole inspection crews inspect utility poles to ensure poles are in good condition.

Member Statistics Report	July 2014	July 2015
Financial		
Total Utility Plant	\$38,460,024	\$40,092,904
Cost of Purchase Power	\$645,840	\$654,807
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$382,953	\$406,845
Tax & Interest Paid	\$53,226	\$51,605
Interest Received on Investments	\$2,019	\$1,634
Energized Line & Consumers		
Miles of Energized Line	1,930	1,942
Consumers Per Mile	3.2	3.2
Meters		
Total Meters	6,080	6,160
Residential/Rural	3,278	3,303
Residential/Seasonal	1,567	1,624
Large Power/Commercial	1,126	1,128
Other	109	105
kWh Usage		
Total kWh	7,564,289	7,698,750
Residential/Rural	1,957,577	1,958,051
Residential/Seasonal	288,287	304,839
Large Power/Commercial	4,355,447	4,723,219
Other	962,978	712,641
Averages		
Avg. Residential kWh Used	597	593
Avg. Residential/Rural Bill	\$95	\$94
Avg. Seasonal kWh Used	184	188
Avg. Seasonal Bill	\$54	\$54

Carbon welcomes any comments or questions members may have. If you have a question on any part of the cooperative business, please write or email the cooperative and we will see that your question is answered. Mail comments to Carbon Power & Light, Inc. P.O. Box 579, Saratoga, WY 82331, ATTN: Newsletter or email info@carbonpower.com.

Visit our website at: www.carbonpower.com
 Edited by Marcy Knotwell

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR POWER: Please check your breakers. If you can determine that your neighbors are also without power, call Carbon day or night at 307.326.5206 or 800.359.0249.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3
Gary Jacobsen	Robert J. Johnson	Dick Clifton
Laurie Forster	Jerry Rabidue	Clay Thompson
Dan Hodgkiss	Kenny Curry	Jim Rogers

For online bill pay or ACH: www.carbonpower.com
 For more information,
 please call the billing dept.

REMEMBER you can pay your bill at the following locations:

Rawlins National Bank	First National Bank	Bank of the West
202 5th St	21st & Grand	302 N. 1st St.
Rawlins, WY	Laramie, WY	Saratoga, WY



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Don't let vampires suck the life out of your energy efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics – otherwise known as "energy vampires" – can save you as much as 10 percent on your electric bill.

Source: energy.gov

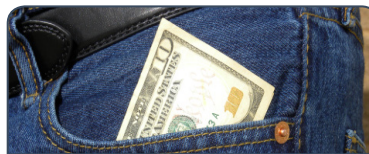
WARNING



COOPERATIVE SERVICE TERRITORY WATCH

Information leading to the arrest of a person or persons responsible for vandalizing cooperative owned equipment will receive a \$500 reward.

To report an incident, call the local law enforcement agency or Carbon Power & Light's office at 307.326.5206 or 800.359.0249.



If you find your name in *asterisks* in this newsletter, contact Carbon Power & Light to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.

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ATTENTION

ETS USERS

Day Light Savings ends November 1, 2015!

To maximize your energy efficiency and lower your costs, double check your timers on your ETS units to make sure you are heating your home/office on the off-peak rate.

CARBON POWER & LIGHT

Office Hours

MAY - SEPTEMBER

Monday - Thursday ~ 7 AM - 5:30 PM

OCTOBER - APRIL

Monday - Friday ~ 8 AM - 4:30 PM

