

Power Lines



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Next board date: May 31

The office will be closed May 28 in observance of Memorial Day



Keeping Electricity Reliable

BY RON CAREY, GENERAL MANAGER

I looked out this morning and noticed a nice breeze was blowing out of the north and decided I'd hook up the windmill to compose this month's letter to the members. After all, wind energy is free. Then I began to notice something a little odd was happening.

The wind was becoming somewhat erratic. Then the wind died a little too - e - t - h - e - r.

I didn't think I'd get this article written until the sun came out and I hooked up my solar panels. They seemed to be working okay until a few clouds

started to pass over.

By now it was getting in late, and the sun was setting.

So finally, I figured if I was to get this done at all, I'd have to connect to the grid. That got things started, until suddenly,

everything went black. Seems the grid got overloaded.

So, now I've got my portable generator running. But I know I don't have much fuel in the tank. I'd better start looking for my old manual typewriter and keep my flashlight handy. Looks like the old-fashioned way is still the most reliable.

Now, I forgot what I was going to write about this month.

NEW CALL BEFORE YOU DIG NUMBER

May 1, 2007, is the launch date of the new Call Before You Dig 8-1-1 phone number. The objective is for contractors and homeowners to notify utilities to mark underground lines before they begin digging by calling just one number. This one-call service will notify the appropriate utilities, which will then send technicians to the requested site to mark underground lines for free. For information, visit the Call Before You Dig website at www.call811.com.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Public Hearing Compliance Notice for PURPA

PURPA Title 1 Standards As required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005

Notice to Members of Poudre Valley REA

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAcT) requires qualifying utilities to consider adopting five new standards promulgated by Title 1 of the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act. Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association (Association) is a qualifying utility under the provisions of EPAcT. Therefore, you are hereby advised that the board of directors of the Association will convene a public hearing on June 1, 2007, at 8 a.m. at its headquarters located at 7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, Colorado, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on each of the five proposed standards.

Details of the Public Hearing

The hearing will be conducted by the board of directors with Mr. John Archi-

bold, former chief counsel to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in charge of the hearing. Public testimony, either written or verbal, will be accepted at the meeting. However, to ensure your opportunity to give verbal testimony at the public hearing, witnesses must sign up by 5 p.m. on May 22, 2007. To sign up to give testimony, witnesses may contact Pam Martin, administrative assistant, by telephone at 970-226-1234 or 800-432-1012; by letter addressed to Poudre Valley REA, PO Box 272550, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550; or by e-mail to pvrea@pvrea.com. Witnesses may appear either with or without legal counsel.

Hearing Agenda

8 a.m. Opening introductions
Rick Johnson, president
8:15 a.m. Hearing process
John Archibold, hearing officer

8:30 a.m.
Smart Metering
EPAcT, Section 1252
Interconnections
EPAcT, Section 1254
Net Metering
EPAcT, Section 1251
Fuel Source Diversity
EPAcT, Section 1251
Fossil Fuel Efficiency
EPAcT, Section 1251
Summary and Comments
Rick Johnson, president
4:30 p.m. Recess

Deliberation and Conclusions

The board will reconvene on June 8, 2007, at the same location at 10:30 a.m. to deliberate the testimony and to conclude the proceedings. Additional testimony will not be allowed. However, the board, on its own volition, may request clarifying information from its staff.



POUDRE VALLEY REA'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Recently many employees from the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association undertook a weight loss challenge. The challenge, playfully called "REA's Biggest Losers," started January 9. The idea was to promote healthy eating habits along with exercise.

The key word was teamwork. Names were drawn to see which teams the employees would be on. After the teams were formed, employees were weighed for the first time as a team. Every Tuesday, the teams would all get together to be weighed to see how much weight they had lost during the week and compare their weight loss scores. April 10 was the last official weigh-in. To date, the five teams have lost a total of 321 pounds. Way to go, Poudre Valley REA.

In the end, all of Poudre Valley REA's participants were the winners, or in this case the biggest losers.

