YOUR CO-OP NEWS

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

AUGUST 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



SUMMER HOURS

HEA's Sterling and Holyoke offices will be open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m. through September 29.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH RATES

BY **DENNIS HERMAN** GENERAL MANAGER

ighline Electric Association's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, submitted an updated wholesale rate structure to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in early June. This rate, which is based on Tri-State's 2024 budget, represents a 6.6% average rate increase for Tri-State. While the average rate increase for Tri-State is 6.6%, the rate increase for HEA will be approximately 7.6%. HEA's rate increase is different than the average for Tri-State because Tri-State's rate filing modifies the billing based upon the load profile of each of its member cooperatives.

The best analogy that I can use to explain this change is to ask you to consider the different quantities measured by a speed-ometer and an odometer. While they are related, they are not the same thing. The speedometer measures how fast you're going at a given moment, while the odometer measures how far you have traveled over a period of time. In electrical billing, the speedometer is like demand or capacity, and the odometer is similar to energy. In the world of electrical metering, we relate these two quantities through the use of a concept called "load factor."

Consider the case of two cars. The first covers a 100-mile distance by traveling at a speed of 20 miles per hour for five hours. The second covers the same 100-mile distance by traveling at a speed of 100 mph for one hour. When comparing this to the electrical world, the first car would be considered to have a very high load factor while the second car demonstrates a low load factor.

Now consider two electrical systems. The first delivers 100 kilowatt-hours of energy to a



DENNIS HERMAN

20-kilowatt load running for five hours. The second delivers the same 100 kWh of energy, but this time the load is 100 kW and runs for an hour. It makes sense that it takes more investment in the second system to provide the capacity necessary to serve the load. The first example is a high load-factor load while the second example is a comparatively low load-factor load.

The adjustments made to the rate that Tri-State filed with FERC shifted some costs from high-load-factor systems to low-load-factor systems. If a Tri-State member system has a lower-than-average load factor, like HEA does, their rate increase will be higher than the average.

The rate that Tri-State filed at FERC may or may not be its final rate. There is likely to be a great deal of debate between all interested parties before the commission makes a final decision on Tri-State's rate. In fact, I won't be surprised if this process goes on for a couple of years. In the meantime, HEA will complete a cost-of-service study and rate design. The goal of the cost-of-service study is to allocate all of HEA's costs, including purchased power, to each rate class equitably. This means that the rate increase will likely be different for each rate class.

As I've mentioned here before, HEA has a significant amount of deferred revenue at our disposal that the board could decide to use to offset part of the rate increases that may be necessary over the next few years. I will continue to communicate with you over the next few months as this process plays out and we have a better understanding of HEA's 2024 rates.

WELCOME JOEL MULLER TO THE HIGHLINE TEAM

Highline Electric Association welcomes a new employee to the cooperative team: Joel Muller started his new role as apprentice lineman on June 22.

After graduating from Fleming High School, Joel attended the Western Nebraska Community College Powerline Program. After program completion, he moved back to Fleming to begin an internship at the co-op in August 2022.

Joel feels welcomed by the co-op community and crews. "The line crews at Highline are some of the kindest, coolest, and most patient guys I've met," he said. "I can't wait to start my career with them."

When he's not working, Joel likes to hunt, golf, lift weights, and spend time with friends.

Highline is excited to have you on board as its new apprentice lineman, Joel!



August Employee Anniversary

Congratulations to Highline Electric Association employee celebrating a work anniversary in July:

Jim Jackson – four years

SPRAYING

PESTICIDE SAFETY

Call Highline Highline Electric 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.

If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify HEA. 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.

Chemical notification signs and flags are available free of charge at any HEA office.

If you call to report an outage, please notify HEA 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.

HOW SMART IS A Smart Thermostat?



MYTH

VS.

FACT

My thermostat automatically saves me money.



That depends on how it's programmed and your preferences. It still uses the same amount of energy to reach and maintain temps.

A smart thermostat is smart straight out of the box.



The thermostat needs a little time to learn your heating and cooling preferences.

