

HIGH WEST ENERGY  
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Your Touchstone Energy®



JUNE 2013

## Message From Management



You probably remember receiving a notice from High West Energy (HWE) in early May, announcing we will be increasing our electric rates. We decided to do this in two parts - the first in June and the second in

early 2014. You're probably wondering why we would do that at a time when money is tight.

Our directors and employees understand that times are tough for many of our members, and they work hard to keep the cost of electricity affordable. However, most of what we charge for electricity is set by factors that are outside our control.

To understand why costs are going up, you need to be aware that our co-op doesn't generate its own power. Instead, we purchase electricity along with 43 other co-ops through another cooperative called Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association. Combining our efforts gives us negotiating strength, so we can buy and generate at a lower cost than we could on our own.

Tri-State generates and buys electricity for its 44 member-cooperatives and sends it to us over the bulk

transmission system here in this region. HWE takes title to the electricity at various delivery points in our service area and from there, we deliver it to your home, ranch or business. Working this way ensures that we have a reliable supply of the power you need. Tri-State charges us through what's known as a "wholesale rate", and we pass the cost to you on your electric bill.

Tri-State increased its rates to us at the beginning of both 2012 and 2013. And they are projecting another increase on January 1, 2014. While we were able to make some internal decisions that let us thankfully being able to absorb the 2012 increase, we have exhausted our options and therefore are not in a position to do that for the 2013 and 2014 increases.

So why is Tri-State increasing its rates? New environmental rules is the main reason. The federal government has developed tougher rules to reduce air and water pollution. While we certainly support efforts for cleaner air and water, meeting those new rules means that power producers must invest billions of dollars in new equipment. Somebody has to pay for it, and that somebody is the people who use electricity. This is not an issue isolated to Tri-State and HWE - it is impacting all utilities across the country.

How can you protect your pocketbook from a rate increase like these? The best way is to use electricity as efficiently as possible. If you aren't sure how to reduce your electricity usage, talk with our staff. We'll be happy to share practical tips that will reduce your costs and improve your home's comfort.

## High West Energy, Inc.

PO Box 519  
Pine Bluffs, WY 82082-0519

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The monthly board meeting is normally held on the 4th Monday of each month.

**District 11 - Troy Freeburg**, Bushnell, NE

Ph #308-673-5336

**District 12 - Don Wisroth**, Pine Bluffs, WY

Ph #245-3454

**District 13 - Ed Prosser**, Cheyenne, WY

Ph #632-6068

**District 14 - Jerry Burnett**, Hereford, CO

Ph #970-895-3386

**District 15 - Dan Acheson**, Kimball, NE

Ph #308-235-2300

**District 16 - Wayne Child**, Cheyenne, WY

Ph #632-5401

**District 17 - Russ Nielsen**, Potter, NE

Ph #308-250-4262

General Manager: Brian D. Heithoff  
Engineering Manager: Lloyd Sisson  
Chief Financial Officer: Carol Macy  
Operations Manager: Jeff Bruckner  
Energy Services Manager: Konnie Rask

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri - 7:30 a.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](http://www.HighWestEnergy.com)



Friend us on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/High-West-Energy/54402702555>

### BILLING QUESTIONS

Local 245-3261

Toll Free 1-888-834-1657

## Congratulations Are Due

Jeremy A. Henke, an employee with High West Energy, has successfully completed one of the world's most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. General Manager Brian Heithoff is congratulating Jeremy.

The Merchant Job Training Program is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States. MJTS is also under contract with NRECA International, LTD, supplying a Spanish program for use around



the world. The academic program is administered through computers and fax machines for immediate response including assistance through a web site.

Jeremy and the support staff with High West Energy can be proud of their accomplishment. Each utility has an acting Training Coordinator assisting their Trainees by administering "closed book" testing. The coordinators manage their own people throughout the training process from rules set up by the MJTS and the statewide association people.

Congratulations to Jeremy A. Henke, who can look forward to a very rewarding life long occupation.

## Please Keep Us Informed!

We are noticing more and more that you, our consumers, are eliminating your land line phone numbers.

In order for us to keep current information on file, we need you to contact our office with ANY updated phone numbers; home phones, cell numbers, work phone numbers and email addresses. This communication helps us notify you in case of any emergency due to outages, planned outages or other information we feel is very important. We thank you in advance.

We will not publish any information to third parties.

## What is an Access Fee?

The movement toward a correctly priced Access Charge (formerly called Facilities Charge) has been occurring for many years. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. Our Access Charge is based upon system costs (customer costs) that are incurred prior to the consumption of energy. These costs are related to billing, metering and providing a system capable of lighting one light bulb system capable of lighting one light bulb at each location.
2. Average per account consumption of energy is expected to remain flat or decline over the next decade. In order to properly recover costs, our fixed charge should be increased.
3. The correct pricing of the fixed component of our service will reduce the subsidy within the class of service between high and low users.

## Macadamia Nut Bars

Total preparation and baking time about 35 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

#### Cookie Base:

- One pkg yellow cake mix
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 cup crisp rice cereal

#### Topping:

- One 12 oz. package white chocolate chips
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 1 can coconut-pecan frosting
- 2 cups crisp rice cereal
- 2 cups chopped macadamia nuts

#### Directions:

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Mix all base ingredients until crumbly and press into a lightly oiled 13x9' baking pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

In a large saucepan, heat and stir white chocolate chips, marshmallows and frosting until mixture is fairly smooth. Remove from heat and stir in rice cereal and nuts. Spread evenly over cookie base. Allow to cool before cutting into bars.

