




Your Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
The power of human connections

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

Manager's Message

Dear Members: _____ by Jeff Hohn



I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It was a very good Holiday season at the Hohn household. Our new son-in-law came home from Afghanistan just after Thanksgiving. We were very happy that he is home safe and sound. That is the good news; the bad news is that he will be going to Iraq later this year.

Now that the election is over, and by the time this article is printed, we will have sworn in a new President and Congress. Whether you voted for the winners or not is now irrelevant, but the policies and laws that they are going to pass are not. The economic crisis will be the major focus of the new administration for the first few months, but President Obama has said many times that he is going to pass some kind of legislation on climate change. Exactly what that

legislation will be is still unknown, but it will come with a price tag. Some of the legislation that was being discussed last year would raise your electric rates between 35% and 65%.

That is why it is imperative that you remain in contact with your elected officials to make sure that they do not pass any legislation that would have a negative effect on your electric rates. You can either contact them on your own, or through a national website called ourenergy.coop. After you enter some information, an email will automatically be sent to all of our Congressional Representatives in Washington. There will be questions on three energy policies. They are; capacity, technology, and affordability. Many of you have already gone to this website and contacted our

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MARK

YOUR CALENDAR

11TH ANNUAL MEETING

High Plains Power, Inc.

March 21, 2009

Thermopolis, WY

Thermopolis Middle School

11th Annual Meeting

The eleventh annual meeting of High Plains Power will be held Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Thermopolis Middle School. Important business to be conducted includes the election of four members to the cooperative's board of directors. In addition, members will hear reports from the President of the Board, the Treasurer, the General Manager and the President of Tri-State Generation & Transmission regarding the cooperative's business.

Annual Meeting Notice

An annual meeting notice will be mailed out to all members the first part of March. A proxy card will be included with the meeting notice. If you are unable to attend the annual meeting, please complete and send your proxy to our Riverton office.

Why should I attend?

Your annual meeting is a good opportunity to visit with friends, enjoy a meal, vote for director representation and get informed about the business of **your** electric cooperative. You could even win one of many valuable door prizes awarded during the business meeting.

Election of Directors

Elections for four director districts will be held at the annual meeting. Elections will be held for director districts 2,8, 11 and 12. District 2 covers the Ft. Washakie

area. District 8 covers the Pavillion area. District 11 includes Natrona, Powder River and Alcova areas. District 12 covers the Shirley Basin, and Medicine Bow areas.

District 11 will have an open seat as the incumbent director, Randy Marton, is not seeking re-election.

Board of Director

Nominations Being Sought

In accordance with the cooperative bylaws, one member from each district was selected to serve on a nominating committee. If you are a member of High Plains Power and live in districts 2, 8, 11, or 12 and would like to be a candidate for the board of directors, contact one of the members of the nominating committee. The names of the

nominating committee members are listed.

If you are uncertain of what district you reside in, contact our office and we can assist you. Also, if you have an interest in running and are not sure of how to contact a nominating committee member, contact us and we will help you.

Qualifications to be Director

A nominee or candidate for the director of High Plains must be a member receiving electric service and be a bona fide resident in the district that will be up for election. The candidate may not be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to High Plains Power.

Nominating Committee Members

District 1	Rebecca Darnell	Jeffrey City
District 2	Rex Huggins	Lander
District 3	Travis Bartlett	Dubois
District 4	Howard Wenner	Riverton
District 5	Dean VonKrosigk	Shoshoni
District 6	Nick Anderson	Riverton
District 7	John Sharp	Crowheart
District 8	Marvin Schmidt	Riverton
District 9	Duane Watkins	Thermopolis
District 10	Dan Weber	Worland
District 11	Jim Price, Jr.	Casper
District 12	Robert Cooper	Medicine Bow

High Plains Power, Inc. 2009 Scholarship Program

High Plains Power in partnership with Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power Cooperative will be awarding \$1000 college scholarships this spring. These scholarships are intended to encourage the continued higher education of the youth of your cooperative.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be current members of High Plains Power or the dependents of current members, or the dependents of persons receiving electricity from High Plains Power to their primary residence through a current membership in another name. Applicants must be graduating high school seniors planning to enroll as full-time students in the 2009 fall semester at any university, college or certified vocational/technical school. Applicants must be

U.S. Citizens and have a high school grade point average or equivalent of 2.5 or higher. Applicants must submit the required information and completed application form no later than **March 13, 2009.**

HOW ARE RECIPIENTS SELECTED?

