

CURRENT HIGH PLAINS POWER



Bringing good things to light!

EVERYTHING AND THE KITCHEN SINK - OUR SUPPLY CHAIN AT WORK

Post Pandemic most things have started to go back to normal. But the ripple effect is still felt in many areas, including the electrical utility supply chain.

From one week to the next, supply orders can change from 8 weeks to 8 months to fill, or longer. Companies struggle to get the supplies they need, when they need them.

Maintaining inventory becomes a complicated dance between the utility and the vendor. "As recently as this month, we could get an elbow part for our underground builds in 7-10 days" says Debbie Watson, HPP's Operations Support Supervisor. "Today we got notified that it's an 18 month wait." That's when she starts looking for options.

These sudden supply delays and shortages have changed the way we order and stock inventory.

Prior to the pandemic, operations could order what was needed as we needed it, with enough inventory to keep the flow going for work orders. Now we stock more materials so that if we have an order that is delayed or cancelled, we have time to find another source. "Right now we are ordering everything we need for the 2024 workplan," Watson said.

Transformers are another item that has long delays. Pre-pandemic they would arrive within 2-3 months, now it's 18-24 months. Okonite, the primary underground cable used in our builds, also became more challenging to order. We used to keep around 20,000 feet of it in stock, now we hold closer to 130,000 feet of cable.

Increases in costs have been another factor that keeps Watson looking at vendors and pricing. "Since the pandemic, prices across the board have doubled," she said. "We are starting to see some prices drop, but it varies by item."



WAREHOUSEMEN TYLER COX AND BERT ZAVALA DURING INVENTORY



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YOUTH CAMP PHOTOS BY BECKY CONDIE, WHEATLAND REA

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

A COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

This past month we sponsored a student, Rix Sorenson, to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Students get to participate in legislative forums. They learn about the cooperative principles and business model all while participating in team building and leadership activities and having fun.

Cooperatives in the region sponsor youth for this camp each year, with kids coming in from multiple states.

Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles. Community is important to us at High Plains Power and part of our way of expressing that is supporting youth programs that set our local youth up for success in life. We sponsor students to youth camp each year. If you have a high school student that might be interested, check in with us next spring!

OUTAGE CONDITIONS

Outages come in all different shapes and sizes. They happen anytime, anywhere and usually under adverse weather conditions. When crews are working in the middle of the night on a bigger repair, it helps to have good lighting. Just remember that sometimes they are looking for something that might be small, in the dark or hazardous conditions!



GOT A RECIPE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE? EMAIL IT TO US AT CUSTOMERSERVICE@HIGHPLAINSPower.ORG OR MAIL IT IN TO OUR RIVERTON OFFICE!



MUSTARD BBQ SAUCE

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 3/4 C Yellow Mustard | 1/2 C Honey |
| 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar | 1/2 C apple cider vinegar |
| 2 Tbl Ketchup | 2 Tsp Worcestershire Sauce |
| 1 Tsp Garlic Powder | Pinch or more cayenne |
| 1/2 tsp salt | Dash of hot sauce |

Whisk it all together in a large bowl. Add to small pot and simmer for 10 minutes. Cool. Pour into jar and cover. Refrigerate for a day for flavors to mingle. Warm it up to serve!

BY MARYBELL SNIDER



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