

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

How EPA Regulations May Impact the Price of Electricity



Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Historically, High West Energy and our power supplier, Tri-State, have invested in power generation technologies (coal, hydro, gas, etc.), after determining the least cost option when we need more capacity. As many of you know, this has resulted in coal plants being built over the decades by Tri-State and others across the country.

One of the concerns shared by the leadership of your cooperative is that excessive regulations targeting power plants using coal as a fuel source will

increase the cost homeowners, renters and businesses pay for electricity. In fact, Dr. S. Julio Friedman, deputy director for the department of energy and assistant secretary for clean coal, told the Energy and Commerce Committee in February that "adding carbon capture and sequestration technology (CCS) to power plants will increase the wholesale cost of generating electricity from coal by 70 to 80 percent in the first generation of technology, and 'only' about 40 percent for the second generation of the technology."

What is even more troubling, is that the installation of CCS only addresses one regulation—carbon regulation—issued by the EPA in recent years. We are already installing control equipment to address regional haze, mercury, water intake, coal ash and a number of additional regulations that will undoubtedly increase the cost of electricity even more.

High West Energy is not anti-regulation. However, we get concerned when we feel the regulations are excessive, overly burdensome and or produce small benefits for large costs (law of diminishing returns).

I don't want to imply we are against other generating technologies such as wind and solar. To the contrary, High West Energy is investigating how we might be able to encourage and assist members who want to see more power generated from renewable and or non-carbon sources.

Our viewpoint is that we need to be practical and reasonable. Dramatic increases in the cost of electricity will create various levels of hardship depending on income levels. But it doesn't just stop with the increased cost of power at the residential level. Electricity is also used in making and delivering almost every product and service, therefore the retail cost of many products and services will likely also increase.

One of the objectives of your cooperative is to offer competitively priced energy and other services. We have a mindset of doing everything we can to keep our rates affordable and competitive. It is hard to do this when others don't have the same goal.

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

FACEBOOK.COM/HIGHWESTENERGY @HIGHWESTENERGY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

District 11 – Troy Freeburg
Bushnell, NE (308) 673-5336

District 12 – Don Wisroth
Pine Bluffs, WY (307) 245-3454

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

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Brian Heithoff, CEO/General Manager

Lloyd Sisson, Engineering Manager

Carol Macy, Chief Financial Officer

Jeff Bruckner, Operations Manager

Konnie Rask, Energy Services Manager

Lorrell Walter, Public Relations Manager

OFFICE HOURS

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

CHEYENNE SERVICE CENTER

8302 I-80 Service Road
Cheyenne, WY 82007
Open Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

MAY 2014

SPARKS

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HIGH WEST ENERGY



Mother's Day Safety Check

On Mother's Day, the kids sometimes sneak into the kitchen to whip up a surprise breakfast for mom. It's always a treat to wake up to the smell of eggs, bacon and toast. And their smiles more than make up for the disaster zone normally left in the wake.

It's great to see how excited the kids are about cooking something special for mom. But how safe is your kitchen?

May isn't only a time to honor mothers—it is also National Electrical Safety Month and it's a good time to check all of your appliance cords. An average of 3,600 home fires each year start with toasters and toaster ovens,

so it's best not to take chances.

For outlets near water, installing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) is a good idea. If a problem occurs—an appliance overheating or a wayward coffee maker tipping into the sink—power is shut off. A red test button allows you to check these outlets monthly. They're your first line of defense.

Even cold appliances pose a safety risk—refrigerators are responsible for about a thousand fires annually. It's a good idea to take off the small panel at the base of your fridge and vacuum away dust and debris about once every three months. Not only

does this prevent a fire, it makes your fridge more efficient.

A third of all home fires start in the kitchen, but every room could hold potential danger. Please take the time this month to check your home for electrical hazards. Spending a few minutes to check for problems can make all the difference when you're faced with a potentially unsafe situation. To learn more, take a home safety tour at virtualhome.esfi.org. There is also a wealth of safety knowledge available at safeelectricity.org.

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Congratulations 2014 Scholarship Winners

On behalf of High West Energy, Tri-State Generation & Transmission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, we are pleased to announce the winners of our 2014 scholarships. It was a particularly challenging year for the judges, with 41 applications submitted from across our service territory.



Austin Burson

Grover, CO
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Pawnee Junior/Senior High School
Attending Colorado School of Mines



Brody Cress

Hillsdale, WY
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Cheyenne East High School
Attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University



Ben Hostetler

Kimball, NE
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Banner County High School
Attending University of Nebraska – Lincoln



Steven LeBlanc

Cheyenne, WY
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Cheyenne East High School
Attending Laramie County Community College



Cassady Malm

Albin, WY
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Burns Junior/Senior High School
Attending Chadron State College



Matthew Murphy

Cheyenne, WY
\$1000 from High West Energy
Senior at Burns Junior/Senior High School
Attending the University of Wyoming



Taylor Kirkbride

Meriden, WY
\$1000 from Basin Electric
Senior at Burns Junior/Senior High School
Attending the University of Wyoming



Carly Eastman

Pine Bluffs, WY
\$500 from Tri-State G&T
Freshman at Chadron State College
Majoring in elementary education



Kelsey Ross

Cheyenne, WY
\$500 from Tri-State G&T
Freshman at Lewis-Clark State College
Majoring in mathematics



Trent Timm

Grover, CO
\$500 from Tri-State G&T
Senior at Pawnee Junior/Senior High School
Attending Montana Tech of the University of Montana



FEATURED PERSON

Dave Crouse

Information Systems Administrator

This year marks a year of anniversaries for Dave Crouse. In February, he celebrated 15 years of service with High West Energy and 25 years of marriage to his wife, Dawn. Dave began his career at High West in 1999 as the warehouse man. A short time into his career, it became known that he had an aptitude and passion for computers.

As technology advanced, it was time to invest in a full time IT staff, so in 2004, Dave switched departments to focus on the technological needs of the cooperative. Last year he was instrumental in launching High West Digital Solutions, a full-service IT company offering an entire suite of computer-focused services.

Dave has a bachelor's degree in industrial management from Peru State College. He and Dawn have two children, Jordan and Taylor. When he isn't on the computer or another electronic device, Dave enjoys camping, hunting and cycling.

Come Join Us!

The team at High West Energy will be in a community near you in the coming weeks. As a member of our cooperative, we invite you to join us for a free barbecue. We look forward to seeing you and talking with you about the services we offer and answering any questions you may have.

Member Appreciation BBQ

June 17, 5-7 p.m. Pine Bluffs, WY

High West Energy

6270 County Road 212

Member Appreciation BBQ

June 18, 5-7 p.m. Hereford, CO

Hereford Bar & Grill

39520 WCR 136 (8 miles south of Carpenter on 214)

Member Appreciation BBQ

June 19, 5-7 p.m. Potter, NE

American Legion Hall

1107 Sherman

Member Appreciation Event- New This Year!

August 19, 5-7 p.m. Cheyenne, WY

High West Energy Cheyenne Service Center

Archer Interchange & Highway 30, east of Cheyenne

Join us for some good family fun. In addition to some delicious food, we'll have activities and games for the kids to enjoy.

MENU

Hamburgers
Cheeseburgers
Hotdogs
Macaroni Salad
Coleslaw
Chips
Brownies
Lemonade & Iced Tea

** menu subject to change **