Award of scholarship is based on the following criteria:

- grade point average
- work experiences
- activities
- educational and career goals
- written recommendations

A High Plains Power selection committee will make the final selection.

WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENTS' OBLIGATIONS?

Scholarship recipients must remain as full-time students during the semesters for which the scholarships

are awarded. Other than payment of the scholarships, High Plains Power, Tri-State Generation and Basin Electric Power assume no obligations or liabilities.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply applicants must meet the required criteria and complete the application forms, which can be obtained from their high school guidance office, or from High Plains Power, P O Box 713, Riverton WY 82501. You may also go to our website at www.highplainspower.org to download and print the application.

Completed applications must be received at High Plains Power's Riverton office no later than **March 13, 2009.**

David M. McDonald Educational Scholarship 2009 Scholarship

The Dave McDonald family has graciously donated money to establish a Dave M. McDonald Educational Scholarship.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be current members of High Plains Power or the dependents of current members, or the dependents of persons receiving electricity from High Plains Power to their primary residence through a current membership in another name. Applicants must have completed one year of education in an approved institution of higher learning and enrolled for a second,

third or fourth year in a university, college or certified vocational/technical school. Applicants must be U.S. Citizens and have a college cumulative grade point average of 3.25 out of a possible 4.0.

WHAT ARE THE RECIPIENTS' OBLIGATIONS?

Scholarship recipients must remain as full-time students during the semesters for which the scholarship is awarded. **When the student has registered for the fall 2009 semester, must provide High Plains Power with proof of enrollment showing number of credit hours**

at the institution of higher learning.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

To apply applicants must meet the required criteria and complete the application forms, which can be obtained from High Plains Power, P O Box 713, Riverton WY 82501. You may also go to our website at www.highplainspower.org to download and print the application.

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Manager's Message *Continued from page 1*

Representatives, but we have a new person in the House of Representatives that has not been contacted on this issue.

As not-for-profit utilities, Tri-State and High Plains Power look for the most affordable, reliable, and safest way to provide our member/owners with energy. When you take these entities into consideration, coal is the only one that meets all three. Energy

usage and construction costs will continue to rise no matter what kind of legislation is passed. We just have to make sure that we can afford, and live with it.

RATE INCREASE GOES INTO EFFECT

As I told you back in November, the wholesale rate increase passed through went into effect on January

1, 2009. We also published our rates at that time. The rate increase that the residential member/owner will be seeing is 3.5%. The rate will be going from \$.09391 per kWh to \$.09727 per kWh. You will see this increase in your February billing.

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

HOME GENERATION

by: Rich Lobdell, Safety Coordinator

Energy costs combined with environmental concerns have spurred folks to invest in alternative electric generation. Solar and wind generation are becoming more and more popular with consumers despite the high cost of installation and maintenance. We at High Plains Power applaud your concern for the environment as well as your efforts to reduce demand on our electrical system.

If you are thinking about installing solar or wind co-generation or engine driven generation for emergency power, remember there are requirements for a safe connection. High Plains Power, and other utilities for that matter, requires that a double pole-double throw switch be installed in conjunction with customer generation to ensure that customer power can be safely isolated from utility power.

Loss of utility power poses the most dangerous scenario for improperly connected generators. Generators without a properly connected double pole-double throw switch can result in a customer's power being back-fed into the utility system. Transformers don't care which direction the power comes from. This fact can have deadly consequences for linemen when a customer's 120/240 is transformed

to distribution voltage. Linemen expecting a line to be de-energized may discover it to be energized at 7,200 or 14,400 volts! At the very least this could result in an outage lasting longer than it should because linemen must chase down the source of the power. At worst it could cost a life. It could also result in the customer's equipment being damaged when linemen install protective grounds prior to commencing power restoration work.

Solar and wind co-generation and automatic emergency generation are a bit different from manual emergency generation setups in that co-generation and automatic systems are equipped with electronic controls that should automatically disengage the customer's power from utility power in the event of a power outage. However, HPP requires double pole-double throw switches be installed for all customer generation schemes. The switches are an essential component for the safety of our linemen. They also provide a foolproof means of ensuring a customer's equipment not be damaged or destroyed.

Please come visit with us or give us a call if you have any questions at all. 1-800-445-0613 or 1-307-856-9426.

High Plains Power

NEWS

is an official publication of High Plains Power, Inc., PO Box 713, Riverton, WY 82501.

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This is a monthly publication made available by High Plains Power, Inc., with the Wyoming Rural Electric News. Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.