

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 normally held on the 4th Monday of each month.**

MANAGER: Brian D. Heithoff
EDITOR: Tamara McNamee

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
www.TogetherWeSave.com
www.ourenergy.com
www.touchstoneenergy.com

BILLING QUESTIONS

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

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Statement of Nondiscrimination

High West Energy Incorporated is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. 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, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Brian D. Heithoff, General Manager of High West Energy, Incorporated. To file a complaint of discrimination, write:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance,
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410,

or call 202/260-1026 or 800/795-3272.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Join us for the 72nd Annual Meeting

WHEN: NOVEMBER 12th, 2011, DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 a.m.
LUNCH AT 11:30
BUSINESS MEETING AT 1:00

WHERE: KIMBALL HIGH SCHOOL
901 SOUTH NADINE
KIMBALL, NEBRASKA

At the August 29th meeting of the High West Energy Board, the Directors voted and elected to retire 1.6 million dollars in patronage dividends at this year's annual meeting. When you attend the meeting be sure to pick up your check and if you just simply can't be there in person we will mail it to you.

Protecting Our Silent Sentinels

It's easy to take something for granted when you see it every day. We drive by row after row of them, but how often do we think about utility poles? Yet these silent sentinels—often under attack in our community—are critical to High West Energy's mission of delivering safe, reliable, and affordable power.

Electric cooperatives like High West own and maintain more than 2.5 million miles of distribution lines stretching across two-thirds of America. Some of these lines can be found underground, but for the most part they stretch above ground, chasing after us on roadsides and doggedly climbing through harsh terrain to deliver power to homes.

Co-ops rely on more than 41 million utility poles to deliver these lines, and these staunch supporters of electricity are under constant attack from the elements—storms, woodpeckers, insects, moisture, and harsh soils. But people play a part in pole erosion, too.

How many times have you driven by a pole and noticed yard sale signs or ads tacked to the base. It's illegal to attach unauthorized items to poles; when a lineworker is responding to an outage and climbs a pole. Abandoned nails or tacks can rip through protective gloves, leaving the lineworker potentially exposed to thousands of volts of energy. And even when nails are removed, the leftover holes provide easy entry for bugs and water, causing a pole that should have lasted four decades or more to weaken much faster.

We need your help. If you notice anyone trying to attach something to a utility pole, let them know it's dangerous and against the law. Whenever we see an illegal attachment—whether it's a satellite dish, a birdhouse, a basketball hoop, deer stand, or anything else—our employees will remove it and are not responsible for any damage caused to the unauthorized item.

Thanks for your help as we work together to prolong the lifespan of these silent sentinels that provide us with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.

If you have craft items that you would like to sell or a product that you would like to demonstrate at the annual meeting please contact:

Chad Schaefer at High West Energy at 245-3261 or 888-834-1657.

We have FREE booths available at the annual meeting on Saturday, November 12th.

We will provide tables and chairs for you, so let Chad know when you call how many tables you will need.

Space is limited so please respond early!

Thank you and see you at the annual meeting!

Prevent Distracted Driving to Save Lives

Who me? A distracted driver? Never. Oh, yeah? Nobody is perfect, and you've got to admit to having been distracted at some point while driving. However, nowadays, you can be distracted by many more things than in the past. Text messages, cell phones, GPS units, and all the traditional distractions are vying for your attention. The problem is that when you are a distracted driver, you can cause death and destruction too easily. For instance, according to the National Safety Council, the chances of crashing while you're talking on a cell phone increase four times!

We know it's a problem. More and more communities are enacting laws against it. (And you never know when you'll be going through those communities.) So, how can you prevent distracted driving? It all starts with you. Don't rush. Plan ahead to give yourself enough time to complete your beauty routine and to make phone calls. Use only a hands free cell phone in the car. Pull over to text and to eat. Manage your passengers and pets. Don't fool yourself into thinking that you can just read a quick headline in the paper. Think ahead, and decide to be safe.

Source:
<http://www.squidoo.com/prevent-distracted-driving>

UNDERSTANDING SMART METERING

As I write this column, the weather is becoming cooler and the days are getting shorter. The smell of fall is in the air and football season has begun. It is a fun time of year and the changing seasons make me appreciate the part of the country in which we all have chosen to live.

You may be aware that some news sources are talking about “smart” meters and potential consequences of having them installed on your home, ranch or business. High West Energy (HWE) began installing solid-state, digital (smart) meters in the early 2000’s. These new meters are very accurate and contain more “intelligence” than older electro-mechanical meters.

