

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

APRIL 2023



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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®

CONCERN OVER SPIKING UTILITY RATES IN COLORADO

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

In an eight-page letter dated February 6, 2023, Colorado Governor Jared Polis urged state agencies and utilities to work to reduce Colorado's utility customers' exposure to spot market fluctuations in the natural gas markets. Subsequent to the Governor's letter, the leadership of the Colorado legislature announced the formation of a Joint Select Committee on Rising Utility Rates.

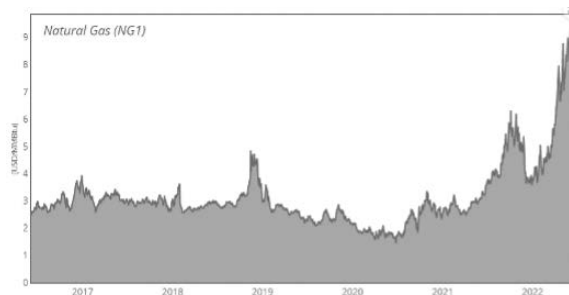
In announcing his appointments to the Select Committee, Senate President Steve Fenberg said, "Our work on this critical committee will help us uncover the root cause behind high prices." Perhaps the legislators should take a moment to review the Governor's letter and the graph (inset) of natural gas prices in the U.S.

While there are several causes for the recent spike in utility prices, the natural gas market is one of the primary drivers. Governor Polis specifically identified natural gas market prices as a major driver of the spikes. I have to disagree, however, with the Governor's choice to include electric cooperatives in the group of electric utilities addressed in his letter. Why do I disagree? Highline Electric Association has raised rates to our members a total of 3.2% since 2016. Highline's last rate increase

averaged 1.2% and went into effect in 2020. While there are strong indications that our wholesale power cost will increase in 2024, due in large part to the volatility in the natural gas market, Highline's board and management are taking steps to soften the impact of any rate increase through the use of deferred revenue. By utilizing deferred revenue, we can lessen the shock of any necessary rate increase by spreading it out over a multi-year period.

In my opinion, it would also serve the Select Committee well to take some time to contemplate why electricity prices in Colorado have become more directly linked to the natural gas market than they have been historically. This increased correlation is due in no small part to the energy transition that we are undergoing in Colorado as a result of legislation put in place by the Colorado legislature and governor.

As the electric generation portfolio in Colorado transitions to more renewables and less fossil fuel (coal in particular), we will become more dependent on natural gas generation to serve as a dispatchable resource in order to maintain system reliability. That reliance will result in a stronger correlation between electricity prices and the volatile natural gas market.



Historical Natural Gas Prices
in the U.S.



It's not a suggestion. It's the law.

Life is fast paced, but speeding or multitasking in a work zone is not worth losing your life or taking someone else's.

To help save lives and reduce injuries, follow orange sign directives every time you approach a work zone.

2020 Work Zone Statistics*

Crashes and Injuries



Fatalities



Pedestrian Fatalities in Work Zones



Do your part to help everyone return home safely. The orange sign is not meant for everyone else; it is meant for everyone.



*most recent data available

Sources: National Work Zone Awareness Week (nwzaw.org), National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, American Traffic Safety Services Association



Save energy. Save dollars.

Investing in energy-efficiency improvements in your home or office can save energy and thus lower your utility bills. It's a win-win.

To help you invest in energy-efficiency projects, Highline Electric Association offers on-bill financing. Apply for a low-interest loan to finance your energy-efficiency projects. Repay that loan monthly over time on your HEA electric bill.

Visit hea.coop or call 800-816-2236 to learn more.

April Employment Anniversaries

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



Jeff Poe, 19 years
Eric Anderson, 12 years



Matt McCabe, 8 years
Carson Ebke, 7 years
Josh Martin, 6 years

SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air, and that means more than just a change of seasons for farmers. Stay safe during the busy planting season.



SHARE SAFETY TIPS: Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards.



LOOK AROUND: Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting.



TRANSPORT SAFELY: Ensure equipment is compliant with agricultural road and travel safety rules.

Controlled Burn Awareness

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread too far and wide.

Even with the best-laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a burn — planning in advance can decrease those chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

To inquire about controlled burns near power lines and poles, contact Highline Electric Association at 970-854-2236.



CELEBRATE
the Power Behind Your Power.
Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 18, 2023



ATTENTION LOAD CONTROL PARTICIPANTS

Irrigators: If you are signed up for Load Control for 2023, it will begin in May. Please be aware of which option you signed up for. Control dates for options 1, 1A, 2 and 2A include May 12–31, June 21–30 and September 1–10. If you chose either the 1A or 2A options, you could also be controlled one day per week in July and August. If you chose option 3, you may only be controlled one day per week in July and August.

CCL Travels to Jerusalem with HEA Members



▲ A group of Highline Electric Association members — including HEA board Vice President Jim Lueck and Board Treasurer Pam Stieb — bring *Colorado Country Life* on their travels to Israel. Holding the magazine in the center of the group are HEA members Gloria Fritzler and Jeri Breidenbach. The background is overlooking Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.



Source: energy.gov



PESTICIDE SAFETY

Please protect our employees



Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed 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 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 during an outage, please notify Highline if the field was 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.