

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

New Billing Clerk Office 1

Irrigation Info 2

Co-op Connections 3

Manager's Message continued 4

Boardroom News 4

LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTICIPATING
IN THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS ®

SAME AS IT ONCE WAS - 10% off store items.

HERREN BROTHERS - 10% off True Value items not otherwise marked for discount.

MILLER SOAP COMPANY LLC - 10% off products (does not include shipping)

FINE GRIND - 10% Off purchase

COUNTRY CORNER HAIR SHOP - 10% off products

Help us recruit local business by encouraging your favorite business to contact us to learn about joining the program. There is no charge to the business and all advertising is done through us - it is a FREE service to connect businesses and members for a mutual benefit!



Our lobby has a new look....

Billing Clerk Julie Hageman (pictured above) just moved into her new office. The conversion of space took place during the winter while Julie was off on maternity leave. Conveniently, her return to work in February coincided with the completion of construction.

This dedicated office space is an improvement a long time coming. We know it will be a much more comfortable and functional work space for the Clerk and we hope our members appreciate the improvement when they come in to do business, as well.

2016 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 Friday, April 1, 2016. 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 @ .86 per mile) to connect on any other work day in April. The next scheduled turn on date will be the traditional date, the first Monday in May.

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 8th, 2016.* After receiving prepayment, service will begin on May 2, 2016. NEA will retain this prepayment until the service is disconnected or October 31, 2016. The prepayment will be applied to the final bill and any credits will be returned to consumers by November 30, 2016.

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 8, 2016.* After receiving the letter of guarantee, service will begin on May 2, 2016.

Idle Systems

Please notify NEA prior to April 8, 2016 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.

Maintenance on customer side equipment

Any services disconnected for maintenance on your equipment during the irrigation season will be required to meet National Electric Code prior to reconnection of the service. This includes getting an electrical permit and a fused disconnect at the metering point.

New Irrigation rate effective 1-1-2016

The new, approved irrigation rates are not available as of time of print for the March newsletter insert. These rates will be listed in the irrigation letter you will receive mid-March.

If you have questions, please call and ask for Julie in the Billing Department.

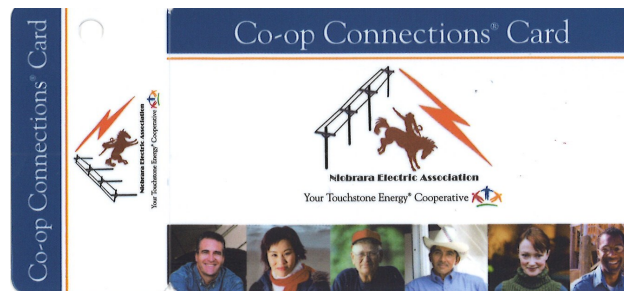




Locally, our members have the good fortune of participation in the **Co-op Connections Program** by these fine businesses.

We hope you're taking advantage of the program's **national discount opportunities!** And, when it comes to local options, benefit from the savings offered through these businesses.

If you have questions, are interested in adding your business, or need a new Co-op Connections card and information sheet, call the NEA office and speak with, Twyla.



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

Electrician 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.

Great news for the industry as of this morning! (Which is about a month before you're reading this.) THE SUPREME COURT RULED TO STAY THE CLEAN POWER PLAN. While I don't have many details as of press time, this should postpone some of the implementation timelines that are in place with the plan until all the court proceedings on it are complete and most likely reviewed by the Supreme Court.

If you'll recall back to my example from the December newsletter, I forgot to mention one detail in my pickup example, the small pickup I used for what the plan requires was too inefficient. The technology to do what the plan suggests does not exist today, or is at best in the experimental phase. This stay will allow the industry to continue the research necessary to keep the plants viable and work to meet any possible future demands, as well as focus on the fight to eliminate the CPP or at least modify it to a more workable plan.

In a previous, but similar fight over Mercury and Air Toxic Standards (MATS), the Supreme Court ruled against the EPA's rules after the utilities had made alterations to the plants at the cost of billions of dollars or closed some entirely. The EPA's agenda was fulfilled, even though it was determined to be out of line. This cost the utilities and in turn, you the customers.

The industry has been making strides to improve both efficiency and emissions. Partly lead by regulation, partly internal pressures. Back to my favorite examples, pickups. In the 80's you could get a half ton Ford that got about 12MPG, HP in the low 100's, torque in the low 200's. Today, the same half ton gets in the high teens for MPG, HP is over 300 and torque is approaching 300, not to mention a smoother ride and more creature comforts. The increase in MPG is in response to the government regulations, but the increases in power and creature comforts can be traced to consumer demand.

It took 35 years to make the transition through complete replacement. In the same period of time, the energy industry has made significant improvement through upgrades and some replacements as well. The CPP is looking to change out systems that take decades to plan, permit and build, at costs in the billions of dollars, in less than 15 years. My hope is that the courts can look at this and slow things down a bit to a reasonable pace where technology can keep pace with costs.

General 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

January Board Meeting

- Director Greer reported on WREA business.
- Director Hammond reviewed Tri-State business.
- Director Keener spoke concerning NREA business.
- Manager Ceaglske reported positive sales trends despite decline in oil prices, budget approved at approximately \$9.5 million and guideline updates.
- Line Superintendent Rick Bridge spoke safety and our metering system.