My thermostat is only as smart as I am.



Sort of. Most models are independent thinkers and adjust the temperature if no one's home.

It's creepy: my smart thermostat seems to know when I'm home.



It's smart for a reason! Geotechnology syncs your thermostat with your arrival. Some models use geofencing technology that tracks your smart phone location and kicks on when you're nearby.

My smart thermostat makes me smarter



We'll give you this one! It can help you save money and make your home more efficient.

Highline Electric Association offers a \$50 rebate on smart thermostats. Units must be WiFi-enabled and have learning capabilities. Visit www.hea.coop/rebates for full terms and conditions.



DO YOU SEE YOUR NAME BELOW?

elow is a list of names of Highline Electric Association check and that check has not been cashed. members who have unclaimed capital credits from the electric cooperative.

HEA publishes the unclaimed capital credit list every year to notify HEA members that the co-op issued them a capital credit

Look for your name in the printed list below. If you're a current or former HEA member and find your name, email capitalcredits@hea.coop or call 970-854-2236.

CO. THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO, UNOCAL PIPELINE CO, VALLEY IMPLEMENT COCHRAN, VIRGINIA COGAN - DECEASED, ROBERT COLLIER SHARON COLORADO CONSTRUCTORS INC COLVIN IEFE COMFORT HOMES COMMUNICATIONS, A T & T COMMUNICATIONS, CHAMPION COMMUNICATIONS, TWIN VALLEY COMPANY, EQUITY OIL CONE, BARRY CONNER, ROBERT CONST, BLACKHAWK CONSTRUCTION, GALLIPO CONSTRUCTORS, P C L CIVIL CONTET. ROMAIN COOK, FRED I COOPER, EARL OR DIANNE COOPER, ROBERT N CORBAN COMMUNICATIONS INC CORNERS, COUNTRY CORNETT, PAULA CORP, BARCLAYS AMERICAN MORT CORP. BENEDEK BROADCASTING CORP. DEVON ENERGY CORP FOTT ENERGY CORPORATION, WINDING BROOK COTY, DOUGLAS COUNTY, MARK A COURT, MERRILL TRAILER CRADDOCK, CURTIS CRADDOCK, JANET E CRANDALL, DONNA CRANDALL, JULIE L CRANDALL, KENNETH G CRANE, JIM CRANWELL, ANGELA CRANWELL-PATTERSON CRAWFORD, JANE CRAWFORD LINDA CRINKLAW, KENNETH CRISP DOUGLAS A CRITCHFIELD, MARY CROOK COMMUNITY CROOK SENIOR CENTER CROSS, MISTY L CRUPI, DAVID CULLISON, KELLY CURRIE, NORA JEAN CYR, DUANE DAILY, KRISTA L DAILY, WILLIAM L DALENE K VAN DYKE DALY, ALBERT DALY KERRY & LUCY DARRAH, ROBERT H DAUGHERTY, ROBIN M DAVIS, BENNY P DAVIS, TIM DAVISON, HELEN DAY, ANGUS H