My hope this month is to assure you that you should not have concerns about our meters.

First, let me emphasize that HWE is a not-for-profit cooperative that is solely owned and operated by the members who receive electric service from our company. When our board of directors approves a policy or procedure or the use of new equipment and technologies, they do so knowing that it will also apply to their own homes, farms and ranches.

One concern expressed by some is that usage and outage information will be used by the government or others and ultimately used against you. Please understand that HWE does not give or sell any member information, including meter data, to third parties. Our goals are to deliver better service, control rising operating expenses, improve system reliability through improved outage management and the ability to isolate problems so we can conduct preventative maintenance, and provide our members with the information tools they desire to make informed decisions about energy use.

The electronic meter system HWE has installed utilizes power line carrier (PLC) communications as opposed to the wireless radio technology that other systems utilize. PLC means data from the meter is carried back to our office over our power lines. There is also not a continuous stream of information flowing between your meter and our meter management system. Our data retrieval process is limited to approximately 5 minutes during a 24 hour period.

While your meter does not utilize wireless radio frequency technology, you should know that we are all continuously exposed to very low levels of both natural and man-made radio frequency (RF) fields. Even the earth’s surface and the human body are constant sources of RF fields. Inside your own home you will likely find numerous items that emit RF fields including microwave ovens, cell phones, cordless phones, televisions, Wi-Fi signals, antennas and receivers as well as lighting. Even the power lines that serve your home emit low levels of RF.

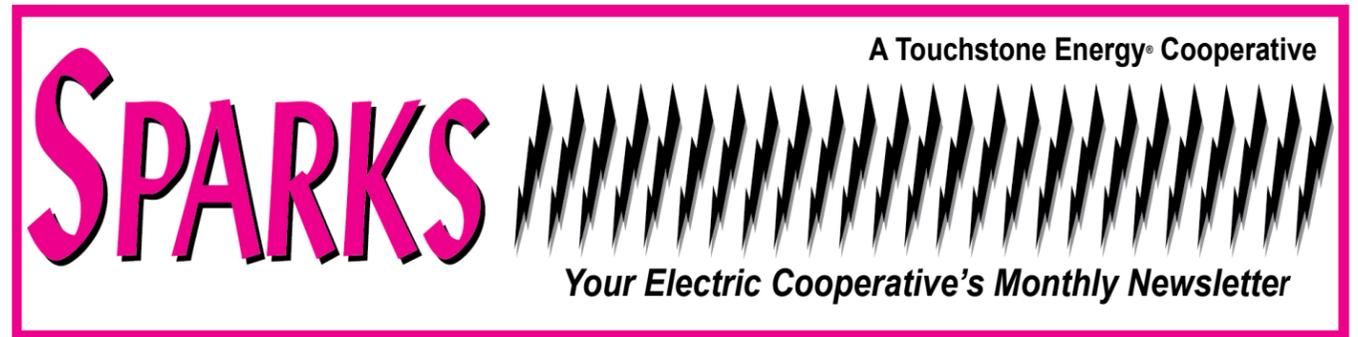
It is important members understand that it is particularly unlikely that someone could access information from HWE’s metering system. Meter manufacturers have incorporated security features and encryption technology into their meters, as recommended by national security experts. We also continually strengthen our security on our computer systems and databases to the point we are confident that a security breach is extremely remote.

In closing, HWE’s choice to utilize electronic (smart) meters and a power line carrier metering system was only after we deemed it to be a wise and safe choice for all co-op members and their families, and our own families as well.

Our objective was and is to utilize this new technology to serve your better.

If members have any questions or concerns about smart meters or other topics, please do not hesitate to contact me or any employee of HWE.

Brian Heithoff
General Manager



OCTOBER 2011

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That’s why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no High West Energy, Inc.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors/trustees every November at our annual meeting.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. From sponsoring a local school’s baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community.

Of course, co-ops span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing, and much more. There are more than 29,000 co-ops across the nation. And not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known co-ops like Sunkist, Ace Hardware, and Land O’ Lakes.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local—living and working alongside those we serve.

NOTE: As a not-for-profit we are able to return margins (“profits”) to our members in the form of capital credits. High West will be retiring 1.6 million to our members in 2011. In order for us to do this make sure we have your correct name, address and current phone number.

That’s the cooperative difference.