



33rd year 4th Issue

May 2022

## NEWS

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After 49 years of valuable leadership and service on the Niobrara Electric Board of Directors, Jack Hammond has chosen to retire.

Jack has been a source of perpetual support to the Cooperative, having dedicated countless hours.

“Jack was the first to welcome me into the NEA family when I started my career here and my admiration for the unique style and voice of integrity he always displayed stays with me—NEA has been well served in the many roles Jack has assumed on behalf of this Co-op and his presence will be greatly missed”, Human Resource Manager, Twyla Barker.

Jack will be honored at the 77th Annual Meeting in May and his story with NEA will be in the June newsletter.

## Supply Chain Issues Update

Probably the most difficult piece of equipment to order at this time are transformers. Many are up to 140 weeks out and some companies aren't even taking orders for them, at this time.

Operations Manager, Rick Bridge reported the follow items and time frames:

Once ordered, new bucket and digger trucks are 2 years out.

Capacitor bank controls are 14 weeks out.

Voltage regulators are twenty weeks out.

Poles are taking up to six weeks for delivery.

Quotes on material are only guaranteed for 15 days.

Meter sockets, anchors and anchor rods are also difficult to receive timely.

We have a lot of material on back order currently.

\* Suppliers tell us storm stock material inventory is available.\*

\* New services are being scheduled, however service upgrades, unless imperative, are on hold until we can secure more inventory.

If you are planning any new services this summer, please call and visit with Doug Lytle, keeping this information in mind.

Construction work on a new CAP bank (capacitor bank) continues inside the ONEOK Substation at the Cheyenne River Substation, for the purpose of supporting voltage for ONEOK's station #7.

This ongoing project is an important project due to the long distance from Podolak Substation, at NEA, to one of our major loads.

Between engineering and delivery of material it has taken over a year to accomplish the work done so far. We hope to have construction finished in August 2022, due to the deliver date for capacitor controls.



## 2022 APRIL STORM & DRIFTING

For an idea of the local drifting that occurred during this spring storm, the substation fences at Lusk Rural are 10 feet tall.



Adding to the mix of challenges presented with the April storm, lightning Friday night, just before the blizzard set in, struck and blew off the antenna on the radio tower for PL 1. Loss of radio service on this channel caused disruption, but didn't stop communication among line crews.

Equipment in NEA yard, adjacent to the substation in photos above, look to be largely clear, but snow accumulation was knee deep.





**3 Sisters in Manville, WY.**

**The top of a truck cab and part of the tailgate can be seen in the drift of snow.**



Intense lightning with rain followed by extreme winds, accompanied by heavy, wet snow and freezing temperatures hit NEA's system territory in late April causing an extended outage for many of our members. Assessment of damages was initially limited by inability to get "eyes on" equipment in various locations. Technology goes a long way in obtaining information; however knowledge of terrain and specific damages plays a crucial role in the field work crew perform in restoration.

Thankfully, this weather event did not tear down miles of lines and once drifts were made passible and dangerous winds subsided, restoration work was performed rapidly. The majority of members that lost power on Friday were back on Sunday during daylight hours. All services received power before midnight on Sunday.

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PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225

"This institution is an equal  
opportunity provider and  
employer."



Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>

### Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

Friday 7:30 am—4 pm

**Outages** ....1-800-322-0544  
or 307-334-3221

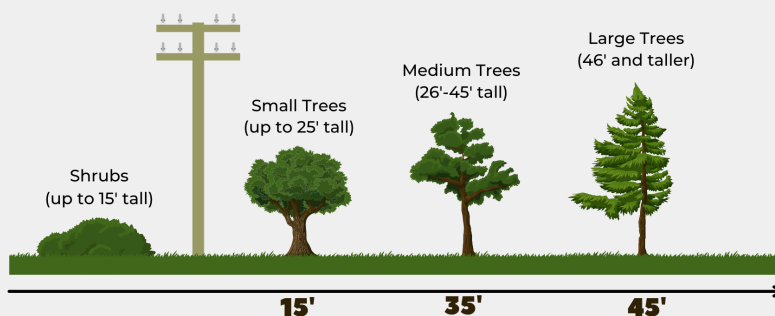
Phones are answered 24  
hours a day.

Phones will be answered by  
Niobrara Electric Association  
during office hours and SRS  
will take all other calls and  
dispatch NEA personnel.

We are in the season of planting. Thinking about placement of new trees and what their growth will look like in the future is important when it comes to our service lines. Sometimes tree trimming will be necessary to keep our power delivery safe and effective to members. Avoiding trimming or removal with planning ahead, is best. If you have questions or concerns about trees you currently have or of those you plan to plant, call and visit with us.

## Plant the **RIGHT TREE** in the **RIGHT PLACE**

The larger the tree, the farther it should be from a power line. Avoid planting beneath power lines, near poles or close to electrical equipment.



Remember, know what's below by calling 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at:  Safe  
Electricity.org<sup>®</sup>

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### District

John Hester	1	Keeline, WY	President
Andy Barnette	2	Lusk, WY	
David Keener	3	Marsland, NE	Sec./Treas
Bill Wilson	3	Harrison, NE	
Jack Hammond	1	Lance Creek, WY	
Jim Dunn	3	Harrison, NE	
Neal Wurdeman	2	Lusk, WY	
Bradyn Bruegger	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

### Board Minutes

Management presented financial and statistical reports. Resolution was presented to apply to the State of Wyoming to do business on Bureau of Land Management & Federal Lands. No accidents or injuries to report. Crews will resume pole change outs after the irrigation and oil field projects are completed. Crypto Mining meeting report was given. Tri-State set up meeting with NEA, WAPA and WMPA to talk about Quinn Creek.

Director Wilson report on Tri-State business.

Director Keener report on NREA business.

We are a member of

