



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

April 2015



CLAY THOMPSON  
District 3 Director

## Board Actions February 2015

Approved Department Production and Financial Reports.

Approved the 2014 Capital Credit Allocations.

Approved Work Order Inventory #513 for \$255,598.52.

Approved the recommendations made by the Scholarship Committee for the Carbon Power & Light, Tri-State and Basin Electric Scholarships for 2015.

Approved Director Clifton as Carbon's representative on the Tri-State Board of Directors for 2015 and to serve as the Voting Delegate at Tri-State's Annual Meeting and Director Curry as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

## Date to Remember

**June 27th** - 74th Annual Meeting of the Membership. Held each year on the fourth Saturday in June. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Business meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. ~210 W. Elm St., Saratoga, WY~

## Why should I attend the Annual Meeting?

It is soon to be that time of year again – annual meeting time! On behalf of Carbon Power & Light, we'd like to personally invite you to join us on Saturday, June 27, 2015 at the Platte Valley Community Center in Saratoga at 10:30 a.m. We look forward to gathering with you – the Member-Owners of Carbon Power & Light – to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good food and fellowship.

This event is not only a chance to visit with Member-Owners of our co-op community – it's also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by Carbon and get to know your

co-op staff. Our annual meeting makes it possible for us to gather feedback from you by providing a forum where you can let us know how we can better serve you and your family.

This is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our local communities. It's also an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a Member-Owner of an electric co-op, by voting for the upcoming year's Board of Directors.

We hope you plan now to attend Carbon's 74th Annual Meeting of the Membership.



**ALWAYS  
CALL  
BEFORE YOU  
DIG**



## Call Before You Dig: 811 or 1.800.849.2476

## Are you planting this spring?

Installing a fence or building a deck? Before you dig into any home improvement project, have utility lines marked. \*David Yeutter\* One call can help protect you from injury and expense. Call 811 two days before you dig.

# Cooperative Business

## Charles Larsen

GENERAL MANAGER

### OUTAGE:

Carbon recently experienced an unusual outage situation that impacted our Member-Owners in the Elk Mountain, Rock River and Medicine Bow areas. During the outage, Carbon's crews patrolled our 34.5 kV powerline that serves out of the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA's) Medicine Bow Substation to determine the cause of the outage. In short order they found that the water levels in East Allen Lake had risen and expanded westward engulfing our power line as well as WAPA's power line serving the wind turbine site south of Medicine Bow. Windblown lake ice had then pushed one of Carbon's poles over causing the outage and creating a difficult and somewhat dangerous situation for Carbon's crews who attempted to make repairs. Because of the water level and the fact that the ice had not only leaned the pole over, it had moved the base of the pole nearly 15 feet. Carbon's crews, using a boat, were able to reach the downed pole and untie the conductors. Because this increased the span length between the remaining poles, insulated link sticks (spacers) were put between the three conductors in an effort to keep them apart in the



event of high winds occurring prior to the crew being able to make a permanent repair. As of this writing, Carbon's engineering department has been working with WAPA, Tri-State, the Bureau of Land Management and Anadarko Petroleum to establish a reliable/temporary solution to maintain service and to establish a new right-of-way and a re-routing of the line to higher ground around the west side of the lake. Construction materials are being hauled to the site and work will commence immediately once everything is in place.

### BOARD NOMINATIONS:

As a reminder from last month's newsletter: The nomination process for Director positions in all three of our Districts is open. If you would like to be considered as a nominee, please call the office by April 10th.

### MANAGER SUCCESSION:

Due to my announced retirement, the Board has selected a committee comprised of three Board Members to solicit applications and review potential candidates to fill the position. This process began in January and after considerable time and energy, the committee has narrowed the list of candidates down to those that they wish to interview. It is the Board's hope to have a successful candidate named sometime in early April.



### WE NEED YOUR HELP:

As we do each year, our upcoming May newsletter will be dedicated to listing those former Member-Owners that we do not have current addresses for and are eligible to receive Capital Credits from the Cooperative. When you receive that newsletter, please take a moment to review all of the names and if you recognize the name of a former Member-Owner and have contact information for that person please let us know...or...contact that person and have them give us a call. The payment of Capital Credits to our Member-Owners is one of the many positive attributes that sets Cooperatives apart from other electric utilities.

*Thanks for being there for us.*

*Chuck*

Nominations are being  
accepted for  
Carbon Power & Light's  
Board of Directors  
until 4:30 P.M.  
Friday, April 10, 2015.

