

APRIL 2015

SPARKS

Focused on people. Built on power.

HIGH WEST ENERGY

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Energy Efficiency: Helping You Take a Bite Out of Your Electric Bill



Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

When I go to the grocery store, I carry a list with me. Otherwise, I'm bound to forget something.

The same goes for the hardware store when I want to undertake some projects around the house. What materials do I need? And if the work involves weatherization, will it really help me save money on my electric bill?

Generally, the answer to that last question is a resounding "yes." Even small energy efficiency measures will save money. For

as little as \$2—the cost of an outlet and switch plate insulator kit you can begin to drastically improve comfort around your residence.

What areas should you focus on? Start with the basics: applying weather stripping and caulk around doors and windows; replacing traditional incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) or light-emitting diode (LED) lightbulbs; and insulating your older water heater. Have you recently changed your furnace filter? If not, consider doing so. Keep the damper on the fireplace closed when not in use and avoid the use of space heaters.

Phantom power applies to electronics or appliances that continue to drain small amounts of energy, even while turned off or not in use. Common electronics are printers, video gaming consoles and power tools. Minimize those phantom energy drains by plugging them into a power strip and switching the strip off when not in use.

Then look at some bigger expenditures: adding insulation to your attic, weatherstripping and insulating the attic hatch, installing a programmable

thermostat, and sealing ductwork. Buy EnergyStar certified appliances. You can find even more ways to save on the U.S. Department of Energy's website, EnergySavers.gov or visit togetherwesave.com to find out how little changes around the house add up to big savings.

We at High West Energy are committed to doing everything possible to keep your electric bills affordable. And we're controlling costs through innovation—our energy efficiency programs are just one way we can help you manage your energy use.

If you'd like to speak to our energy management advisor, Joy Manning, for tips on reducing your energy usage, please e-mail jmanning@highwestenergy.com or call (307) 245-4332



www.highwestenergy.com

HIGH WEST ENERGY, INC. • PO BOX 519 • PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082-0519 • LARAMIE COUNTY (307) 245-3261 • TOLL FREE (888) 834-1657 OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS A DAY

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are typically held on the fourth Monday of each month.

District 11 – Troy Freeburg
Bushnell, NE (307) 287-2633

District 12 – Gary Smith
Carpenter, WY (307) 649-2375

District 13 – Ed Prosser
Cheyenne, WY (307) 632-6068

District 14 – Jerry Burnett
Hereford, CO (970) 895-3386

District 15 – Dan Acheson
Kimball, NE (308) 235-2300

District 16 – Jamie Fowler
Cheyenne, WY (307) 214-9191

District 17 – Russ Nielsen
Potter, NE (308) 250-4262

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager

Karen Rintelmann, Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Bruckner, Operations Manager

Konnie Rask, Energy Services Manager

Lorrell Walter, Public Relations and Marketing Manager

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed weekends & holidays

CHEYENNE SERVICE CENTER

3302 I-80 Service Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009
Open Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.



Safety glasses

Linemen must wear protective goggles or glasses, whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way. This protects their eyes from loose debris.

Hard hat

Hard hats are worn at all times to protect linemen from blows, falling objects and exposure to energized lines.

Protective gloves

Linemen must wear special gloves when working on any type of electrical line to provide protection against high-voltage electrical shock and burn.

Fire resistant (FR) clothing

While fire prevention is always the goal, they unexpectedly happen at times. Fires typically occur with an expected arc flash – an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system. FR clothing will not adhere to skin when it burns, thus limiting injury due to burn.rolling objects.

Steel toe boots

These heavy-duty boots are up to 16 inches tall and designed to provide extra support to shield linemen from gouges. Thick, serrated soles provide a better grip and puncture protection. They are double shanked to provide sturdier support and the safety toe protects from falling or rolling objects.

Geared Up For Safety

High West Energy linemen work a job that requires them to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage. It's not easy. Now consider that they do much of this work 40 feet in the air, and sometimes, in extreme weather or darkness.

These brave men answer when called – and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? High West Energy linemen wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job to keep them as safe as possible.

Pictured: Jeremy Tucker, Lineman

www.highwestenergy.com

High West Energy Awards \$7,000 in Scholarships

We are pleased to announce the recipients of our 2015 scholarships. We received 27 applications from across the service territory. Applicants were evaluated based on their application, academics, essay, applicant appraisal and school/community involvement. Please help us in extending our best wishes to:



Oakley Cathart

\$1000

Carpenter, WY

Senior at Cheyenne East High School
Attending the University of Wyoming



Samantha Hanson

\$1000

Carpenter, WY

Sophomore at the University of Wyoming
Majoring in secondary English education



Jake Johnson

\$1000

Potter, NE

Senior at Potter-Dix High School
Attending University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Quinn Marquardt

\$1000

Cheyenne, WY

Senior at Cheyenne East High School
Attending the University of Wyoming



Chelsea Schyner

\$1000

Cheyenne, WY

Junior at the University of Wyoming
Double major in graphic design and Spanish



Preston Thurin

\$1000

Pine Bluffs, WY

Senior at Pine Bluffs Jr./Sr. High School
Attending Chadron State College



Alex Corbin

\$500

Cheyenne, WY

Senior at Cheyenne East High School
Attending Sheridan College



Mardi O'Neal

\$500

Burns, WY

Senior at Burns Jr./Sr. High School
Attending the University of Wyoming



High West Energy to Celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, 2015, High West Energy will honor the hard working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, follows:

Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on;

Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure;

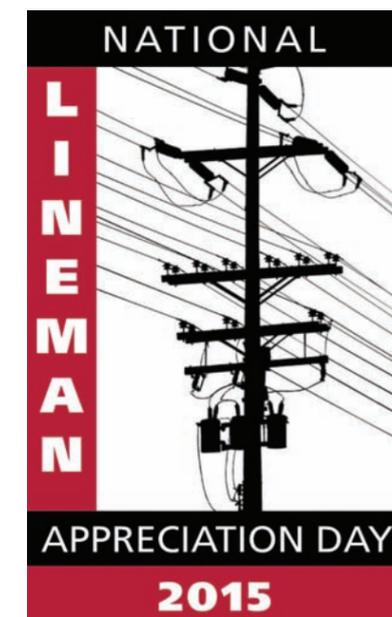
Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents;

Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve," said Brian Heithoff, CEO/general manager of High West Energy. "They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."



FEATURED PERSON

Bart Wilshusen

Crew Foreman

Nebraska native, Bart Wilshusen, has been with High West Energy for nearly 15 years and is a classic example of how someone can work his or her way up the ranks. After a two year stint building substations for Tri-State Generation & Transmission (High West Energy's power supplier), Bart joined the team at High West Energy as an apprentice lineman. In 2005 he completed the apprentice program and became a journeyman. It wasn't too long before Bart was recognized for his leadership skills and he was promoted to lead lineman and, most recently, crew foreman.

Bart was born in Kearney, Neb. and raised in Amherst. He attended Northeast Community College (NCC) in Norfolk and earned an Associate's Degree in utility line. NCC is one of only three colleges to offer a two-year utility line degree program in the United States.

Bart enjoys the upbeat pace of the work offered at High West Energy and the family environment. "We support one another both personally and professionally," he says.

A resident of Hillsdale, Bart enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with his kids, four-year-old Dayne and two-year-old Kenzie.