

# Power Lines



## INSIDE ...

- \* Statement of Nondiscrimination
- \* National Action Plan
- \* Annual Meeting Ballot Changes
- \* Scholarships Available
- \* Leadership Camp Experience
- \* New Employee
- \* Doug Rye at Annual Meeting

### MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 272550  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550

### STREET ADDRESS

7649 REA Parkway  
Fort Collins, CO 80528

970-226-1234 Phone  
800-432-1012 Toll free  
970-226-2123 Fax

www.pvrea.com Web  
pvrea@pvrea.com Email

### NEXT BOARD MEETING

January 29



## Board Approves 2008 Rates

BY BRAD GASKILL, GENERAL MANAGER

**F**ollowing a public forum held November 27, 2007, to hear members' comments on the association's proposed 2008 rates, fees and other charges, the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association Board of Directors approved the new tariff schedules for 2008. The rate changes represent an overall average increase of 10.6 percent in electric revenues. The new tariffs will become effective with electric usages billed on or after January 9, 2008.



Brad Gaskill,  
general manager

The rate increase is needed to meet our prudent financial goals and ensure your association's future financial stability. The majority of the rate increase is necessary to recover approximately \$8 million in additional wholesale power costs from our power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association. Just under \$1 million is required to meet our additional operating costs in providing our members with safe and reliable electric power through quality customer service.

Almost all of the letters and phone calls received as well as the member comments made at the public forum regarding the association's proposed rate increase centered on the percentage increase in the facility charge for residential consumers. I will do my best to explain the facility charge and the reason for it being increased in the 2008 rate structure.

The facility charge is designed to recover the costs of getting power from the substations to your meter. These expenses occur month after month regardless of the amount of energy you use and include the cost of wires, poles, transformers, meters, meter reading, billing, record keeping, insurance, taxes,

depreciation and administration, as well as other operating and maintenance expenses. The expenses are calculated through a cost-of-service study that determines as closely as possible what it costs PVREA to provide electric service to an individual member of each rate class

over the course of a year.

Our most recent COSS, performed by an independent consultant, indicated that the facility charge for our residential rate class was too low and not a fair representation of our actual costs to serve. The COSS reported that a residential service costs more than \$18 per month to serve even if no energy is consumed. With this rate increase, the facility charge for the residential class, which represents 87 percent of our total consumers, will increase from \$9.30 to \$12 per month.

Based on the 2006 COSS results, management and the board determined that when the association needed to adjust rates in the future, it would start increasing the facility charge component of the rate for the residential class at a higher percentage than those of other classes in order to more fairly and equitably recover the true cost of service from each rate class. This practice started with rate adjustments made effective in January 2007 and continues with the new rates approved by the board for 2008.

Other significant changes in our 2008 rate structure approved by the board include the elimination of declining block rates for the residential rate class. The declining block rate structure is being discontinued to promote and encourage energy conservation.

To continue supporting the use of alternative energy [continued on page 6]

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

**P**oudre Valley Rural Electric Association, Inc., is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service, 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 1973, 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, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Myles Jensen, the manager of member, employee and customer services. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feel 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; the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

## PVREA Supports National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency

**A** national plan to improve energy efficiency across the board was recently released by a group of more than 60 electric industry leaders. Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, represented by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, has programs already in place that will help meet the plan's goals.

The National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency aims to improve the efficiency of all homes, schools, businesses, governments and industries by 2025. "Though a monumental task, it is estimated that doing so could lead to \$100 billion saved on national energy bills," said John Holt, NRECA's representative on the plan's leadership group. "It's also one of several electric co-op solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

PVREA has developed several resources to help its members achieve better energy efficiency and keep electric bills low.

In addition to the energy efficiency credits on electric motors, heat pumps and water heaters, PVREA also has Green Power available to its consumers for \$1.25 per 100-kWh block purchased. The purchase price of these blocks will be reduced to 50 cents a block starting the first of January 2008.

In addition, PVREA recently started a

compact fluorescent lightbulb program. The continuing program offers a free CFL to anyone who comes to PVREA headquarter offices to pay his or her bill. Besides the free CFL, a customer will have the option of buying four additional CFLs at \$1 apiece. The 25-watt CFLs that are being sold are equivalent to the 100-watt incandescent lightbulb. Look for different sizes and shapes to be available in the near future.

The electric utility industry as a whole has made great strides in improving efficiency over the past 15 years, saving nearly 750 billion kilowatt-hours in electricity as a result — enough to power more than half of the homes in the United States for a year.

