

Power Lines



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NEXT BOARD MEETING

April 29



PVREA Members Gather for Annual Meeting in March

BY BRAD GASKILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Practical and humorous entertainment, reports on the association's 2007 business operations, a call for members to have tough conversations with elected officials on climate change legislation and contested board of director elections highlighted Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association's 2008 Annual Meeting Saturday, March 15, at the Lory Student Center on the Colorado State University campus.

At the meeting, President Rick Johnson reported that while the number of new consumers slowed, the demand for electricity continued to increase, requiring additional generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. He also noted that for the fourth consecutive year members' rates increased as a result of increased power costs and operating expenses.

Rick also reported that the board approved several revisions to the bylaws. Most significantly, a voting procedure change was approved that allows all members to vote for director elections by



Brad Gaskill

mail-in ballot. He reported on the association's commitment to renewable energy by supporting the passage of House Bill 07-1281, which will require rural electric cooperatives to obtain 10 percent of their energy from renewable resources by 2020. He also highlighted

results from the 2007 Touchstone Energy® cooperative difference survey. The survey indicated that PVREA members' overall satisfaction with the association is quite good.

Secretary-Treasurer Jack Schneider reported that PVREA's electric revenues reached an all-time high of \$73.3 million, an increase of \$8 million over last year. The pass-through of Tri-State Generation and Transmission's rate increase and overall growth, primarily in the industrial rate class, accounted for this increase. Jack also reported that PVREA refunded over \$1.8 million in patronage capital in 2007.

In my report, I discussed the looming energy crisis created by the conflict between the need to *[continued on page 8]*

INCUMBENT DIRECTORS ELECTED

Director elections were held to fill four director positions. The successful candidates were Jim W. Park, District 1, Position B, At-Large; Robert (Bob) A. Lock, District 2, Position C, Boulder County; Jack R. Schneider, District 3, Position F, Weld County; and Dean Anderson, District 4, Position H, Larimer County.

Following the membership meeting, the board held an organizational meeting. Keith Croonquist was elected to serve as president, Jack Schneider was elected to serve as vice president, Thaine Michie was elected to serve as secretary-treasurer and Robert (Bob) Lock was elected to serve as assistant secretary-treasurer.

PVREA Members Gather for Annual Meeting

[continued from page 7] build new baseload generating capacity to meet growing demand and the environmental costs of dealing with climate change. I suggested that member-owned electric cooperatives are consumer groups first and foremost and utilities second. I talked about the importance of the co-op members getting involved in the political debate to ensure that their needs are discussed by our elected officials as they address climate change legislation. I called on our electric consumers to join a grassroots effort entitled "Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue with America." I asked our membership to start the conversation with their elected officials by visiting the Our Energy, Our Future website at www.ourenergy.coop.

Now is the time to have these tough conversations with our elected officials. Ask what they are doing today to make sure we will have affordable power in the future. Ask your policy-makers to give straight answers about the current status of technology, available electric power and the cost of meeting the future power needs of the country.

Keeping the lights on as efficiently as possible was the theme for the meeting's guest speaker, Doug Rye, whose syndicated radio show "Home Remedies" airs weekly in 17 states. Doug provided many ideas for the members on how to make their homes more energy efficient. His message to the members was quite timely considering PVREA's commitment to new and expanded programs focusing on energy conservation.

Conservation and efficiency are the easiest ways we can all assist in easing our energy capacity shortage, keeping our costs down and helping the environment. At the annual meeting, I reported on a number of exciting programs and opportunities the association is evaluating. These include a partnership with the Center for Resource Conservation on the installation of a 21-kilowatt solar project at Lyons Junior-Senior High School. PVREA is also looking at a partnership with Long's Peak Energy Conservation to perform a limited number of low-cost ClimateSmart-energy audits and conservation visits throughout the service territory. PVREA is also in the early investigation stages of two hydroelectric projects. PVREA has made application with the Governor's Energy Office to partner with it in a residential solar rebate program.

PVREA is also working with the International Center for Appropriate & Sustainable Technology (or iCAST) to perform an energy audit to increase the energy efficiency of its headquarters facilities.