If you would like to be  
considered as a candidate,  
please contact Marcy Knotwell  
at 800.359.0249 or 326.5206.

**HAVE A  
SUCCESSFUL  
SPRING  
SEASON  
ROOTED IN  
SAFETY**



AS RANCHERS AND FARMERS MAKE PLANS TO RETURN TO THEIR FIELDS FOR SPRING WORK, CARBON POWER & LIGHT URGES THEM TO BE MINDFUL OF THE DANGERS OF WORKING NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES. OPERATING LARGE EQUIPMENT NEAR THESE LINES IS ONE OF THE OFTEN OVERLOOKED, YET POTENTIALLY DEADLY, HAZARDS OF WORKING ON THE RANCH OR FARM.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. High voltage requires more clearance. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of equipment near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination. For those who irrigate, do not spray water on power lines, equipment or structures. The stream of water can also conduct electricity.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Carbon Power & Light for help. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay clear and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

**STATEMENT OF  
NONDISCRIMINATION**

“ In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of 41 CFR 60-300.5(a) and 41 CFR 60-741.5(a), if applicable. These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified protected veterans and qualified individuals with disabilities, and require affirmative action by covered prime contractors and subcontractors to employ and advance in employment qualified protected veterans and qualified individuals with disabilities.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Offices of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

This institution is operated under special use permit with the Medicine Bow Route National Forest.



**CARBON POWER & LIGHT  
WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MEMORIAL DAY**

Member Statistics Report	Jan. 2014	Jan. 2015
<b>Financial</b>		
Total Utility Plant	\$35,521,847	\$39,102,745
Cost of Purchase Power	\$1,186,532	\$810,699
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$447,479	\$432,052
Tax & Interest Paid	\$45,002	\$72,541
Interest Received on Investments	\$1,770	\$2,081
<b>Energized Line &amp; Consumers</b>		
Miles of Energized Line	1,927	1,934
Consumers Per Mile	3.2	3.2
<b>Meters</b>		
Total Meters	6,050	6,098
Residential/Rural	3,252	3,272
Residential/Seasonal	1,574	1,613
Large Power/Commercial	1,121	1,109
Other	103	104
<b>kWh Usage</b>		
Total kWh	15,727,141	10,529,969
Residential/Rural	4,138,190	3,878,282
Residential/Seasonal	465,783	457,856
Large Power/Commercial	10,776,743	5,868,359
Other	346,425	325,472
<b>Averages</b>		
Avg. Residential kWh Used	1,273	1,185
Avg. Residential/Rural Bill	\$171	\$161
Avg. Seasonal kWh Used	296	284
Avg. Seasonal Bill	\$66	\$65

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](http://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](http://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



EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE  
 MAKE SURE YOURS IS HEARD  
 TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

**Energy Efficiency  
 Tip of the Month**



Summer is right around the corner! Have you changed your home's air filter? Filters get loaded with more and more particles as they do their job. This actually has the effect of making them more efficient, but it also increases resistance and reduces airflow. Remember to check filters once a month.

Source: EnergySavers.gov

# Time-of-Day Rates End June 1st!

## What are time-of-day rates?

Time-of-day (TOD) rates are off-peak rates that are lower than the residential on-peak kWh rates and are for Members who have purchased Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating system.



The ETS program is designed to encourage lower usage during peak times of the system's energy consumption.

## How does the TOD rates work?

Time-of-day rates work by billing the actual cost of making and delivering power at different times, meaning power is the cheapest overnight, or in the early afternoon hours when the overall demand on the system for electricity is lower (off-peak).

## How do I qualify for the TOD Rate?

In order to qualify for the TOD rate you must have an electric-based ETS heating system that has the capacity to store heat with appropriate timing and controls.

## Where can I purchase an ETS system?

Carbon Power & Light can assist you. Call the office and ask for Member Services.

Time-of-Day Program	Hours	Rate	Facility Charge
<b>September 1 - May 31st</b>			
Single Phase off-peak	11pm-7am	8 ¢	\$32
Single Phase on-peak	12pm-4pm	13 ¢	
Three Phase off-peak	11pm-7am	8 ¢	\$41
Three Phase on-peak	12pm-4pm	13 ¢	
<b>June 1 - August 31st</b>			
	24 hours	11 ¢	\$32 / \$41



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

Carbon Power & Light delivers high speed internet **exede** by ViaSat **Call Now!**

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 follow us on Facebook

**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