

High West Energy, Inc.
PO Box 519
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082-0519

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- District 11 - Troy Freeburg PH #308-673-5336**
Bushnell, NE
 - District 12 - Don Wisroth PH #245-3454**
Pine Bluffs, WY
 - District 13 - Clinton Farrar PH #547-3435**
Hillsdale, WY
 - District 14 - Jerry Burnett PH #970-895-3386**
Hereford, CO
 - District 15 - Dan Acheson PH #308-235-2300**
Kimball, NE
 - District 16 - Wayne Child PH #632-5401**
Cheyenne, WY
 - District 17 - Russ Nielsen PH #308-879-4262**
Potter, NE
- The monthly board meeting is held on the 4th Monday of each month.**

MANAGER: Don Brunner
EDITOR: Tamara McNamee

OFFICE HOURS
Mon-Fri - 7:30a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Open During Noon
Closed Weekends - Holidays

PHONE NUMBERS
Outage calls 24 hours a day
Laramie County 245-3261
Toll Free 1-888-834-1657

WEBSITE INFORMATION
www.highwestenergy.com
www.TogetherWeSave.com
www.ourenergy.com
www.touchstoneenergy.com

BILLING QUESTIONS
Local 245-3261
Toll Free 1-888-834-1657

HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION
245-3810

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CORRECTIONS FROM JANUARY SPARKS

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Dar Hackworth Lineworker Scholarship
Wyoming students only - May 1, 2011

Mail completed application to:
WREA Suppliers Group
2312 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, Wy 82001

Neil Adkins Lineworker Scholarship
May 1, 2011

Mail completed application to:
WREA
2312 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, Wy 82001

Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA)
Lineman Scholarship - March 1st, 2011

High West Energy, Inc.
Attn: Tamara McNamee
PO Box 519
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082

HWE, Basin Electric and
Tri-State Scholarship

Applications for the HWE, Basin Electric and Tri-State are the same form and only one is needed to apply for all 3. The application must be postmarked before February 4th, 2011 or dropped off at the Pine Bluffs office before **4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 2011.**

High West Energy, Inc.
Attn: Tamara McNamee
PO Box 519
Pine Bluffs, Wy 82082

Valentine's Day is
Monday, February
14th!!
President's Day is
Feb. 21st.



We're Different.
We're Looking Out for You

Cooperatives are different from other business you deal with. To tell you the truth, I like being different. And the fact that you're reading this article shows you like that difference, too.

We're different because we're **Looking Out for You**. Now, more than ever, that's important because we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable.

Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill last year. In January the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses—an action made possible by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions. Policies dealing with coal ash, even more stringent controls on other power plant emissions, and state renewable energy requirements could also lead to higher costs. It's hard to predict the future, but one thing seems certain: government regulations are going to increase the cost of doing business.

New regulations won't be the only culprit. Prices for fuel, materials, and equipment will continue to rise. Although the recent economic slump and corresponding drop in electricity use provided some

Looking Out for You

much-needed breathing room, soon we will need to build new power plants, requiring a significant, long-term investment of time and money.

We're committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through channels like the WREN, Colorado Country Life and the Rural Electric Nebraska monthly

magazines, SPARKS newsletter, www.TogetherWeSave.com and www.highwestenergy.com. We're going to do everything we can to keep your electric bills affordable.

To accomplish that, we're controlling costs through innovation. TogetherWeSave.com shows how little changes like sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation can add up to big savings on your electric bill. We also offer home energy audits to make sure you're getting the best value out of the energy you use every month.

Deploying state-of-the-art solutions like our automated meter infrastructure system helps us control operating costs and improve service reliability. Nationally, co-ops are meeting members' power needs with a diverse fuel mix, including renewable energy.

While we're affordable and innovative, above all else we're member focused. No matter what comes our way we'll continue to put you, our members, first. High West Energy, Incorporated is member controlled and locally operated. As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. At our annual meeting each year you have the opportunity to elect fellow members to our board of directors to represent your best interests. Don't miss our next meeting on November 12, 2011!

Member control means we are accountable to those we serve, and are dedicated to assisting our communities—your money stays at work close to home. Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to your electric bill our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders.

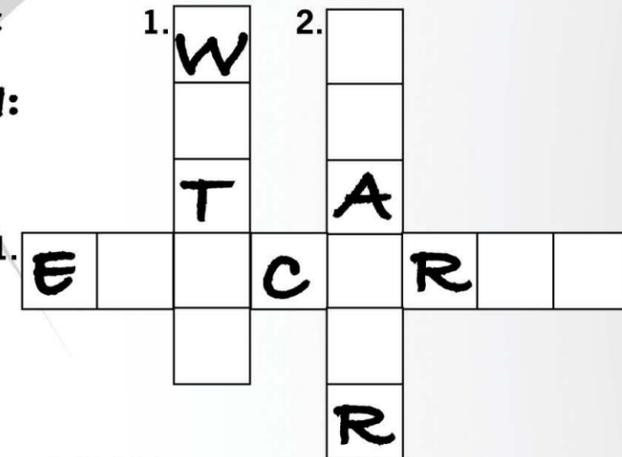
In fact, as a not-for-profit organization, we give money back to you when our revenues exceed costs. I'm proud to report that in 2010 we returned more than \$445 thousand dollars to our members in the form of capital credits.

The bottom line? We exist only to serve you and meet your needs for safe, reliable, and affordable power.

As you can see, we're different. We're working together to keep your electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. And we're continuing to put you, our members, first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain. We're **Looking Out for You**.

PUZZLED by heating appliances?

HERE'S A GREAT SOLUTION:



ACROSS:

1. Clean, quiet, efficient power

DOWN:

- 1. Warm liquid used for relaxing baths, laundry, dishwashing, etc.
- 2. Ensures a reliable, hot supply of 1. down



A high-capacity, super-insulated electric water heater can meet all your hot water needs.

Find out how to qualify for **Substantial Energy Efficiency Credit\$** by calling your participating electric cooperative, listed below.

CONTACT CHAD SCHAEFER AT:
 HIGH WEST ENERGY
 6270 COUNTY ROAD 212
 PINE BLUFFS, WYOMING
 1-888-834-1657
 245-3261



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives
 www.touchstoneenergy.coop

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SPARKS



Your Electric Cooperative's Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2011

Winter Storm Safety

Snow and ice storms are an inevitable part of the winter season. However, they can lead to downed power lines and outages. Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter event:

- Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call High West Energy at 245-3261 or 1-888-834-1657 to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.
- In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source—such as a fireplace, propane space heater, or wood stove—may be used. Extreme caution should be taken.
- Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located.
- Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources should be vented. Be sure to follow manufacturer's directions.
- Make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working properly.
- Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home. Do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage. Follow manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.
- Take special care not to overload a generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets.
- Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.



Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on. But keep an eye on family members for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness, and mental and physical slowness. The elderly and young children are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. Call 911 immediately if you notice these symptoms. At least one telephone in the house that does not depend on electricity should be available in the case of a power outage.

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Ag Safety Database)