




# NEWS

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative   
The power of human connections

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2011

## Manager's Message

Dear Members: \_\_\_\_\_ *by Jeff Hohn*



### Extended Outage

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, those of you in the western part of our service territory experienced a very long outage. The problem originated in Western Area Power Administration's ("WAPA") Pilot Butte Substation located near Pavillion. The problem originated in one of WAPA's inline current transformers (CT). The CT is used to measure the current that is leaving the substation and going out onto the distribution line for billing purposes. The total length of the outage was approximately 4.5 hours, and affected approximately 5,500 member/owners. High Plains Power, Inc. (HPP) had qualified personnel there within a half hour, but since the equipment that failed belonged to WAPA, HPP was unable to do the required switching that would have gotten everybody back on. WAPA had to bring personnel from Casper to perform the required switching and get everybody back on. The reason that we couldn't do the switching is because of different Government Regulations that don't allow any switching be done that could affect the transmission grid. All switching that is done has to be documented, or the fines that are handed down can run into the millions. We are currently in the process of working with WAPA to see if we can somehow develop standing switching orders that will allow for us to do what needs to be done and get everybody back on as quickly as possible. If HPP

would have been allowed to perform the switching, we could have had everybody on in about half the time it took. We apologize for this lengthy outage, and want to thank everybody that called in for their kindness and understanding.

### HORSE POWER CHARGES FOR IRRIGATORS

It is that time of year again that HPP applies the horse power (hp) charges to the bills of our irrigators. The billing will begin with the May bill, and will run through the August bill. The charge is \$6.79/horse power/month. What this means is that if you have a 100 hp motor, you will see a \$679 charge on your May, June, July, and August bills. This charge will be in addition to your kWh charges.

### TOU CHANGES APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

For those of you that are under the Time-of-Use rate tariff, don't forget that we go under the summer time parameters beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. The new times are as follows;  
On Peak Hours: 7:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m.  
Off Peak Hours: 10:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

If you would like to contact me for any reason, my email address is:  
[jhhpp@wyoming.com](mailto:jhhpp@wyoming.com).

### Inside:

Page 2.....Late Winter - Early Spring  
Page 4.....Statement of Nondiscrimination

# Late Winter - Early Spring projects keep

**L**inemen from Thermopolis, with help from a Riverton crew, tackled a big job of changing 33 high voltage switches in one of High Plains Powers' oilfield substations. Hydrogen sulfide gas released from nearby wells rapidly corrodes copper equipment making replacement of switches, jumper wires, ground wires and even structural steel necessary on a regular basis. Aluminum wire is substituted for copper wire wherever possible but equipment with copper components is still the best and most economical choice for most applications.



Top moving clock wise:

High Plains Power crews working on switches  
High voltage switches to be changed  
Colte Russell and Ramsey Allen at work  
J D Watson at work on switches

# High Plains Power line crews hopping

A new (to High Plains Power) type of self supporting structure constructed of laminated wood was installed north of Riverton for the Burma Road highway reconstruction. Due to right of way issues, a self supporting structure was chosen because it does not require guy wires. The massive 58 foot long structure, weighing 4800 pounds, is set to a depth of 13 feet with 11 yards of concrete anchoring the base.



Right: Brad Dalley, C J Caress and Dan Madalena working to set pole

Below: It took a lot of equipment and manpower to maneuver the massive pole into the ground.



*(continued on page 4)*

## Nondiscrimination Statement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

(continued from page 3) Late Winter- Early Spring Projects

**C**onstruction on Highway 26/789 north of Riverton has required High Plains Power to move our 3 phase line to accommodate a widened highway right of way. Crews from Riverton have been working to rebuild the line with a minimum of outage time. The vast majority of the work has been done



energized in an effort to keep our members' lights on. New line parallels the old while conductors on both new and old lines supply power to members. The old line is replaced in phases until the final phase transfers all load to the new line, at which time all of the old poles can be retired from service.

High Plains Power

# NEWS

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

Phone 307-856-9426  
1-800-445-0613  
[www.highplainspower.org](http://www.highplainspower.org)

### Board of Directors

Bob Cardwell - President  
Matt Brown - Vice-Pres.  
Hearley Dockham - Secretary  
Gary Gordon - Asst. Sec.  
Jim Miller - Treasurer  
Beckie Darnell  
Bret Gardner  
Jesse Hankins  
Richard Haun  
Jeff Milton  
Mark Park  
Lee Shaffer

### General Manager

Jeff Hohn

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