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Niobrara Electric Association is pleased to announce the availability of SMARTHUB! This feature allows for payment options and oversight of your account(s).

We offer 2 versions of SMARTHUB, the website as well as an APP for smart phones! We can now offer you a website that not only will inform you that your bill is available, but also allow you to access all information concerning your service. Information such as usage, past billing, payment history, and more.

At this time you will only be able to pay by **check** online. **No credit cards or debt cards** will be accepted, at this time.

We also offer an Auto-Pay/EFT option of payment. You will be able to sign yourself up via the SMARTHUB website.

To sign up for this ONLINE access, you will need the following information:

Your account #, Last Name or Business Name, email address, SSN or TIN, and the Zip code on your bill.

You may need to contact our office prior to attempting to sign up on the site in order to provide the SSN or TIN information. Many of our accounts do not have that information available.

Click on the link below and using the link next to the "NEW USER?" At the bottom of the page, you can start the process of signing up and get access to the site.

[https://niobraraelectric.smarthub.coop/#login:](https://niobraraelectric.smarthub.coop/#login)

If you have questions, please call the NEA office for information and assistance.

2014 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 pre-payment(s) required in the office and processed at least a week *PRIOR* to Monday, April 1, 2014. 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 @ .84 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, 2014.* After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 1, 2014. NEA will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected or October 31, 2014. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2014.

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, 2014.* After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 1, 2014.

Idle Systems

Please notify NEA prior to April 16, 2014 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.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
 NIORARA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

LUSK, WYOMING 82225

The nominating committee appointed for the purpose of nominating Directors for Niobrara Electric Association, Inc. for three year terms, met at the office of the Association on [February 5, 2014](#) at 5:30 p.m., pursuant to Notice.

The members of the Committee were as follows:

District No. 1 – [Ken Dixon](#), [Denzel Coffey](#), [Richard A. Ladwig](#) & [Brad Reese](#) (alt.)

District No. 2 – [Cheryl Lund](#), [Rod Nelson](#), [Dan Hanson](#) & [Stan Rennard](#) (alt.)

District No. 3 – [John Buhr](#), [Rodney Gray](#), [Donald Mack](#) & [Jon Woodrum](#) (alt.)

The following members of the Nominating Committee were present

[Ken Dixon](#)

[Cheryl Lund](#)

[Don Mack](#)

[Denzel Coffey](#)

[Rod Nelson](#)

[Richard Ladwig](#)

[Dan Hanson](#)

The Nominating Committee selected [Richard Ladwig](#) as Chairman, who presided at the meeting.

Motion was made by [Denzel Coffey](#) that the following named Members:

District 1

District 2

District 3

[John Hester](#)

[JD Wasserburger](#)

[William Wilson](#)

be placed in nomination for Directors of Niobrara Electric Association to serve three (3) year terms, seconded by [Dan Hanson](#), and carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Richard A. Ladwig

Chairman, Nominating Committee

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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.

On a recent trip through Minnesota, I happened to drive past a feed mill, or farmers coop supply area. Not unusual in that area, but what caught my eye was the mobile loading auger that sat very near a power line that skirted the property line. I hope that all of the employees at the mill were made aware of the line, the ability to raise the auger, and the dangers of the combination.

At another location, it looked like some hay bales got stacked near or under a power line closing the safe distance between the ground and the power line. I'm sure the location was out of the way for the daily activities at the farm, but put the tractor operator at risk when trying to stack the bales or retrieve them. It also put anyone who might climb on top of the bales too close to the lines.

Closer to home, I noticed a small gravel pit where dirt had been dug out near a power pole, more specifically, an angle pole with a guy wire and anchor on it. There is an amazing amount of tension on guy wires and the anchor that holds it, if enough of that dirt got removed, the anchor could pull loose and cause multiple poles to come crashing down.

Please keep an eye out for these types of situations and others around your ranches. "Look up" was always a catch phrase around power lines, but "look up, around, and down" might be more appropriate. If all goes as planned, the people involved in the above situations probably won't see problems. If ice loads up those same lines like they did in October or if Murphy's laws strikes, you can't be so sure.

Be careful out there and have a safe day.

Ken 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 Board Meeting

- Director Hammond spoke regarding Tri-State business.
- Director Keener discussed NREA business.
- Director Greer shared WREA information.
- Attorney Stecher spoke on collection matters. Line Superintendent Rick Bridge gave an operations report and Manager Ceaglske gave the managers report.