The action plan will continue to increase efficiency and create savings. It was released during a November national meeting of state public utility commissioners in Anaheim, California, facilitated by the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PVREA is a distribution electric cooperative providing electricity to approximately 36,000 services. NRECA is the national service organizations that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 40 million people in 47 states.

## Annual Meeting Ballot Changes

**I**n the past, consumers were sent mail-in ballots by request only. As of 2008, mail-in ballots will be sent to all Poudre Valley REA members. Consumers now have the option to vote and send them back to the PVREA headquarters or come and vote at the annual meeting.

Other bylaw changes were made. Candidates no longer have to be chosen by a nominations committee. Future nomination committees have been dissolved, per the PVREA Board of Directors. Candidates now have to pick up a petition and obtain at least a minimum of 15 signatures in order to be considered for candidacy.

## Board Approves 2008 Rates Change

*[continued from page 5]* sources, the board approved reducing the cost of renewable resource tariff by adopting Tri-State's market-based rate. The initial rate for 2008 will be lowered from the current rate of \$1.25 per 100-kWh block to 50 cents with an annual "true up" or carry-forward provision to adjust the rate to actual market cost. The board also eliminated the tariff provisions that limited the maximum number of blocks a consumer could purchase as well as the three-year minimum contract period.

A number of the association's service fees and other charges were increased in an effort to move toward a cost-based fee structure that allows the association to more closely recover its expenses in providing those services.

Details about the new rates, service fees and other charges are available on the PVREA newly designed and user friendly website at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com). You may also contact a customer service representative with any questions you have.

I look forward to visiting with you again.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OR UNDERGRADS

# Poudre Valley REA Offers Nine College Scholarships

**N**ine scholarships are available through Poudre Valley REA for high school seniors and college undergraduate students. Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation and Transmission each offer scholarships, in addition to the six scholarships Poudre Valley REA has established.

Applicants must be dependents of parents (or consumers themselves) who currently receive electric service from Poudre Valley REA. If the PVREA consumer is a business, that business may appoint a candidate of its choice. Previous winners may reapply if they still qualify.

Applications are reviewed to make sure that 1) each is complete, 2) the

applicant is eligible, 3) the required documentation has been submitted and 4) the deadline has been met. If all the requirements are fulfilled, the winners' names will be drawn at random — one winner and one alternate for each scholarship.

Listed below are the scholarships available. By completing an application, students are applying for all scholarships. Scholarship information and applications are on PVREA's website at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com). Choose the **Scholarship, Etc.** tab on the home page.

All entries must be submitted by February 15, 2008. Applications with a postmark later than February 15 will not be accepted.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Number Available	Amount	Schools
Basin Electric Power Cooperative	1	\$1,000	Any U.S. college
Poudre Valley REA	6	\$1,000	Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, University of Colorado
Tri-State G&T and Poudre Valley REA	2	\$500	Colorado State University, Front Range Community College, University of Northern Colorado, Aims Community College, University of Colorado



Tyler Huff (back row, second from left) participates in the 2007 Youth Leadership Camp.

## Camp a Great Experience

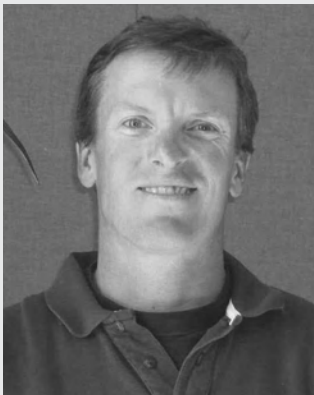
**T** Tyler Huff was one of the students who was selected to participate in the 2007 summer Youth Leadership Camp. "I was pretty skeptical of the camp when I first heard about it," Tyler said. "I quickly judged what I thought the camp would be like before even meeting the people who were going to be there."

Tyler soon realized that he had made false assumptions after meeting some of the kids that he was staying with. "I met some interesting and entertaining people who I still keep in contact with, and even though I was only there for a few days I had a great time."

Tyler not only had fun but he also learned some interesting things about how to generate power and how amazing the process really is. "It's not just a simple flipping of the switch," Tyler said. "The camp taught me things that I think everyone should know."

Some of the activities included spending some time in the town of Steamboat Springs, including taking a trip to the top of the main ski area, which was just as beautiful in the summertime as the winter. "It was funny to see the reactions of some of the kids who came from out of state who were so blown away by the Rockies," Tyler said.

