

HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT

“Whatever the future holds, we’ll power it” - Tri-State G&T

HPP’S RELATIONSHIP WITH TRI-STATE CLARIFIED

In recent months, High Plains Power (HPP) has examined its relationship with Tri-State G&T and has conducted research to ensure that HPP is purchasing power efficiently, so members receive the most affordable and reliable power.

There have been a few Wyoming news articles that have indicated that HPP is looking to exit its contract with Tri-State. HPP has no intention of leaving Tri-State at this time. While the relationship with Tri-State is strong, HPP puts the needs of its members first. Part of that commitment to the membership, is looking at all options and assessing how we can best serve our members.

As reported previously, Tri-State was approved for a rate increase on their power sales that went into affect August 1st, 2024.

The transition to clean energy and the reduction of green house gasses (GHG) has been

a goal of Colorado and Tri-State. This is a key area of interest to Tri-State’s Wyoming cooperative members, who are watching to see the impacts of the cost of closing coal plants and building clean energy projects. The Wyoming co-ops have also raised their collective voice to ensure that the need for reliability and affordability is a priority.

In September, Tri-State announced that it is a finalist for the Empowering Rural America (NEW ERA) Program. This is a grant program to help rural coops implement clean energy generation. This grant could help offset the cost of Tri-State’s transition to clean energy generation.

HPP has no plans to do a rate increase in 2024 and is in the process of completing a cost-of-service-study to determine if there will be a rate increase in 2025.

WYOMING SUPREME COURT OVERTURNED PSC APPROVED RATE CHANGE FOR NET METERING

Last month the Wyoming Supreme Court overturned the Wyoming Public Service Commission’s ruling on High Plains Power’s change to its net metering tariff.

HPP is reviewing the ruling and is in the process of determining a path forward.

HPP was not the first Wyoming cooperative to request this tariff change. Three other cooperatives had already changed their rate via

approval by the Wyoming PSC without issue. HPP adopted the language of the tariff and moved forward in an effort to ensure an equal rate for all.

As HPP moves forward, and more information on this issue becomes available, please watch for articles here in the newsletter, on our social media pages and our website.

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A Monthly Apprenticeship Day

As part of HPP’s training curriculum, there is an apprenticeship day each month at the Riverton headquarters. This training gives apprentices an opportunity to practice what they learn, build comradery and learn from different instructors. Last year, HPP’s Safety and Risk Manager, Brian Heiner saw an opportunity for more specific training for the apprenticeship program. He put together a program where the apprentices come together each month and practice key skills that they will need as journeyman linemen. It’s also an opportunity for Foremen and experienced linemen to share their knowledge.

“I hadn’t seen a program quite like this,” said Pat Childers, Operations Manager for HPP. “It’s really good.” This month they covered pole top rescue training, climbing exercises, and practiced leaning into their equipment to reach out and repair things on the line. This had a dual objective to learn maintenance skills but also to learn to trust the climbing equipment. Apprentices leaned out almost perpendicular to the pole in order to reach the equipment they were working on. (see top right).



Apprentices practice pole top rescues and working on powerlines in ways that encourages them to trust their equipment and build confidence.



HIGH PLAINS POWER 307-856-9426