The value of electricity

## What can a dollar buy?



72

hours of watching an Energy Star<sup>®</sup> LCD TV



36

hours of gaming



4

hours of home cooling with an Energy Star<sup>®</sup> Heat Pump



72

hours of laptop internet access



192

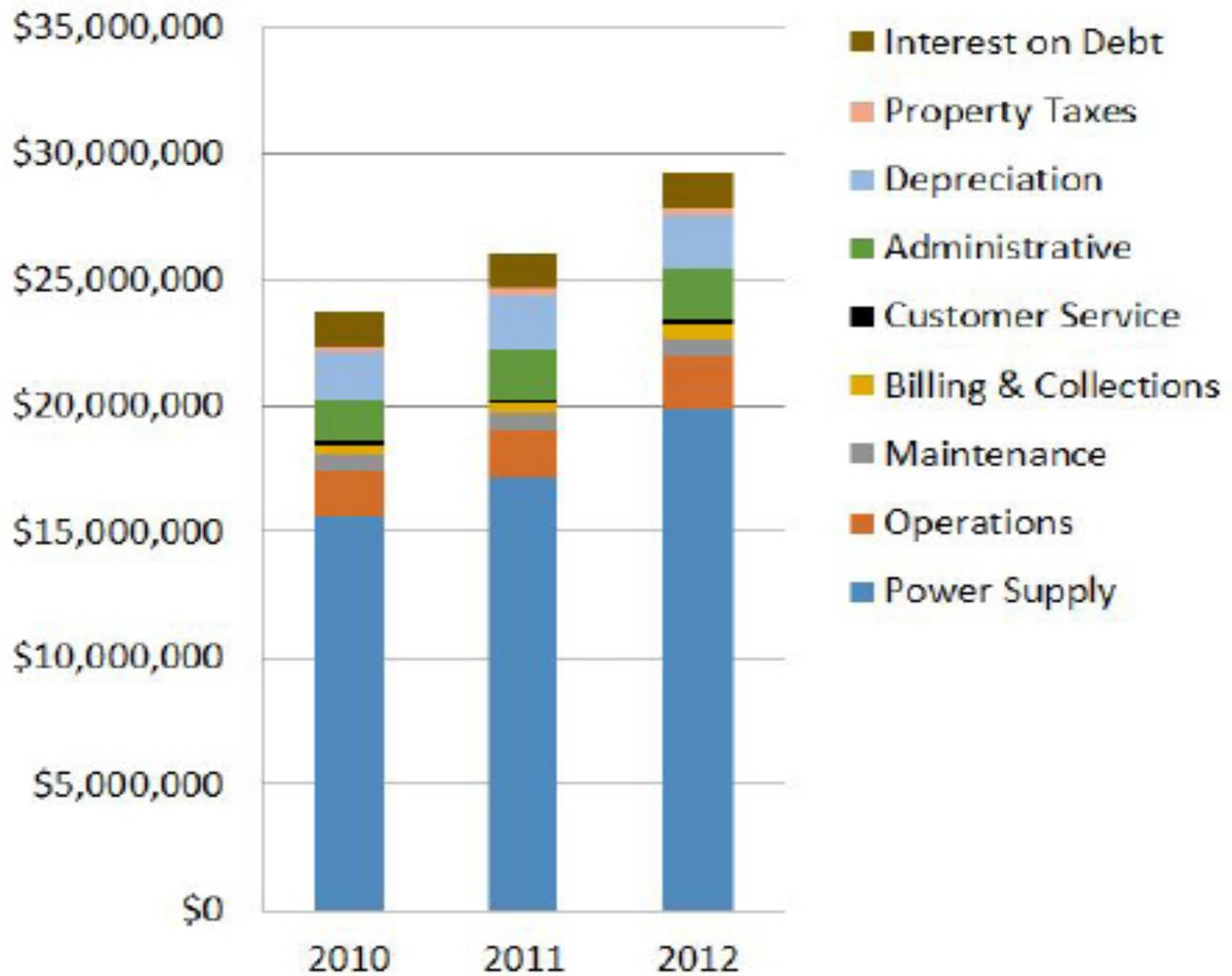
hours of chilled food with an Energy Star<sup>®</sup> refrigerator



4

loads of clean dishes with an Energy Star<sup>®</sup> dishwasher

## HWE's Operating Expenses Over the Past Three Years



### Energy Tips and Tidbits

Every little bit can help when it comes to saving energy. Here are a few simple steps to help you do just that:

- Turning off your computer when it won't be used for several hours not only cuts energy use, but can lengthen the life of the computer. However, turning the computer on and off frequently can do the opposite--wear it out faster. When you buy a new one, get a model with a 'sleep' feature, that allows you to leave it on but greatly cuts the energy consumption when it's not in use.
- A one-quarter inch gap at the bottom of a standard door drains away as much heated or cooled interior air as a three-inch-by-three-inch hole in the wall. You would act quickly to seal up a hole, so be just as quick to add weatherstripping and a threshold to that door.
- It's commonly believed that leaving the thermostat at the same setting, day and night, uses less energy than turning the thermostat back and then raising it again in the morning. The idea is that re-heating the cool house requires more energy than keeping it at a constant temperature. Well, it's not a good idea to keep moving the thermostat setting back and forth, for either heat or air conditioning,, but the fact is, less energy is needed to warm your house up in the morning that to keep it at the same constant warm temperature all night. So, if you don't have a programmable thermostat, get in the habit of changing the thermostat before bed and raising it again when you get up. If everyone in your family is out of the house during the day, reset the thermostat again when you leave for the day