DOWNLOAD A SAFETY CHECKLIST

May is National Electrical Safety Month. As its sponsor, the Electrical Safety Foundation International has created a free, downloadable checklist covering electrical issues that may exist inside your home.

Covering every room from the kitchen to the basement, the checklist guides users through their home's electrical systems with a series of questions and suggested action items. Do your lights flicker when you turn on the vacuum cleaner? Engage a licensed electrician to determine if your home has enough electrical circuits. Are you protected from electrocution that can result from electricity interacting with water? Conduct a monthly test of the ground fault circuit interrupter, or GFCI, outlets in the kitchen and bathroom.

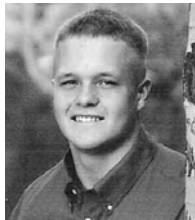
To download ESFI's **Indoor Electrical Safety Checklist**, go to www.esfi.org.



Poudre Valley REA Awards Scholarships

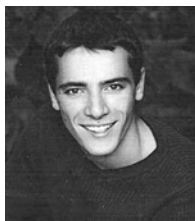
The scholarship winners have been selected for 2007. Scholarships from Poudre Valley REA, Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission will go to six local students.

The Poudre Valley REA's scholarship committee screened applicants for the scholarships. Six winners were selected by random drawings of qualified applicants, who are the children of Poudre Valley REA members.



David Wright Adams

David Wright Adams, a Windsor High School senior, won the Tri-State \$500 scholarship. He will use the funds at the University of Colorado in Boulder.



James P. Godson

James P. Godson, who will graduate from Greeley West High School, writes, "I would like to take the opportunity to accept and say thank you for the scholarship. The Weld County scholarship of \$1,000

will be helpful in financing my first year of college at Colorado State University."



Molly Herman

Molly Herman will be a Silver Creek High School graduate this spring. Molly plans to attend the University of Colorado. Her \$1,000 scholarship from Boulder County is greatly appreciated. Molly writes, "Thank you so much for this opportunity. It will allow me to advance further in my education."



Kristin Marie Nugent

Kristin Marie Nugent is a Thompson Valley High School senior who plans to attend the University of Northern Colorado. She also won \$500 from Tri-State Generation and Transmission.

Caroline Potock, an Alexander Dawson High School senior who plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania, writes, "I was thrilled to learn that I had won the Basin



Caroline Potock

PVREA scholarship. Thank you for helping me to realize my dream of attending Lehigh University in the fall." Caroline will be majoring in business administration. She will also be playing on the Lehigh Mountain Hawks softball team. She won a \$1,000 scholarship.



Kiah Smith

Kiah Smith, a senior at Estes Park High School, is a recipient of the Larimer County \$1,000 scholarship. Kiah plans to attend Colorado State University this fall.

Congratulations to all the applicants.

New this fall, Poudre Valley REA will begin offering nine scholarships each spring. Information and applications are available on PVREA's website at www.pvrea.com. Applications are accepted starting October 1 through the deadline each year.

LEADERSHIP CAMP

Kathleen Brown and Ryan Lynch have been chosen as Poudre Valley REA's ambassadors to the 2007 summer leadership camp at Glen Eden Resort, 24 miles north of Steamboat Springs. Kathleen and Ryan were delegates at last year's summer camp.

The purpose of the camp is to show students what a rural electric cooperative is and how it works for its members. It also acquaints them with the energy picture of the future. As ambassadors, Kathleen and Ryan will be helping to orient the new delegates from Poudre Valley REA as well as delegates from other co-ops. Field trips are planned that will cover power generation, distribution facilities, safety and more. Fun times are also in the works — a gondola ride, an evening banquet and lots of sports.

Congratulations, Kathleen and Ryan.

Adopt-a-Raptor Program

Poudre Valley REA recognizes that birds of prey are a precious natural resource. Over the past few years, Poudre Valley has donated time, money and materials to the Colorado State University based Rocky Mountain Raptor Program. However, it is because of your support that the program even exists.

We all know how expensive it is to support a family. Have you ever thought how much it costs to support an injured bird until it can return to the wild? An injured eagle eats \$8 in rats a day. Perch material for one cage costs \$15. X-rays can run as much as \$50 and surgery costs \$100. It all adds up. But you can make a difference to these birds.

