



Member Owned ~ Service Proud.

Carbon Light Lines

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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www.carbonpower.com

October 2016



DAN HODGKISS
District 1 Director

Board Actions AUGUST 2016

Approved the Department Production and Financial Reports.

Approved Audit Reports.

Approved Work Order #525 in the amount of \$92,535.59.

Elected Director Rabidue as the voting delegate for the Basin Electric annual meeting and Director Curry as the alternate voting delegate.

Elected Director Jacobsen voting delegate for the Region 7 CFC and Director Curry as the alternate voting delegate.

October IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH



From combines to boom trucks to cranes, help keep those operating such large equipment safe by reminding them to be aware of their surroundings and to keep equipment far away from overhead lines.





Member-Owned Service Proud



[RUSSELL WALDNER, GENERAL MANAGER]



RUSSELL WALDNER

The day after my last article went to press I had so many ideas for relevant information that it was almost overwhelming. I guess that is one way to eliminate writers block...share your angst with your readers.

Tri-State's preliminary 2017 budget calls for a 6.78 percent rate increase in Carbon's wholesale power rates. Tri-State's Board is reviewing and expected to vote on their 2017 budget as I write this article.

Carbon's current operating revenue year to date through July (most current data) is running 7 percent behind budget and 5 percent behind last year to date. Even with this revenue shortfall Carbon is \$83,400 ahead of budget year to date for operating margins. Carbon has been fortunate and our employees are working hard to keep expenses under control.

With the Tri-State wholesale rate increase and a continued revenue shortfall Carbon will need to complete a cost of service study to determine the impact to our Member-Owner rates. I

do believe there is a rate increase in our future. If you use a back of the envelope estimate, we are looking at somewhere around a 4.5 percent increase just from Tri-State's increase. This is just using year to date figures and projecting into the future.

Carbon will continue our efforts to maintain the austerity we have through the first 7 months of 2016 to offset any needed increase in Member-Owner electric rates.

As always if you have any questions or suggestions please contact us.



A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
WWW.VOTE.COOP



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. *Christie Kirlin* 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. 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.

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

1

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

2

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

3

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

4

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

5

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

6

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

7

Member Statistics Report	July 2015	July 2016
Financial		
Total Utility Plant	\$40,092,904	\$41,322,243
Cost of Purchase Power	\$654,807	\$587,408
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$406,845	\$430,487
Tax & Interest Paid	\$51,605	\$51,675
Interest Received on Investments	\$1,634	\$3,587
Energized Line & Consumers		
Miles of Energized Line	1,942	1,961
Consumers Per Mile	3.2	3.2
Meters		
Total Meters	6,160	6,189
Residential/Rural	3,303	3,377
Residential/Seasonal	1,624	1,586
Large Power/Commercial	1,128	1,121
Other	105	105
kWh Usage		
Total kWh	7,698,750	7,514,995
Residential/Rural	1,958,051	2,022,351
Residential/Seasonal	304,839	316,695
Large Power/Commercial	4,723,219	4,426,687
Other	712,641	749,262
Averages		
Avg. Residential kWh Used	593	599
Avg. Residential/Rural Bill	\$94	\$95
Avg. Seasonal kWh Used	188	200
Avg. Seasonal Bill	\$54	\$55

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 Joe Parrie

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	ANB	Bank of the West
202 5th St	3908 Grand Ave	302 N. 1st St.
Rawlins, WY	Laramie, WY	Saratoga, WY



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

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.



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If you find your name in *asterisks* in this newsletter, contact Carbon Power & Light to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

ATTENTION

ETS USERS

*Day Light Saving Time
Ends November 6, 2016!*

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

YOUR COOPERATIVE IS A PROUD MEMBER OF

Wyoming Rural Electric Association