



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections

RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

Manager's Message

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) _____ *by Darick Eisenbraun*



How it impacts HPP

I hope that everyone is enjoying the first month of summer and getting outside to enjoy all of the natural beauty around us. In my article from April, I touched on a bevy of changes we are currently experiencing in the energy industry. This month I am going to focus on an important regulatory change that our wholesale power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission is going through.

What is the FERC?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or more commonly referred to as the FERC, is a 5-member commission that is appointed by the President of the United States to regulate the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil. Commissioners serve five-year terms and have an equal vote on all regulatory matters. As a multi-state organization that sells whole-sale power to different classes of members, Tri-State Generation and Transmission is a FERC regulated utility as defined by federal law.

Why the change?

In 2019, the Tri-State membership voted to amend their by-laws that allowed for different classes of membership. The Tri-State Board of Directors voted to added members outside of the typical distribution cooperatives that were currently members, this action moved Tri-State from Colorado rate regulation to

federal regulation under the FERC jurisdiction. The move at the time was strategic and was initiated to give its members a more predictable and unbiased regulator. With the vast differences in politics from Wyoming to Colorado to Nebraska to New Mexico, Tri-State staff and their Board made the move to the FERC to position Tri-State for long term financial success.

How does this impact me?

Historically the Tri-State Board of Directors had final say in all cooperate governance, power production/asset procurement, and rate setting. Now under FERC jurisdiction the process for rate making is different. Instead of having final discretion Tri-State is now required to file their rate(s) with the FERC for final approval. While this may just sound like a formality, it has been far from the case. Just as the Tri-State membership is diverse in political opinions, members are just as diverse in how we believe costs should be shared or spread across the membership. As a result, many of the rate related issues that end up at the FERC end in a legal battle heard before a judge as opposed to being decided by the Tri-State Board of Directors.

The Board and staff of High Plains Power will continue to engage at the FERC and advocate for fair rates that ensure you, our members are getting the safe, reliable, and affordable power you deserve.

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Remember....

- June 19th—Father's Day
- July 4th—Independence Day
- July 15-16 Annual Meeting
- HPP will be closed Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.



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2022 Annual Meeting

The 23rd Annual Meeting of High Plains Power will be held in conjunction with the Riverton Rendezvous weekend with registration beginning on Friday, July 15th at the Friday Night Cruise on Main Street. Registration will continue from 8am - 9am on Saturday, July 16th at the Fremont Center.

The business portion of the meeting will begin at 9am and will include the election of three members to the Cooperative's Board of Directors. In addition, members will hear from each candidate up for election, reports from the President of the Board, the Treasurer, the Chief Executive Officer and a representative of Tri-State Generation & Transmission regarding the Cooperative's business.

Annual Meeting Notice

An annual meeting notice will be mailed out to all members in early July. A proxy card will be included with the meeting notice. If you are unable to pre-register Friday night or attend on Saturday, please complete and send your proxy to our Riverton office. **If you are planning on attending the meeting, please do not use the proxy card.**

Why should I attend?

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

awarded.

We will have a booth set up Friday, July 15th at the Friday Night Cruise on Main Street in Riverton, and will be taking registrations from 5pm-7pm. Come on down and check out the cars and bikes on Main Street and visit with High Plains Power. When you register you will receive a swag bag and \$10 Energy Credit. In addition to those, you will also receive a raffle ticket for door prizes. The only door prize you **MUST** be present to win will be the Grand Prize.

On Saturday, July 16th the Annual Meeting continues at the Fremont Center in Riverton. Registration will be held from 8am-9am followed by the Business Meeting from 9am-11:30am. When you register you will receive a swag bag, \$10 Energy Credit, raffle ticket, and voting ballot. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the meeting on Saturday, but stick around for the drawing of the Grand Prize, The Summer Package.

Friday night come on down and check out the cars and bikes on Main Street and visit with High Plains Power. Saturday morning come to the Fremont Center, hear what High Plains Power has been up to, vote for your Board of Directors, and then enjoy lunch on us while taking in the rest of the Rendezvous weekend.

Election of Directors

Elections for three director districts will be held at the annual meeting. Elections will be held for:

The POWER of Co-op Membership

Annual Meeting
Mark Your Calendars.

JULY 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			31			

Nominating Committee Members

- District 1 - Rebecca Gullion
- District 2 - Fred Tammany
- District 3 - Patrick Poppe
- District 4 - John Sharp
- District 5 - Bruce Westlake
- District 6 - Justin Crimm
- District 7 - Josh Longwell
- District 8 - Dale Link
- District 9 - Karen Heath

District 1 - Jeffrey City, Gas Hills, Hudson areas
District 3 - Dubois area
District 4 - Crowheart area

Board of Director Nominations Being Sought

In accordance with the cooperative by-laws, one member from each district has been selected to serve on a nominating committee. If you are a member of High Plains Power and reside in Districts 1, 3, or 4 and would like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors, contact one of

the members of the committee (see Nominating Committee Members).

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.

REMINDER:

Annual bills go out in July and are due in August. If you prefer to have this billed monthly please give our office a call and we can make that change for you.

CONGRATULATIONS 2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



Abrielle Sante
Riverton High School



Laarna Daebery
Lander Valley High School



Brett Jones
Riverton High School



Connor Christensen
Shoshoni High School



Emma Goetz
Lander Valley High School



Duke Gibbel
Shoshoni High School

Cooperative Principle #7 – Commitment to Community

Each spring High Plains Power and its power suppliers award scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area. Congratulations to these seniors from High Plains Power, Tri-State Generation & Transmission, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative!



Layne Myers
Hot Springs County High School



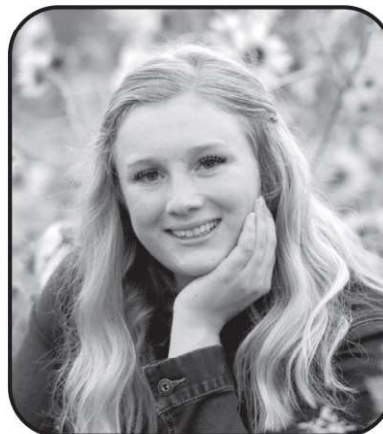
Hallie Martinez
Hot Springs County High School



Whitney Hansen
Lander Valley High School



Reece Hindman
Wind River High School



Katelyn Fisher
Riverton High School



Benjamin Hamilton
Lander Valley High School



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Ideas, questions and comments are welcome.

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