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RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

Manager's Message

Changes Coming. What does that mean for HPP? — by Darick Eisenbraun



Summer is flying by, and I hope you have all been able to get out and enjoy it! In my article last month, I went into detail on what the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is and why it matters to you. This month I will be discussing changes that have occurred over the past few years with our power supplier Tri-State Generation & Transmission (Tri-State), their regulatory relationship with the Colorado Public Utility Commission (COPUC), and what that means for us at HPP.

What is the Colorado Public Utility Commission?

The Colorado Public Utility Commission which is similar to our Wyoming Public Service Commission (WPSC) is a group of three Commissioners, appointed by the Governor of Colorado. The main function of the COPUC is to regulate and enforce state statute as it pertains to utilities within the state of Colorado. In 2019 the Colorado legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 19-236 that gave the COPUC regulatory authority over Tri-State and its resource planning process. The resource planning process is a complicated set of projections that estimates future amounts of load to be served and the resources that will serve said load. Prior to 2019, Tri-State was a self-regulated utility, regulated by its 42-member Board of Directors, which is comprised of a single member from each of its 42-member-owner distribution cooperatives. With the diverse nature of the Tri-State membership, having one state regulate the resources from which it produces power can be a very problematic situation. Concurrently, during the 2019 legislative session House Bill (HB) 19-1261 was signed into law. These Bills together have proven to be a

difficult hurdle for the membership and have changed the course for Tri-State and its member-owners.

What is Colorado HB 19-1261?

HB 19-1261 titled the 'Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution' was signed by Colorado Governor Jared Polis in May of 2019. This bill gives the COPUC further authority over Tri-State's resource planning and requires Tri-State to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 80% based on a 2005 baseline. As a dramatic example, had Tri-State generated 100% of its power from coal in 2005, it would need to generate 80% of its power from either wind, solar, or another recognized renewable resource by 2030. Though Tri-State only has to achieve this reduction in the state of Colorado, it will have impacts across the multi-state (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Wyoming) membership. The energy transition will force the early retirement of coal generating facilities and force us to acquire power from renewable resources while still paying for our prematurely closed coal plants.

Our Guarantee

The Board of Directors and staff of HPP remain committed to providing reliable and cost-effective power for our members. Between the changes in rate regulation at the FERC and resource regulation at the COPUC, times are certainly getting more complicated, but we are taking steps to protect our members and hold our retail rate. Tri-State's power production is changing and how we are billed for service from Tri-State will be changing, always remember we are working constantly to put our membership in the best possible position to succeed now and into the future.

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Remember....

July 4th—Independence Day
 July 15th—16th Annual Meeting
 HPP will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
 Celebrate safely!



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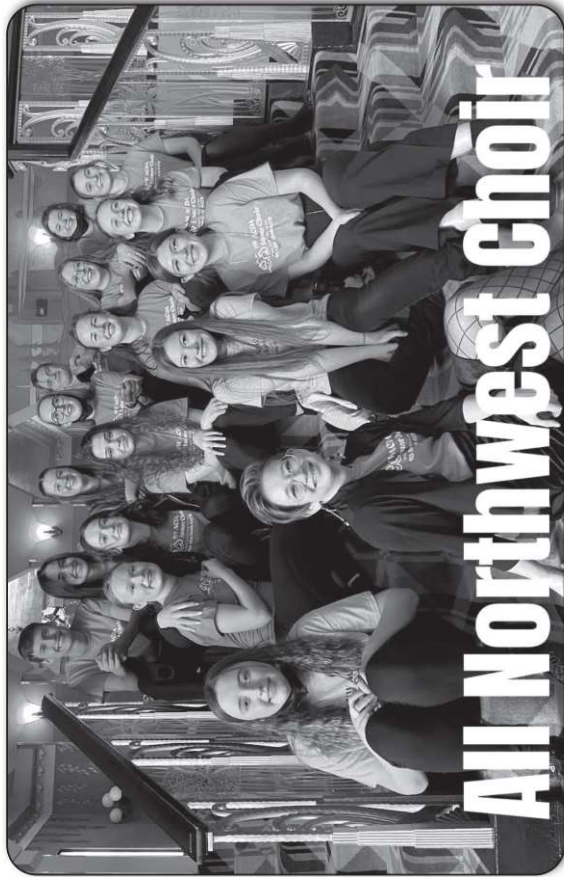
HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE



Dubois linemen Trent Slagowski and Nick Vermerire present a safety demo to Dubois students.



High Plains Power donated money to Riverton Ice Hockey on behalf of employees Zach Sanders, Nick Becker, Wyatt Ramsey, Brian Heiner, and Andy Erickson. The money donated will go towards the purchase of a chiller for the ice rink.



All Northwest Choir

On behalf of employees Emily Crook, Zareesha NormanLeier, Trina Holguin, and Sandy Watkins, High Plains Power donated money to Riverton High School Choir to assist with the expense of going to the All Northwest Choir event where the choir represented RHS by participating in judged events.

HONORING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE



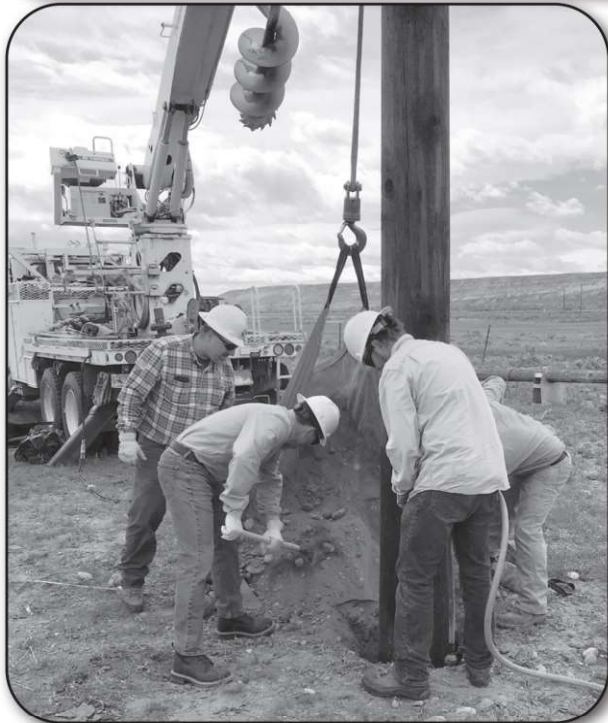
Fremont County 4H used the donation from High Plains Power on behalf of Trapper Bradshaw to purchase new archery targets.



Linemen Zach Sanders and Andy Erickson gave demonstrations at the 2022 STEM Conference held at Central Wyoming College. STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) enables young men and women to see the possibilities of careers in the STEM professions.



CONSTANT LEARNING AT HIGH PLAINS POWER



CEO Darick Eisenbraun spends a day with the crews and they put him to work.



Everyone at High Plains Power learns CPR and first aid.



CFO Jon Mayes works with the Thermopolis crew teaching them the nuances of the new outage management system.



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Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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