



26th year 18th Issue

November 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Energy Efficiency Rebates</i>	1
<i>Scholarships/New Recloser Bank</i>	2
<i>SmartHub/Co-op Connections Card</i>	3
<i>Manager's Note</i>	4
<i>Boardroom News</i>	4

LIEAP is a state and federally-funded program that helps people pay home heating bills November through June. The program is open to homeowners and renters. It helps cover the costs of electricity, natural gas, propane, wood, diesel heating oil, coal and pellets when these are used for heating a home.

Applications for LIEAP program are available beginning October 1, 2014 and are accepted until February 28, 2015.

Application forms and information are available by clicking the link below:

[2014-15 LIEAP Application Instructions and information](#)

To get specific information about your application or to ask that an application be mailed to you, call: 1-800-246-4221.

ENERGY EFFICIENTCY REBATES

Niobrara Electric, together with Tri-State Generation & Transmission, offers many different rebate options to its members. Specifics on lighting, water heaters, appliances, motors, heat pumps and air conditioners are listed on the NEA website @ <http://www.niobrara-electric.org/content/rebates>.

Please remember that these incentives are only available for MEMBERS of Niobrara Electric. Members, please remember that units/items must be installed within Niobrara Electric's service territory in order for it to be qualified for an incentive. Also, incentives must be applied for within 180 days of installation of unit/item.

If you have any questions regarding rebates or for application of rebates please call NEA and ask for JoAnn.



Scholarship applications for 2015 will become available after the 1st of the year. They will be in both Niobrara and Sioux County High Schools, as well as, the NEA website.

We will post information, closer to the time, on FB and in the December newsletter.

All available scholarships will be listed at the same time, however, submission due dates may vary for lineman scholarships. The NEA/Basin Electric/Tri-State GST High School and College scholarships and the NEA Non-traditional scholarship are due February 20th.

If you have questions or concerns, contact Twyla at 800-322-0544 or 307-334-3221.

We all desire dependable power, from simple home lighting needs to large capacity energy stations. NEA strives to provide to large and small services alike, with as little variation and disruption as possible. A key equipment component used to that end is a regulator, or as seen pictured right, a bank of regulators.

Extra load coming in around Shawnee and Lost Springs are welcome additions to NEA's system. This arrival of services for Chesapeake, Pale Horse and Anadarko necessitate construction of a new regulator bank; an essential "first step" to keeping power boosted to meet new usage needs.

While this regulator bank can't eliminate outages, it will help keep voltage levels constant. Construction will commence by November.



- Want to see your NEA bill the day it is generated and have access to your account 24/7?
- Don't want to rely on the Post Office to deliver your payment by the due date?
- Want the convenience of paying your bill over the phone or having it automatically drafted from your bank account?

Get signed up with the SmartHub website on your PC!

<https://niobraraelectric.smarthub.coop/#login>:

Contact the NEA office if you have any questions concerning the SmartHub. The Billing Department is happy to assist.

Office: 1-800-322-0544 or 1-307-334-3221

Coming Soon, the Co-op Connections Card....

Niobrara Electric is excited to announce that we will soon be sharing a wonderful tool with our members. Through our partnership with Touchstone Energy, we will be launching our Co-op Connections Card in March of 2015.

We are currently in the process of gathering member area businesses to participate; joining in with nationwide participants from 494 Cooperatives in 46 states.

According to Benefits Administrator, Twyla Barker, "This is a win-win for business and the membership, stimulating business contacts and providing consumer savings. Touchstone Energy thrives on connecting it's member coops with their membership — this program is one avenue created to do just that. Serving the membership to the best of our ability is always NEA's cooperative goal — with that in mind, we are eager to see the card's implementation."

More details will be coming in future WREN inserts, on our FB page and, after the first of the year, on the NEA website. If you are interested in participation as a business, contact Twyla Barker or Ken Ceagske, at 307-334-3221 or 800-322-0544, for more information.

The membership will be receiving their participation cards, **free of charge**, in March.

www.niobrara-electric.org

www.facebook.com/NiobraraElectric



NEA NEWS is a publication of Niobrara Electric Association., Inc

PO Box 697

Lusk WY 82225

Phone: 307-334-3221

Fax: 307-334-2620



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.

The board and I have been discussing the current rates, budget, and financials of the coop recently and it appears to be time for a rate increase. The last increase was in early 2013 tied to a rate increase and structure change in the rates we pay Tri State. In the past year, we have absorbed an additional rate increase from Tri State, survived significant damages from last winter storms, and faced other increases to our operating expenses. We also had lower than expected sales putting a pinch on the budget.

We have enlisted the assistance of a rate consultant to do a cost of service study that considers each rate class and looks at the various costs that are involved in serving that class of customer and then looks at adjusting the rates accordingly. The overall increase that the consultant is working with is 3-5%. Some rate classes will see more of an increase, some may see less. Depending on where the adjustments are needed, the base fee or the energy rate may be adjusted.

We are looking at some more new loads that may come on line in 2015 and beyond that would help limit future increases, but we will have to wait and see if they materialize. As we continue to strive to improve the electric system for you the member, we can't afford to wait for that load to come in. We need to ensure we have the revenue to keep up with system maintenance and investing in your electric coop.

General Manager Kenny Ceaglske

Boardroom News

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

August Board Meeting

- Director Hammond spoke regarding Tri-State business. Director Keener discussed NREA business and Director Greer shared WREA information.
- Attorney Skavdahl spoke on collection matters.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge gave an operations report including Harrison tree trimming update & completion of Lost Springs rebuild.
- Manager Ceaglske gave the managers report including budget, rates & future load growth opportunities.