The Rocky Mountain Raptor Program invites you and your family, school group or business to become involved with the care of one injured raptor. As an Adopt-a-Raptor sponsor, you can help ensure that injured and non-releasable birds are provided with food, shelter and medical care for one year. You may sponsor a bird for one year, or you can sponsor a "share" of a bird.

In return for your sponsorship of either a releasable or non-releasable bird, you will receive an adoption certificate, a beautiful framed photograph of the bird and the RMRP newsletter. Please call the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program at 970-484-7756 for details. Win* Account Name Robert B. Smith.

Protect Power Poles When Burning Weeds

As spring arrives, Poudre Valley REA would like to give you a friendly reminder to watch those weed fires. Every year, power poles end up damaged or destroyed by careless weed burning.

It is Poudre Valley REA's policy that the person responsible for causing damage to a pole must pay for replacing it. This is the only fair way of handling these situations. Depending on the type of pole and hardware that it carries, several thousands of dollars can be involved in replacing even one pole. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new one.

Poudre Valley wants to remind you of the following suggested procedures to follow while burning weeds:

1. Follow all rules established by the fire district in which you reside. Most districts require permits.



2. Plan your burning before you begin. If there are power poles in the area, clean the weeds and debris from around them before you begin.

3. If the fire does engulf a pole, immediately call the fire department and Poudre Valley REA.

4. Caution: Water and electricity do not mix. Never spray water close to the

wires as it may cause a short circuit. Serious injury or death could result.

5. Remember, not reporting a fire-damaged pole may cause a serious accident to happen later. Please report any fire-damaged poles that you see to Poudre Valley REA immediately.

REPLACE YOUR WATER HEATER, GET A REBATE

For those who don't already know, Poudre Valley REA and its power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, give rebates for new or replacement electric water heaters. The rebates begin at \$70. If you plan on replacing your water heater soon, or have already done so in the past six months, call Danny Martinez at Poudre Valley REA to request the appropriate rebate forms or print the form from PVREA's website, www.pvrea.com. Choose **Cons. & Rebate Forms** then **Consumer Forms**. Below are the minimum requirements to qualify for the rebate:

1. Applies to new or replacement units
2. Minimum 30-gallon size with minimum 6-year warranty
3. Minimum DOE Energy Factor:

Tank Size	Minimum E.F.
30 gallon	0.93
40 "	0.92
50 "	0.90
60 "	0.89
80 "	0.86
100 "	0.84

Heat Pumps Can Cool Your Home

Many people have the misconception that a heat pump is only a heater. In actuality, a heat pump is not only a heating system for your home but is also an air-conditioning unit.

Heat pumps are the most energy-efficient combination of cooling and heating systems available on the market. Heat pumps work by extracting cold or heat from either the air or the ground to provide either heating or cooling. There are many different types of heat pumps available, including wall-mounted units or window units and ground source or air source units. The best advice is to have a contractor give you an idea of what would work best for your home.

3 Reasons to Buy a Heat Pump

1. Energy efficiency: Because heat pumps are energy efficient, the time it takes to recover your initial investment is fairly quick. In other words, because your electric bill is reduced, the recovery of the money that you paid to have

your heat pump installed is much quicker than it would be if you had an air conditioner or a furnace installed. The initial cost of purchasing and installing a heat pump is an investment.

2. Rebates: Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Poudre Valley REA offer rebates to their members who purchase heat pumps. Poudre Valley REA gives \$125 a ton for an air source unit and \$250 a ton for ground source units. Tri-State gives \$150 a ton per unit. For example, if you buy a 3-ton air source, Poudre Valley REA would reimburse you \$375, while Tri-State would reimburse an additional \$450.00 for a grand total of \$825.

3. Convenience: You will have the combined convenience of a state-of-the-art heating system along with a cooling system. No more worrying about your old furnace and your old air conditioner. Now your comfort level is wrapped in one great system. It's the wave of the future.