

HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT

**“We forget just how painfully dim the world was before electricity” -
Bill Bryson**

FERC APPROVES TRI-STATE RATE INCREASE

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), issued a ruling on Tri-State’s comback rate filing on August 2nd with a 6.3% rate increase that went into effect on August 1, 2024. Tri-State is our generation and transmission cooperative and the wholesale energy provider for High Plains Power (HPP).

FERC did however rule that the entire case is still open to hearing and settlement procedures and HPP is in position to request clarification and investigation into specific costs, as well as other issues, according to HPP CEO Darick Eisenbraun. This gives HPP a voice on some of the costs that contribute to the rate increase by Tri-State. With the green initiatives that are being legislated in Colorado, Tri-State is investing a significant amount of money to close coal plants and build renewable generation plants - wind and solar, to meet the electricity demands of it’s members under Colorado’s GHG reduction law. The law requires reduction in GHG producing power generation by 80% by 2030.

“As we see significant cost pressures from our G&T,” says Jon Mayes, HPP CFAO, “we will be looking at cost components from Tri-State and how they relate to our members.” Cost of purchase power is roughly 80% of HPP’s operating costs.

HPP is initiating a cost of service study (COSS) to assess the long term impacts. “Controlling costs is a big concern for the staff and board at HPP, but with small changes at our

G&T, they lead to big dollar increases for our members” says Mayes, “We have been able to keep rates stable for 7+ years, but with increases in purchase power, we are not sure we can maintain current rates.”

“We have been doing everything we can to mitigate this impact to HPP member-owners, but this rate increase plus inflationary increases continue to cause pressure on the rates,” says Eisenbraun.

There is still no plan for increasing the rate in 2024, but once the COSS is complete, a rate increase or a rate restructure could occur as early as 2025. To stay in the loop with changes, please continue to tune in to our monthly newsletter, the messaging on the bill and on our social media platforms. Our intent is to keep our members informed and prepared.



Photo by HPP Member Lori Kolkman. Scenic Overlook above Dubois.

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The Long Hours of Harvest Season

As we finish up the summer season, we know that long hours in the field are part of the job. We encourage everyone to be safe, be aware of the location of power poles in proximity to fields and equipment.

If you hit a pole or have a line down, call immediately before exiting the vehicle. It's always better to be safe than sorry. Our crews respond quickly and will make sure the lines are de-energized if necessary.

It is also a best practice to call before you dig - even in an area that you know well. Cable lines can still be buried right along an irrigation ditch. Underground lines can be where you least expect them. Save yourself time and trouble and call 811 before you dig.



Community Engagement is Key

At High Plains Power, we work hard to maintain infrastructure that is safe and reliable. Our crews are focused on building and maintaining reliable infrastructure, but they have a fun side too. Our times engaging with our members and the public are important and fun. It's an opportunity to engage in good conversation and to hear from you what you would like to see in the future. Pictured are Landon Kechter (right), Patrick Childers (far right) and below: Matthew Smith and Tyree Aragon on our float in the Fremont County Fair Parade.



Any Roasted Veggies

Recipe

Fresh Vegetables (potatoes, broccoli, carrots, etc)

2 Tbls Olive Oil

dash of salt (seasoning salt, garlic salt etc)

Dash of pepper (chili pepper for a little heat)

Toss all ingredients in a bowl, pour onto a baking sheet and roast at 400 degrees until done to your liking. Enjoy!