Getting the opportunity to meet new people from different states and make some new friends was a great experience. The only regret that Tyler had about the camp is that it was only a week long. "If I could go back I would do so hands down," he said. "I recommend it to anyone."



## New Employee

**P**oudre Valley REA would like to welcome Tim Mannschreck, who will be working in operations as a new tree trimmer. Tim is International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified. Tim comes to us from Jordans Tree Moving and Maintenance, Inc., where he was employed for six years as an arborist manager. Tim's wife, Sarah, and children, Jack, 6, and Ellen, 4, live in Fort Collins. PVREA welcomes him aboard.

## The King of Caulk and Talk

**W**ith his straight-shooting style and down-home Arkansas draw, Doug Rye could be the Dr. Phil of energy efficiency. Whether hosting his weekly radio show, speaking at an American Institute of Architects conference or conducting one of 150 annual seminars, his message is clear. If you build a house with high energy costs, it's your own cotton-pickin' fault.

Doug, who is a licensed architect and probably one of the best known residential energy consultants in America, will be this year's guest speaker for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Doug is also an instructor for the American Institute of Architects continuing education program and an author for many monthly periodicals including the *Electric Co-op* monthly magazine. He also hosts the syndicated "Home Remedies" radio show heard weekly in 17 states. (Win\* Lucienne Desimplaire Hadley)

Doug is sure to be an electrifying speaker.



## Come to the Farm Show

**P**oudre Valley REA invites you to stop by its safety demonstration booth at the Colorado Farm Show, January 29, 30 and 31, at Island Grove Park in Greeley. The PVREA booth will be in the farm equipment area.

The PVREA safety booth features a miniature residential electrical system, which is used to demonstrate outdoor electrical hazards. The safety demo has a couple of new features that are sure to be a hit with the public. Besides teaching people practical outdoor electrical safety, the demonstration is always a crowd favorite. The safety demo is definitely a fun learning experience for kids and adults alike.

The Colorado Farm Show is a great opportunity for those in the farming and ranching business to see what's new in equipment, products, services and techniques. It is also an excellent opportunity for the community to learn what it takes to operate a ranch or a farm.

### SIGNS OF ELECTRICAL OVERLOAD

**O**ne of the little known electric consumer statistics is that an estimated 50 million homes and buildings across the country have outdated electrical wiring systems. These facilities are at risk of becoming electrically overloaded due to increased electrical demand and dangerous wiring deterioration.

This season, increased electrical residential usage from electric heaters used during the cold winter months could be a problem and a safety hazard for these outdated facilities. So what are the signs of an electrical overload? The following are a few tips on what to look for.

- Wall plates that are warm to the touch or discolored
- Cracked or frayed electrical wiring

- Electric cords that are warm to the touch or discolored
- Lights that often flicker, dim or dim momentarily
- Buzzing, sizzling or crackling that is heard from outlets
- Fuses that blow or circuit breakers that trip
- Improper wattage lightbulbs in lamps and light fixtures

If any of these signs sound familiar, please consider having your home inspected by a professional electrician. A home electrical inspection to find and correct hidden electric hazards could prevent a tragedy. No matter the season or age of your house or building, people should make it a habit to check annually for these safety hazards.

### CFL FACTS

**H**ere are a few facts about your Poudre Valley Rural Electric 25-watt compact fluorescent lightbulb that can prolong its life.

- Because the glass on a CFL is so weak, it tends to break easier, so hold the CFL by its ballast base instead of by the glass when screwing in the CFL or when taking it out.
- PVREA CFLs are not meant to be used with dimmer switches, three-way lamps or in recessed lighting cans. There are special CFLs that work with dimmer switches and three-way lamps that can be purchased at your local hardware store.
- Keep CFLs away from places that have high moisture such as porches with high weather exposure.

These are just a few helpful tips that PVREA recommends to extend the life of your CFL. Although Christmas has passed, you can still come in to the PVREA headquarters and pick up a free 25-watt CFL with the option of buying four more at \$1 apiece. This will go on as long as supplies last. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving.

### ARE YOU A WINNER?

If you see your account name in the Poudre Valley insert, you have until the last day of the month that the magazine is dated to claim your reward by calling PVREA at 970-226-1234. More than ever, it pays to keep informed about your electric utility.

Save \$1000\*

Comfort 5

**Poudre Valley REA**

Your Toes Have Energy Partner

Put Your Toes Up, Winter is Here!  
You will appreciate the savings in energy prices and the 365 days a year of Comfort that a Dual Fuel Heating & Air Conditioning solution provides.

toll free: 800.432.1012 local: 970.226.1234