

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

SEPTEMBER 2019



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Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

pointed out last month the inherent tension between Highline Electric Association's goals of providing affordable and reliable power to our membership. This tension is most evident in decisions of whether or not to invest in system infrastructure. Investment in new or replacement system infrastructure results in increased reliability but also puts upward pressure on rates. A reluctance to invest, in an effort to keep rates lower, will inevitably result in decreased reliability. It's a never-ending balancing act.

As a borrower of the Rural Utilities Service, formerly the Rural Electrification Administration, Highline must prepare a construction work plan (CWP) as a precursor to applying for new loan funds. This month, your directors will consider Highline's latest CWP. The board's review of the CWP culminates several months of work invested in the plan by Highline's engineering and operations personnel.

The CWP process begins with a discussion between Highline's engineers and the area line superintendents. The superintendents are asked to identify line in their service territories that, based on their experience, should be replaced. Using this as a starting point, the engineers evaluate and prioritize each section of line utilizing a matrix that includes the age of the line section, the reliability of the line section based on historical outages, the importance of the line section based on the number of consumer-members served and the number of rotten poles that have been identified in that section of line in the recent past.

The engineers then utilize system models to evaluate the entire system electrically. In this phase of planning, system components are evaluated to ensure they have adequate capacity for existing as well as projected loads. System voltages are analyzed to confirm they fall within acceptable ranges at existing and anticipated load levels. Projects are identified to correct any electrical problems identified in the system analysis.

At this point, all the line that will be replaced has been identified. The engineers then develop an economic conductor analysis. This tool, which considers construction costs and electrical losses, is used to determine the most economical size of conductor to use on a given section of line based on loading. Agency contact letters are sent to various stakeholders to identify any potential environmental concerns that may arise with the proposed construction.

The current CWP that Highline's board will consider at its September meeting contemplates replacing 128 miles of distribution line and 26 miles of 69-kilovolt transmission line over the next four-year period. While this represents a significant investment in Highline's system infrastructure, it is a fraction of Highline's existing 4,991 miles of distribution line and 175 miles of transmission line. The detailed planning process that goes into the preparation of our CWP helps us maintain the balance between affordability and reliability.



Highline Electric would like to help you keep your little ghouls and goblins safe Trick-Or-Treating! Come to any of our offices on October 31st before closing to get a glow bracelet. We will have a limited number so don't wait. Let us help you start your evening off safely! Ovid & Sterling close at 4:30pm Holyoke closes at 5:00pm

Offices will be closed **September 2** in observance of Labor Day

Co-op Connections Spotlight

HOLYOKE FITNESS CLUB

Holyoke Fitness Club is a key access, membership-based gym with free weights, weight machines, cardio equipment and various studio classes.

Stop by between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday to tour the facility, ask questions and become a member.

Co-op Connections discount offered: 20% off ANY membership

Holyoke Fitness Club
123 S. Interocean Ave.
Holyoke, CO
970-218-4037
facebook.com/holyokefitnessclub



Would you like your business featured in HEA's magazine? Contact info@hea.coop. Featured businesses will also appear on HEA's website, Facebook and connections.coop. Features are free of charge. Featured businesses must participate in the Highline Co-op Connections program. HEA looks forward to hearing from you.



CO-OP OPEN HOUSE October 11th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Help us celebrate Co-op Month!

Join us for an Open House and cinnamon rolls from Brewed Awakening Coffee and Bake Shop, a participating Co-op Connections business, on October 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **in each of our offices!**

A **tour of the headquarters facility** from the new general manager, Dennis Herman, will follow at 2 p.m.

While you're here, **enter to win a \$50 credit** on your Highline bill in our Co-op Month Drawing*. There will be one drawing per office.

*One entry per membership.



Let Us Know About Life Support

If you have anyone on life-support systems at your residence, please notify Highline. The co-op will try to notify all consumer-members on life-support systems of any planned outages. Highline will not terminate a service if a licensed physician makes a certification in writing of a medical emergency. This continuance of service will be effective for 60 days from the date of said medical certification. One 30-day extension may be granted if a second medical certification is received prior to the expiration of the initial continuance period. These provisions may be used only once during any period of 12 consecutive months.

Co-op Employee Profile

Alex Astley was recently promoted to manager of engineering on July 1, taking over for Trent Loutensock. Alex was initially hired as a system engineer June 2, 2014, working out of the Y-W Electric office.

Alex was born in southeastern Texas but spent his formative years in northwestern Ohio. He attended Bryan High School in Bryan, Ohio, and college at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering with a power emphasis.

Currently, Alex is still living in Akron but plans to move to Holyoke in the next few months.

Prior to coming to Highline back in 2014, Alex was a college student. He spent two summers interning with ESC Engineering in Fort Collins and Southeast Colorado Power Association in La Junta.

Alex enjoys riding his motorcycles and bicycle, spending time with his dog, hiking in the mountains and playing computer games. His parents, Dennis and Tammy Astley, live in Benton, Arkansas.

"I'm excited to start the next chapter in my time with the Highline family and engineering team," Alex said.

Congratulations, Alex!



Pesticide Safety

Please protect our employees

Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that has been sprayed or chemigated with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk.



Please consider the following:

- If you have used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.
- Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.
- If calling in an outage, please notify Highline if the field has been sprayed.
- The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.

HEA Wants to Advertise Your Business for FREE!

Let HEA promote your local businesses for free through its HEA Co-op Connections Program. HEA does all the advertising for FREE and all it asks is that you provide a discount for member-consumers.

We will do the promoting to get our 4,100-plus members through your doors. We also have a mobile app that "geo locates" the discounts, so our members know the businesses to visit. To learn more, go to www.connections.coop to watch a short video. If you want to sign up your business to participate or request more information, email info@hea.coop or call Jessie at 970-854-2236.

Sign up today and grow your business with the free help of HEA and more than 4,100 of your fellow member-consumers.

Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following employees who observe an employment anniversary in September:

- Elon Nelson.....43 years*
- Darrin Manuello..... 28 years*
- Steve Deaver..... 15 years*

Hunters: Use Caution

Hunting season is here. Be extremely cautious when hunting near power lines.

Eliminate Toddler Temptation

If you are expecting young crawlers or toddlers in your home, take time to consider electrical items that could tempt inquisitive little ones. There are potential dangers in every room. You may think a room is fine at first glance but consider getting down on your hands and knees to see it from a crawling baby or toddler's perspective.

Look for unprotected outlets, hanging or dangling cords with excess length, surge protectors and extension cords or long cords that could be tugged on. Various products are available to help cover outlet slots, reduce cord length, cover surge protector strips and help prevent little ones from pulling out plugs from outlets.

If the thought of all of this overwhelms you, ask a friend or the parent of young children to help you inspect your home. Then take action to protect the little ones who will be exploring your home.

Cooperative Principles

Highline Electric adheres to these seven cooperative principles:

1. Voluntary and open membership;
2. Democratic member control;
3. Members' economic participation;
4. Autonomy and independence;
5. Education, training and information;
6. Cooperation among cooperatives;
7. Concern for community.

It's Winter Prep Time

As temperatures begin to cool, visions of winter dance in our heads. Before freezing temperatures blow in, be sure your home is ready to leave the chill outdoors where it belongs. Use caulk to seal gaps in the walls of your home or apartment. Wherever different building materials meet or wiring comes out of a wall, there are gaps that may contribute to the loss of heat in your home.