



24th year 11th Issue

December 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Permits required before energizing meters</i>	1
<i>Scholarship Notification</i>	2
<i>Construction Continues</i>	3
<i>Manager's Note</i>	4
<i>Boardroom News</i>	4



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

The NEA will be closed on Tuesday, December 25th for the Christmas Holiday & on Tues, January 1st for the New Year's Holiday.

ATTENTION MEMBERS....

NEA will not connect your new service or upgrade without an electrical wiring permit.

From the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's office:

An electrical wiring permit is required anytime the electrical utility needs to connect, disconnect and restore electrical power to a building, mobile home or any premises. The person or contractor, installing the electrical wiring is responsible for obtaining the wiring permit. **An electrical utility may not energize the electrical service before said utility has proof that an electrical wiring permit has been obtained.** A wiring permit is required before work is started. Therefore, the contractor or the owner should make sure this office has received the permit, before starting work. It will allow the utility to connect power without delay.

Obtaining a wiring permit allows the electrical inspector to inspect the project if they wish. They have many projects and may not inspect every permit taken out. If you wish to guarantee an inspection, you must request an inspection. For this service there is a separate fee, which is listed on the permit. In either case, all violations to the National Electrical Code will be required to be corrected.

Nebraska requires permits and inspections at various points along the project, and your service will not be connected until we have received a permit from a licensed contractor, or an approved inspection from the state inspector.

Be sure that your wiring project is done by NEC code and all state and local rules.

More information regarding Wyoming State Law and the Fire Marshal's office can be found at <http://wyofire.state.wy.us/electricalsafety/index.html>

Nebraska State Electrical Division information can be found at <http://www.electrical.nebraska.gov/>

Keep in mind our newsletter insert in the WREN magazine is issued 11 times each year, January being the only month we do not produce one. Because of this, scholarship notifications through the insert are first shared in December, with a reminder in February. However, information and applications are available on the NEA website in January.

Beginning January 2nd, applications for the joint Basin Electric, Tri-State G&T, and Niobrara Electric scholarships will be available for pick up at the NEA Office in Lusk, WY., or you can, at that time, download them from our website. Applications are also provided to both Sioux County and Niobrara County High Schools.

The application deadline for submission of these scholarships is 5 p.m., Friday, February 22nd. If you have questions, please contact Twyla at the NEA office, 1-800-322-0544 or 307-334-3221.



We continue to ask as members change cell phone numbers or remove land-lines that they contact NEA with new contact information. Timely updates in information facilitates operations in numerous areas. For instance, we try when possible, to notify members in advance of planned maintenance/repair outages and as winter storm season envelops us, the potential for weather related outages increase; contact attempts are made in vain if we do not have current working contact information in the system.



Pictured left: A 6 foot diameter auger drilling a 22 foot deep hole for steel transmission line poles feeding the ONEOK substation.



Pictured above: New 75 foot poles on Kirtley road, replacing the old 35 foot poles.



Pictured left: New distribution line cross-arm on Kirtley road.



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Touchstone EnergySM

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

7:30 am—5:00 pm

**Fridays 7:30 am—
4:00 pm**

Electricians Department

7:00 am—5:30 pm (M-Th)

Outages1-800-322-0544
or 307-334-3221

Phones are answered 24 hours a day. Phones will be answered by Niobrara Electric Association during office hours and the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

One of the behind-the-scenes parts of the electrical system that we work with is called line protection. It is made up of electronic devices that look at the power lines and tell other equipment to shut down the line if it detects a problem and then energize it again to see if the problem went away. Earlier this year we had problems with one of these devices that feeds the Hat Creek and Lance Creek subs, as well as some of our pump station loads. When the device would see a problem, maybe a lightning strike on the line, it would shut off the power, and not turn the power back on. We would have to call out a line crew to the station, close a breaker and patrol the line to find the problem.

As a part of the ONEOK project, we are going to replace this equipment with more modern equipment that will not only tell the system that there is a problem, but it will give an approximate distance to the location of the problem. Given the fact that there are 70+ miles of mostly cross country transmission line on that circuit, this will cut down on the time it takes the NEA crews to patrol the line to find the problems. It will also help to pinpoint causes of nuisance faults like cracked insulators. After discussions with ONEOK, they agreed to pay the \$50,000 price tag to upgrade the system that will improve electric service to their pump stations, as well as about 1/3 of all NEA customers.

This new system is only capable of looking at the transmission lines, not the distribution lines, so it is still very important for you to call in when you have an outage, and if you notice something that might be the cause, be sure to let us know.

I will close wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and the very best for 2013.

General Manager Ken Ceaglske

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

Boardroom News

November Board Meeting

- Discussion on easements for ONEOK project.
- ONEOK coverage of SLE relay.
- Review of work plan for jobs near Lusk.
- Discussion on employee health coverage.
- Director Hammond gave a Tri-State report, Director Greer presented information from WREA and Director Keener discussed NREA business.