



Member Owned ~ Service Proud

Carbon Light Lines

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



100 E. Willow Ave. • Saratoga, WY • 82331-0579

307.326.5206 • 800.359.0249

www.carbonpower.com

October 2014



BOB JOHNSON
District 2 Director

Board Actions August 2014

Approved Department Production and Financial Reports.

The Board moved to accept the Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements as of May 31, 2014 from Schmidt & Company.

The Board moved to accept the Town of Saratoga's Franchise Agreement as presented.

The Board moved to approve Work Order Inventory #510 for \$92,475.97.

Find Your Name Win a \$10 credit!

Look for your name somewhere in these four pages of the Carbon Light Lines in *asterisks* and claim a \$10 credit on your electric bill by calling Carbon Power & Light.

Cooperative 7 Principles



Principles in Action

There are Seven Cooperative Principles that give all co-ops guidance.

By Adam Schwartz, NRECA

October is National Co-op Month. The time of year when the 29,000 plus co-ops in the U.S. take a few moments to ensure their employees, members and the general public truly understand the value of the cooperative business they own. While I applaud any effort that brings more attention to co-ops, my feelings are best represented by a T-Shirt slogan, "October is Co-op Month - But I Cooperate All Year Long!"

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA). Cooperatives trace the roots

of these principles to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

One of the ways co-ops demonstrate that they are different from investor-owned businesses is by actually living the principles. Principle 6: *Cooperation Among Cooperatives*, is our focus this month, and there are many examples that demonstrate how co-ops do this every day. In theory this sounds so simple, answering the question, "Can't we all just get along?" As it turns out, it's easier to get along when we focus on what our

personal or organizational self-interest is - and find others who have a similar self-interest.

This is how Carbon got started. Ordinary folks realized they would be better off working together if they wanted to bring electricity to their community. Once the co-op was established, we soon realized that if we work with our sister co-ops, we can gain control of our power supply, so we formed over 60 generation and transmission cooperatives such as Tri-State G&T, your local generation and transmission cooperative.

This pattern kept repeating, and soon electric co-ops cooperated to form new co-ops that offer a variety of services, such as financing, insurance, IT services and more to ensure that they had ownership and control over these core products. This was done to help serve you, our member-owners, by making sure there would be no interruption in these vital services that help us bring electricity to you.

This cooperation among cooperatives continues today, not only with co-ops directly related to the provision of electricity but in other sectors as well. Electric co-ops partner with credit unions, food co-ops, housing co-ops and others to help bring critical services to rural residents and businesses throughout the country. *Donna L. Newkirk* So while we take special note of the value of our cooperative in October, we are delighted to be a part of our community delivering vital services to you all year long.

All cooperative businesses have at their foundation these seven cooperative principles to follow:

- 1. Voluntary and Open Membership**
 - 2. Democratic Member Control**
 - 3. Members' Economic Participation**
 - 4. Autonomy and Independence**
 - 5. Education, Training and Information**
 - 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
 - 7. Concern for Community**
-

Charles Larsen

GENERAL MANAGER'S COLUMN



WE ARE ASKING
ALL OF YOU...THE
MEMBER-OWNERS
OF CARBON POWER
AND LIGHT, TO STEP
UP AND VOICE YOUR
CONCERNS TO THE
EPA. THE COMMENT
DEADLINE IS
OCTOBER 16TH.

EPA Rules: For the last several months now I have been reporting that the Environmental Protection Agency is proposing rules for new and existing power plants that would limit the amount of carbon dioxide that is created with the production of each Mega-Watt-Hour of electrical generation. These new rules would place restrictions on power generation in the following manner:

- Make coal fired power plants more efficient.
- Displace existing coal fired generation with natural gas fired generation.
- Increase the use of nuclear and renewable energy.
- Decrease electric energy consumption.

On the surface, these rules might seem reasonable and achievable, however below the surface the findings are that there will be a significant increase in costs to end-use consumers, closure of power plants, threatened reliability of electrical energy and the elimination of jobs.

During the past months, we have been asking all of you...the Member-Owners of Carbon Power and Light, to step up and voice your concerns to the EPA. The comment deadline is October 16th. If you have not submitted your comments...please do so by going to www.action.coop. As Member-Owners, your collective voice needs to be heard.

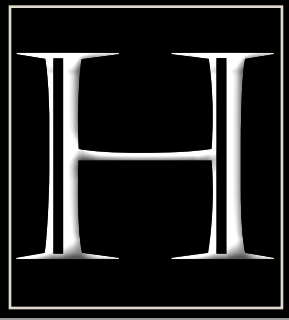
Outages: During the month of August and again in early September, we saw a significant increase in power outages throughout our entire electrical distribution system. Along with the much needed moisture we received, we all witnessed the frequent sound of thunder and the flashes of lightning that accompanied these storms as they passed through our service area. Although outages associated with lightning strikes are a common occurrence for us, one outage in particular which occurred on the afternoon of August 27th caused us considerable concern.

Witnesses reported arc flashes in the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Medicine Bow substation. This substation is one of the wholesale power delivery points where Carbon receives the electrical power to serve our Rock River and Elk Mountain areas. Based on what Carbon's crews found it appeared that a conductor connector had failed and had damaged equipment within the substation. Because it is a WAPA installation, Carbon's crews had to wait for WAPA personnel to arrive from the Casper area to assess the damaged equipment in the substation and make repairs. Because of this process, Carbon was very frustrated and concerned with the delay (over three hours) in restoring service to our Member-Owners. Because of this concern, Carbon has filed an "Incident Investigation Report" with both WAPA and Tri-State. In the near future, we will be meeting with both entities to discuss potential solutions associated with these types of delays in power restoration.

