

24th year 11th Issue

November 2012

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*The NEA will be closed on Thursday,  
November 22nd and Friday, November  
23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday.*

**WELCOME MOISTURE...**

**EVEN THE HILLSIDE ACROSS FROM THE NEA OFFICE WAS GLAD TO SEE THE AREA'S FIRST SNOWFALL AFTER SUCH BRUTALLY HOT AND DRY SUMMER AND FALL SEASONS.**



As the severe threat of drought and fire fade with Winter snowfall, we turn our attention to outage threats of the freezing kind. Winter in Wyoming and our territories in South Dakota and Nebraska can pack a punch and though we are vigilant in our efforts to deliver uninterrupted power to our members, the reality of ice, wind and blizzards are ever present.

We always appreciate your calls and contact regarding broken, loose and other questionable looking NEA line material/equipment. If you have tree branches you suspect may be a problem, coming in contact with our equipment in rough weather, please notify the office immediate at 1-800-322-0544.



## ONEOK Pipeline Substation Project

Early construction of concrete platforms for steel structures to support substation equipment.

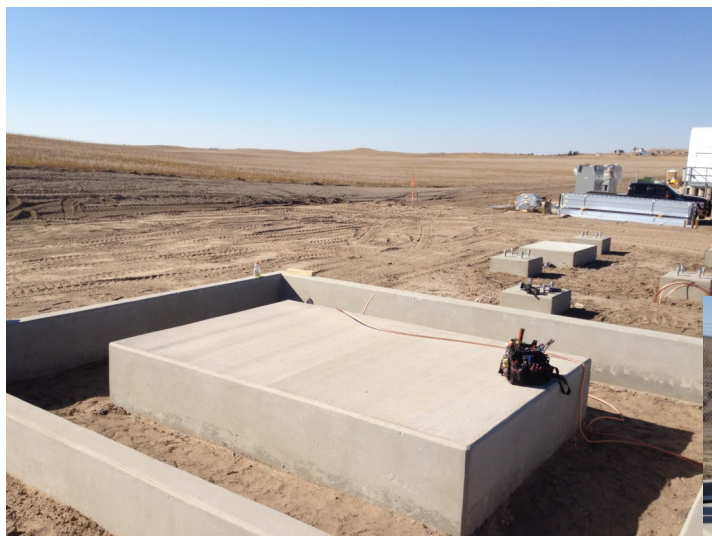


Substation towers (highest point of 50' at the tip of the lightning rod) erected, awaiting incoming wires and the transformer.

Substation enclosed, graveled, hardware installed, and transformer set in place.

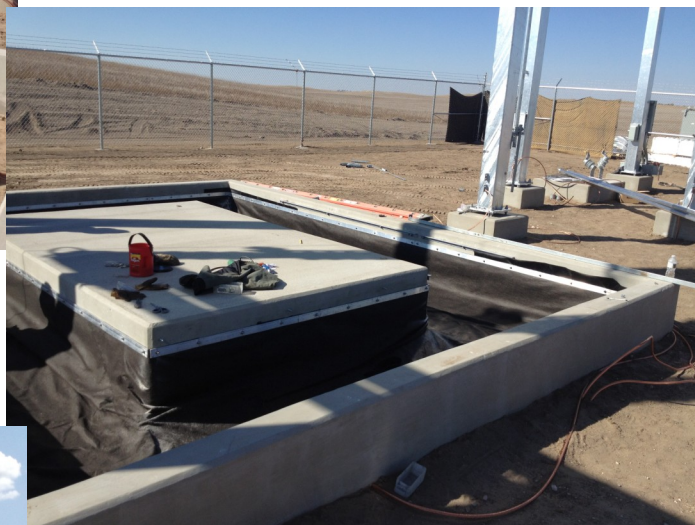






Pad mount with rubber bladder, oil containment barrier in place. Capable of holding just short of 2000 gallons.

8x12 concrete pad mount designed for the substation's 5000 KVA transformer (enough capacity to serve a small town).



Midpoint perspective of the progression in substation construction.

The 39,800 lbs substation transformer, crane set in place, on its pad mount.



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc

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**Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup>**

### 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)**

**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 the Niobrara County Sheriff's office will take all other calls and dispatch NEA personnel.

Rate pressures from our generation supplier may affect your bill sometime next year. Tri-State Generation and Transmission is in the process of changing the way that they bill member coops like NEA. Initial reports from Tri-State indicated that some coops would see an increase, where some may see a decrease. We were initially on the decrease side of things. They also recently announced a general increase in rates due to power supply costs which would almost balance with our decrease. After further examination of this year's billing from Tri-State to NEA, it looks as though the predicted decrease will not be realized. NEA staff will be working with a consultant over the next few months to consider what the best option for the coop is. It is budget time for the NEA as well and we are taking a close look at expenses and trying to limit any additional burden on the rates. I will report to you as the process goes along.

As I mentioned a couple months ago, the development of the ONEOK NGL Pipeline will help to offset some of the cost increases. ONEOK recently committed to a second pump station located on the very north end of the NEA system near Mule Creek Junction that they would like up and running by May 2014. They also have committed to planning the Bakken Crude Express Pipeline that will parallel the ONEOK NGL Pipeline currently under construction. Initial indications are that this new pipeline will be completed by early 2015.

NEA Manager Ken Ceaglske



*Congratulations to NEA Lineman, Levi Clark and his wife, Ashley, on the birth of their son, Lane, born September 7, 2012.*

### **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	
Kenny DeGering	2	Lusk, WY	
Andy Greer	1	Lance Creek, WY	
JD Wasserburger	2	Lusk, WY	Vice President

## **Boardroom News**

### **September Board Meeting**

- Director Greer reported on WREA activity.
- Director Hammond reported on Tri-State business.
- Director Keener reported on NREA activity.
- The engineering load study on the west end of the system was approved.
- Manager Ceaglske gave a progress report on the ONEOK Pumping Station.