



Nebraska Electric Association

25th year 2nd Issue

March 2013

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2013 Irrigation General Information Letter is coming out soon. Please read your irrigation paperwork carefully.

Mid-March, you will be receiving the yearly irrigation letter. The normal irrigation season is May 1 through October 31. In the past, there have been some consumers who have requested to be turned on for April instead of waiting until May. We can meet such a request *IF* we get a bank letter or the prepayment(s) required in the office and processed at least a week *PRIOR* to Monday, April 1, 2013. The linemen will connect any services that are ready on April 1st. If you do not inform us in time for the April 1st turn on date, you will be charged a trip fee (\$30.00 plus mileage @ .83 per mile) to connect on any other work day in April. The next scheduled turn on date will be the traditional date of May 1st.

Connection of Account

NEA will not connect any irrigation account without a prepayment or bank letter of guarantee. The electric service will be kept in the landowner's name, in the event of a lease agreement. Connected accounts will be required to meet 100% of annual minimum charges.

Prepayment

The prepayment will be based on your three highest billings from the previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. *The prepayment must be received, in the office, by April 16th, 2013.* After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 1, 2013. NEA will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected or October 31, 2013. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2013.

Bank Letter of Guarantee

You have the option of obtaining a bank letter of guarantee rather than paying the prepayment. The bank letter of guarantee will be based on your three highest billings from previous irrigation year or the annual minimum charge times three, whichever is greater. *The bank letter of guarantee must be received, in the office, by April 16, 2013.* After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 1, 2013.

Idle Systems

Please notify NEA prior to April 16, 2013 if you do not plan to operate your irrigation system. An idle service charge will be applied if you do not want the lines and services removed.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

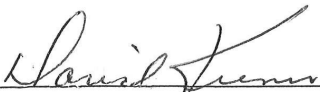
Niobrara Electric is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, religion, sex, color, national origin, age or disability, or any other characteristic protected by law shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of the organization's programs or activities.

The General Manager is responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

The above statement shall be displayed in the office of the Association and published once each year.

CERTIFICATION:

I, David Keener, Secretary of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc., do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Statement of Nondiscrimination duly adopted by the Board of Directors of said Corporation and entered in the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th of January 2013.


Secretary

(Seal)

The Nominating Committee, appointed by the NEA Board of Directors for the purpose of nominating Directors to be voted on at Annual Meeting, met at the NEA headquarters on the evening of February 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Representatives from all three districts were in attendance; the following persons were nominated as a result of committee discussion:

District 1: Jack Hammond

District 2: Kenny DeGering

District 3: David Keener

Per bylaw instruction, "Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least thirty (30) days before the meeting shall be printed on the ballot."

The 68th Annual Meeting of the Niobrara Electric Association's membership is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th.

In addition to this newsletter, the Report of the Nominating Committee has been sent to area newspapers for publication and has been posted to the NEA website.

This year the WREN magazine is focusing on each of the 11 coops in Wyoming. NEA will be in one of the fall issues. In the start of each article they feature the vital statistics of the coop. Here are the NEA numbers just for comparison. Organized in 1941, NEA covers 5400 square miles of territory with 2288 miles of line serving 2915 meters. That makes our density 1.27 meters per mile. We have 18 full time employees.



Rough shading map of NEA territory which includes all of Niobrara County, parts of Converse, Goshen, Weston, Platte, Fall River (SD), Sioux (NE) and Dawes (NE).



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NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association, Inc

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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-F)

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.

March signals the startup of travelling basketball at our house, with that comes the reminder of how vast Wyoming is and how much ground we parents have to cover to get the kids to the events. Our first experience last fall took us to the next town over, Newcastle (just 80 miles). Back in Minnesota it was only 15 miles to the next town, with many, many others inside an 80 mile radius of home. Fortunately, the scenery is good and the miles go by quickly.

That idea translates to the electric coop world as well, where the national average for customer density of 6 meters per mile and the Wyoming average is a sparse 3 meters per mile. NEA sits as one of the lowest in the country at 1.27 meters per mile. What's more, each of our members pay for an average of 3 meters. Which means that each member's revenue, or what you pay NEA, has to cover the expenses for more lines as well, nearly 2 miles of line per member. These expenses include pole testing and replacement, fixing broken insulators, tree trimming, and all the other little details that keep the lines up, as well as making sure that the bills get sent out. These expenses make up about 1/3 of your bill.

The remaining 2/3 of what you pay NEA goes to pay our electric bill. NEA is a member of Tri-State Generation and Transmission in a similar way that you are a member of NEA. They are the supplier for 44 coops in Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico. They use the money to buy the various fuels and run the power plants, as well as deliver the power to all of the coops that they serve over the many miles of line that they own. One of the costs that has been rising the most at Tri-State is regulation. Whether it is carbon emissions, reliability, accounting, endangered species, or other regulations, they make up an ever larger portion of the power bill. Right now, the cost to the NEA member is about \$15 for every \$100 that you pay us. As you read the paper or listen to the news, take a minute to pay attention to all of the details that relate to energy production and delivery and think about your power bill and how each of those news stories might impact what you pay.

In the next month or so, I will be working with the board on the new rates for 2013 and as I have mentioned before, there will be a rate increase. Most, if not all, of the rate increase is due to higher rates from Tri-State to NEA. We are simply passing along the cost increases that we are going to see.

Manager, Kenny Ceaglske

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

January/February Board Meeting

- Manager Ceaglske reported on various personnel issues, new lineman hiring, budget and salary changes, RUS refinancing, Western United Annual Meeting, auditor agreement, Nominating Committee, Statement of non-discrimination, shelterbelt quote, Tri-State rates, Oneok progress, GIS/engineering model and west load options, rates and ebill.
- Director Greer discussed WREA issues; Director Keener reported on NREA and Midwest issues and Manager Ceaglske reported on Tri-State issues.