Fall: Each year as we enter into the fall season it seems like our workload here at the Cooperative picks up considerably. Potential projects considered by our Member-Owners earlier in the year are now brought to us with the urgency associated with the fact that winter is just around the corner. On the personal side of things, I also find myself trying to play "catch up" on everything I need to get done before the snow flies. Beyond all the hustle and bustle however, fall remains my favorite time of year. I welcome the freshness and coolness of the air and the fall colors stir my passion for being outdoors and for the upcoming hunting season. To me there is nothing like Wyoming in the fall...I hope you all find enjoyment in this season as well.

As always...thanks for being there for us.

Chuck



History of Electricity

safety for all

by Meghaan Evans, NRECA

Carbon Power & Light has always been dedicated to providing safe, reliable and affordable utility service to you, our member-owners. The lengths we go to keep you, your family and our linemen safe are a point of pride for us and are never taken lightly.

From acquiring new equipment and implementing new procedures – including installation of new breaker systems that react more quickly in case of a disruption – to increasing awareness of back-up generator systems within the cooperative community and supporting the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), America's electric cooperatives strive to promote the highest standard of safety.

A lot has changed for the electric utility industry in the United States over the last 130 years. In the 1880s, power came to New York City through the direct current (DC) supply method. Direct current supply required generation stations to be within a mile of a consumer's home, which was great for city residents – but not so great for those living in the suburbs or rural areas.

Because of its inability to travel long distances – and the higher cost – the DC system eventually lost out to the more economical alternating current (AC) system. The AC system allowed power to travel across greater distances through the use of transformers located at power stations. These transformers required higher voltage to pass through stations in order to bring power to homes at the end of the wire. This increase in voltage spurred the

need for increased electrical safety procedures.

High voltage is considered in the U.S. to be a voltage above 35,000 volts. Designations of high voltage also include the possibility of causing a spark in the air or causing electric shock by proximity or contact.

High voltage wires and equipment are a constant danger for cooperative lineworkers, but they can also pose a danger to cooperative members. That is why electric cooperatives are proud to be at the forefront of electrical safety equipment development, as well as electrical safety education.

Our line crews participate in monthly and annual training sessions. These courses ensure that our employees are constantly reminded of the safety aspect of the job and the importance of using equipment in the safest manner possible."

In addition to safety training for employees, Carbon is continuously raising awareness of electrical safety in our communities by performing demonstrations at local schools and community events. There, we show members just how easy it is for an accident to occur when working with electricity and how to prevent these dangerous, and sometimes deadly, mishaps. These programs keep members of the community, safe.

At Carbon Power & Light, we know that the more people we have in our communities who are knowledgeable about electrical safety, the safer we all will be. That's why we strive, every day, to raise awareness of, and encourage development in electrical safety.



photo by Joe Parrie

Member Statistics Report	July 2013	July 2014
Financial		
Total Utility Plant	\$37,087,059	\$38,460,024
Cost of Purchase Power	\$1,138,010	\$645,840
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$434,471	\$382,953
Tax & Interest Paid	\$50,533	\$53,226
Interest Received on Investments	\$2,146	\$2,019
Energized Line & Consumers		
Miles of Energized Line	1,922	1,930
Consumers Per Mile	3.2	3.2
Meters		
Total Meters	6,251	6,080
Residential/Rural	3,434	3,278
Residential/Seasonal	1,581	1,567
Large Power/Commercial	1,116	1,126
Other	110	109
kWh Usage		
Total kWh	13,596,923	7,564,289
Residential/Rural	1,963,949	1,957,577
Residential/Seasonal	287,663	288,287
Large Power/Commercial	10,350,604	4,355,447
Other	994,707	962,978
Averages		
Avg. Residential kWh Used	572	597
Avg. Residential/Rural Bill	\$85	\$95
Avg. Seasonal kWh Used	182	184
Avg. Seasonal Bill	\$49	\$54

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

Visit our website at: www.carbonpower.com
 Edited by Charles Larsen

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

TRICK - OR - TREAT
AT THE WALK
ATTENTION

All Ghouls and Goblins are welcome at Carbon Power & Light's office for some tricks and treats during the Halloween Walk in Saratoga on October 31st ☠ 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

☠ Stop by if you dare! ☠

WANTED

Information leading to the arrest of a person(s) responsible for vandalizing Cooperative owned equipment.

\$500

REWARD

To report an incident, call the local law enforcement agency or Carbon Power & Light at: 307.326.5206 or 800.359.0249

★

facebook

Recently, Carbon Power & Light launched a Facebook page.

By following Carbon Power & Light on **Facebook**, Members will have access to critical information regarding widespread outages.

When Members 'Like' our page, along with outage information, they'll also learn about everything from important safety information to energy-efficiency news to upcoming Cooperative programs and events.

EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Source: Dept. of Energy

CARBON POWER & LIGHT

Office Hours

MAY - SEPTEMBER
 Monday - Thursday ☞ 7 AM - 5:30 PM

OCTOBER - APRIL
 Monday - Friday ☞ 8 AM - 4:30 PM

YOUR COOPERATIVE IS A PROUD MEMBER OF
WREA
 Wyoming Rural Electric Association