



NEWS

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MEMBER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Manager's Message

Dear Members: _____ by Jeff Hohn

CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION



Inside:

Rain - A Mixed Blessing
.....2-3

**High Plains Power
will be closed Monday,
September 7th to
observe Labor Day.**

For those of you who have been keeping up on the Climate Change Bill that is currently being discussed in Washington, you are very aware that it has passed its first hurdle. The House of Representatives passed the 1,500 page bill by a vote of 220 to 212. Wyoming Representative Cynthia Lummis voted against the bill. The bill, commonly referred to as "Cap and Trade", is also known as "Cap and Tax." No matter what you call it, if passed, there will be an increase in your energy bill. I initially said energy and not electrical because it will raise your costs for all forms of energy. Exactly how much, is not yet known. There are people out there that say it is as little as the cost of a post card a day, to those that say it will double your energy costs. Now I do not know about you but I have been hearing the post card justification of increasing cost for years, and I am beginning to run out of them. To us here at High Plains Power, any additional cost is too much.

The bill is now onto the Senate where I am sure that the bill will be debated and amended. Both Senators Barrasso and Enzi have said that

they oppose the bill, so please contact them and let them know that you support their decision. Even though we will be keeping an eye on the process of this bill, I strongly suggest that you do the same. Do not wait for climate change legislation to become law before you speak out. If you wait until then, it will be too late. Let them know your feelings now. You can contact them by going to a website setup by the National Rural Electric Association ("NRECA"). Once you enter your name and address, an email will automatically be sent to the Representatives of our state. This is a secure sight, and your information will not be given to anyone but our Representatives. So please go to the website and let them know how you feel. The website is www.ourenergy.coop.

If you do not feel comfortable doing this, there are other ways for you to make contact with our Representatives. You could call or write them on your own, or attend one or more of the town hall meetings that they hold while on recess. Attending a town hall meeting will put you

(continued on page 4)

Rain - A Mixed Blessing

by Brad Dalley

The spring and early summer of '09 could at least be considered exceptional in comparison to the last ten years - give or take- especially when you talk about moisture.

Over 100% snow pack followed by large amount of spring and later, early summer precipitation led to high runoffs and rivers peaking at and above flood stages.

This moisture has been a huge blessing to us all, especially those of us involved in agriculture. The wet snow and rain brought on high yielding pastures on dry land grazing permits, with brimming reservoirs for stock water. Hay and grain producers had no trouble hitting the high spots when it came to irrigating. The first cutting of hay yielded high ton to acre ratios.

But everything comes with a price. Row crop farmers, with high moisture levels and cooler temperatures found trouble planting in a timely fashion.

The daily rain showers and

cloud bursts caused hay producers to be either late with windrowing or caught with hay down in various stages of harvest. All of these and other things not mentioned will cause a problem with the bottom line.

Other entities besides agriculture endured problems as well. The county road and state highway departments found themselves with higher maintenance problems. i.e. flooded roads washed out crossings, etc. We here at High Plains Power saw a considerable increase in outages, mostly weather related. Lightning strikes, trees blown down through power lines as well as eroding river banks caused our members to deal with related losses of power. Our employees spent a lot of after-hours time correcting problems and our co-op has been hit with some large expenses.

One good example is the flooding of the Big Wind River. From our Spiker sub, located in Arapahoe we have two circuits

leaving the sub that cross the Wind River... circuits two and three. Each, of these

circuits, serves a large number of members in the Arapahoe and Riverview areas. We estimate that at each of these crossings we lost approximately 30' of bank on the south side of the river.

On June 29th, shortly after noon, the west river crossing (circuit #2) washed out causing an approximate three hour outage to a large numbers of members in the area.

Our crews were able to restore power to everyone with help from a back up feed from our Eight Mile substation. Our affected members probably saw some lower voltage levels as a result.

A large effort, at a considerable expense, was put forth to replace this river crossing structure. The availability of materials was not easily obtained because of the world economy and was taken into consideration for the engineering of the structure that was built. Construction of the structure on circuit two has been completed and all service should be back to normal.

We want to thank all of our members who have endured this outage season with us so far.

Brad Dalley is the overhead line foreman. He spearheaded the Wind River crossing structure rebuild.

We need to be appreciative for the fine work that the lineworkers do here at High Plains Power. They endure inclement weather at all times of the day and night to keep the lights on for the members of High Plains Power.





Downed structure being removed from the Wind River

Crews removing wire from old structure

Beginning construction of the new 4-pole dead end structure



Measuring clearance at river bank

(more pictures on page 4)

Manager's Message

(continued from page 1)

face to face with them and make them answer your questions and concerns in a public forum. It does not matter how you contact them, it only matters that you do.

NEW FACILITIES

As I promised in a previous newsletter, I will keep everyone updated on the progress of our

new facilities. We have signed Pope Construction from Alcovia, Wyoming as our Construction Manager at Risk ("CMAR"). He will begin work immediately with C. H. Guernsey, our architect, to give us a guaranteed not to exceed price. Once we get that price, and it meets our budget, we can begin the construction phase. We are hoping to break ground yet this

year. If we can not get the cement portion of the construction done by winter, we are going to put off beginning the construction until the spring of next year.

If you would like to contact me for any reason, my email address is jhhpp@wyoming.com.

More River Crossing Pictures *(continued from page 3)*



Ensuring correct tension on wire



Completed construction of the structure

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