You will also find information on these and other projects on our newly designed website. Consumers can also view account information, including current bills and billing history. You can now pay your bill online. I encourage members to check our new user friendly website at www.pvrea.com.

I look forward to visiting with you again.

Protect Your Children With Tamperproof Outlets

It's a fact of nature that when children see an opening, they want to stick things in it. And when the opening is at their eye level, the temptation is even greater.

Approximately 2,400 children receive emergency room treatment every year for injuries caused by inserting objects into electrical outlets, according to a 10-year report released by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. This equates to about seven children each day. More than 70 percent of these electrical incidents occur at home, with adults typically present.

Almost 95 percent of these electrical injuries involve burns. While these range in severity, even minor injuries can leave emotional trauma. Pediatric burns can be particularly serious, because the skin is thin and offers little resistance to electric flow or heat. With infants and toddlers, burns and scars are even more severe.

Using a plastic outlet cap is a common

Objects children commonly insert into electric outlets are everyday, easily accessible household items:

Hairpin	32%
Key	17%
Finger	12%
Pin, wire, screw or nail	11%
Plug	11%
Paper clip or staple	5%
Tool (i.e., tweezer, file or knife)	3%
Jewelry or belt buckle	1%
Unidentified	8%

solution to prevent children from sticking objects into outlets. Unfortunately, plastic caps are not the safest option because they can be easily removed by a young child. A safer solution is installing tamper-resistant outlets.

Tamperproof outlets are standard wall outlets that feature a shutter mechanism that protects children from sticking for-

eign objects, such as hairpins, keys and paper clips, into the receptacle. The spring-loaded shutter system in the outlet only allows electricity to flow when equal pressure is applied simultaneously to both shutters, such as when an electrical plug is inserted. When the outlet is not in use, both shutters are closed behind the opening.

These specialized outlets have been so effective in preventing injuries to children that the 2008 National Electrical Code requires that tamper-resistant outlets be installed in all new homes constructed. These inexpensive products can easily be incorporated into older homes as well. Installation of tamper-resistant outlets is identical to installation of standard outlets.

Prevent home injuries associated with electrical outlets by replacing your outlets. Make your home a safer environment by installing tamperproof outlets.



FROM THE BOARDROOM

Thanks to All Annual Meeting Participants

We, the Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association Board of Directors, would like to extend our appreciation to all member-owners who voted in the recent director election. A record number of ballots were cast and all four incumbent directors were re-elected. We thank you for taking the time and getting involved in this election and would encourage your participation every year.

Your board's guiding principle is to direct the association so that safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally-sound service is provided. We are not naïve to the point of believing that every Poudre Valley member agrees with the board on every issue. We recognize that a small group of our member-owners is advocating that Poudre Valley embrace a greater reliance on wind and solar gener-



PVREA cut the ribbon on its solar demonstration project in 2007.

ation more quickly than we as a board believe is prudent. We feel renewable energy resources are valid and their integration must be compatible with system reliability and affordability.

To this end, your association has and continues to offer "green" generated electricity in 100 kilowatt-hour blocks for an additional \$.50 per month. PVREA also offers net metering for those wanting to

sell back excess solar or wind self generation. And Poudre Valley promotes CFL high efficiency lightbulbs by giving them away at annual meetings. We have installed a 2.1 kW solar demonstration project at the headquarters office and will soon have an energy efficiency expert on staff to help you audit your home's energy usage.

We encourage and compliment the staff in researching the many renewable endeavors and more environmentally-friendly projects are in the planning stages. Renewable energy is important; however, your directors will continue to maintain the solid core values of safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our members, which has been a hallmark of Poudre Valley since its beginnings.

Poudre Valley REA Board of Directors

NOTICE OF CHANGE IN POUFRE VALLEY'S TARIFFS, RULES AND REGULATIONS

You are hereby notified that Poudre Valley Electric Association, Inc., proposes to make the following changes in its tariffs, rules and regulations. If approved by the board of directors, the new tariffs, rules and regulations will become effective with electric usages billed on and after June 9, 2008.

Delinquent Accounts: The association may assess a finance charge of one and one-half (1 1/2) percent on all owing balances over 30 days. Deferred Payment Plan Fee: A deferred payment plan may include a five (5) percent penalty for late payment but shall not include a finance charge if the deferred payment plan is adhered to. A finance charge in the amount of one and one-half (1 1/2) percent may be assessed on deferred payment plans if the plan is not adhered to.

PVREA will hold a public forum open to all members, consumers, indirect users and the public concerning these proposed changes. The public forum will be at 2

p.m. May 27, 2008, in PVREA's office at 7649 REA Parkway in Fort Collins. At the conclusion of the public forum, the board of directors will consider and make final any changes(s) in the tariffs, rules and regulations.

Anyone protesting the action under this notice may file a written protest with the board of directors at PVREA, P.O. Box 272550, Fort Collins, CO 80527-2550, at least 10 days before the date of the board's action considering the new tariffs, rules and regulations.

The final decision of the board of directors regarding any protests may, upon appeal, be ultimately reviewed by the Public Utilities Commission. A copy of the complete tariffs, rules and regulations is available for inspection at PVREA's headquarters office during normal business hours.

Jack Schneider, Secretary



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.

Mercury and Battery Recycling Equals Safety

A number of common consumer products contain mercury, a toxic substance that can be harmful to human health and the environment. The Electrical Safety Foundation International encourages users of mercury-containing products to become familiar with and follow requirements of local recycling laws.

Thermostats

Many existing wall thermostats contain mercury switches that provide for efficient control of temperature around a desired set point. The switches are securely housed, and the likelihood of consumer exposure to mercury remains extremely low. When taken out of service, however, mercury thermostats should be managed and disposed of properly.

The Thermostat Recycling Corporation, a not-for-profit organization, facilitates the collection of all brands of used, wall-mounted mercury-switch thermostats by heating, cooling and air-conditioning wholesalers. Local electrical distributors or contractors may be a participant in TRC and can help you to recycle your mercury thermostat.

Rechargeable batteries

Rechargeable batteries are commonly found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras and remote-controlled toys. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation provides a recycling service for your used portable, rechargeable batteries and old cell phones. The RBRC recycles the following battery chemistries: nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel-metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium-ion (Li-ion) and small sealed lead (Pb). Visit www.rbrc.org to find local participating retailers and other sites that accept rechargeable batteries for recycling.

Lamps and bulbs containing mercury

Many types of lamps, including compact fluorescent and several types of high-intensity discharge lamps, contain mercury. Mercury lamps are highly efficient and provide substantial energy savings compared with alternatives. Such lamps must be managed appropriately and disposed of in accordance with local laws, when applicable, as do all mercury-containing products. Search for disposal options online by using your zip code at www.earth911.com, calling 877-earth911 or visiting www.lamprecycle.org.

If a disposal site is not available in your area, the EPA suggests placing the burned-out or broken CFL in a plastic bag, which should be sealed before being placed in the trash. Never send a CFL or other mercury-containing product to an incinerator. (Win* Wayne Gunter, account #19916500-002)

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



ADD UP YOUR SAVINGS

To save energy costs, find the compact fluorescent lightbulb with the light output you need, then choose the one with the lowest watts. Light output and wattage are listed on all Energy Star-qualified CFL packages and are compared below. Fewer watts means less energy used and less cost.

Typical Light Output (Lumens)	Incandescent Bulb (Watts)	Exposed CFL (Watts)	Enclosed CFL (Watts)
250	25	5 to 7	9 to 10
450	40	9 to 11	14 to 15
900	60	13 to 18	18 to 20
1,200	75	18 to 23	25
1,750	100	25 to 30	—

- Replacing a 60-watt incandescent bulb with an 18-watt CFL can save you up to \$45 in energy costs over the life of the CFL.
- The monthly energy cost to operate an incandescent bulb is greater than its purchase price.

COMING OF (DIGITAL) AGE

Analog broadcast television will end in the United States on February 17, 2009. You may need to buy a converter box to receive the new digital signals on your old television.

If you now subscribe to a pay television service, such as satellite or cable, or if you already own a digital television, you likely won't be affected by the switch. However, if you use an antenna, you will need to buy a DTV converter box (expected to cost \$50-75) to receive free broadcast television in the digital age. Fortunately, you can request up to two coupons valued at \$40 each to help reduce your conversion costs. For more details, go to www.dtvtransition.org or www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/index.html.