DAY, REBECCA

DE BERRY, ROBERT

DE LA FUENTE, FROSTY DEAN, CHARLES A DEAVER, JANIE DEBUS, DAVID DEDO, DAVID DEE, LISA DEE, MELINDA DENMAN, TROY DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIR DETERDING, WILMA DEVEREAUX, SUZY DIAMOND OPERATING INC DICKINSON, JEANNETTE R DICKSON, ROSEMARY DIETZ, MEL DIETZ, SCOTT DITTLER, KURT DIV, NEBRASKA NETWORK DODSON, MYRON E DOMAN, JAMES A DONNELLY, IOLA DOOLEY, DEBBIE DORLAND, DAVE DOWELL, JOHN F DOWNING, ERIC R DOYLE, ANNA M DRAGWAY, JULESBURG DREIER, LYNN DUDDEN IMPLEMENT COMPANY DUDEN, D SCOTT DUGHMAN, GORDON DULOHERY, MARY DUNCAN, RAYMOND T DUNKLE, DALE DUNN, JON A DUNN, NICHOLE & IEREMY DURFEE, PAULA DUSENBURY, LINDA DYE, JOHN R E, MOTOROLA C & EBEID, MOHAMED EBERLE, MARJORIE ANN ECKERT, CLAUDIA VATALARO EDMISTON, LARRY EDWARDS, LANA EGGAR, RICHARD A EHLERS, IONI EINSPAHR, KEITH EIRING, JUNE ELK ECHO RANCH LLC ELKOURI RANDY ELLIOTT, GEORGE EMERY, STEVEN R ENERGY OIL & GAS INC ENSR ENTERPRISES, KULBE ENTERPRISES, SKAER ENTERTAINMENT, ADAMS ERICKSON, GERALD J ESKEW, JEREMY ESTATE, DORVIN E SCHEPLER EULER, DONALD EVANS, BRIAN T EVANS, JOE EVANS VICKIE EVERHART LARRY A EVERS, ANDREA EVERS, JAMES D EVINGER, GEORGE H EWERTZ, CASEY EXCELL SERVICES INC FACILITIES, RAILROAD

FALCONBURG, DARRIN

FANTASY FIBERGLASS,INC

FARLAND, WILLIAM & DEBORAH FARM CREDIT BANK OF WICHITA FARMS, BOGGS FARMS, CSS FARMS, D-T FARMS, MIKE ROTH FARMS N&B FARMS NEWTON FARMS, WARREN FARNER, KEVIN & CARRIE FARRAN, ERIC L FENDER, DENNIS FENNELL, Y I FEREBEE, ALENE FERGUSON, MARY ANN FERGUSON, RICHARD N FERNANDEZ, JUAN M FERTILIZER, WENDELL'S FIELDER, KARLA FINLEY, PAUL D FISCHER, GEORGE FISCUS, JUSTIN L FLESNER, MINNIE P FLINT, PAUL I FLOEN, MICHAEL FLOYD, RUSSELL FLUHARTY, STANLEY FOILES, CLYDE E FOLEY, GERALD & TAMMY FOOS, VELMA FORBES, MARILYN J FORD, MASON FORD, ROBIN FORSYTHE, JOHN W FORSYTHE, PEGGY L FOSTER, IOEL FOWLER, CHAD FOXHOVEN BANDAG SHOP LLC FOXHOVEN, MATT FRAKER, DEAN FRANK, LENNY OR LISA FRANK, LEROY FRANSON, JEFF & ANITA FREELAND, JENNIFER FREEMAN, JOSEPH FREEMAN, STERLING COLE FREIGHTWAYS, PLATTE VALLEY FRIEND, SCOTT FRIES, DOUGLAS FRISTROM, VIOLA FRITZLER, HAROLD FUGATE, CINDY FURNISH, AUDREY D GABLE, BRIDGET GAFFORD, CHRISTY GALE, DAVID C GALLES, SHANE GALVAN, GUADALUPE GALVAN, LUPE GARCIA, DAVID GARCIA, ISMAEL M GARDINER GEORGE I. GARDNER, IIM GARLIECH, BRANDI GARLOW, DUVA GARNER, JARRID GARRETT, JERI L

GARRISON, JAY D

GELINAS, CATHY

GEISELHART, LORENE

GEMAEHLICH, DAISY B GENEREUX, RICHARD C GENTRY, CHRIS H GEORGE, DONNA L GEORGE, OTTO L GERLACH, RAYMOND G GEROLD, CORLEY GIAUOUE, HEATHER GIBSON KEITH D GIBSON, KIMBERLY GILLIAM, HOLLIE E GITCHEL, LEONARD U GITCHEL, WILLIAM OR BARBARA GLANZ, JERRY GLASSBURN, REBECCA GLEASON, BILL GLENN, KRISTEN GLINES, DANIEL GOBLE SANDRAK GODDARD & MONTE HILLIKER, TAMMY GODDARD, CATHERINE L GODDARD, TAMMY GOFORTH, DAMOTH GOMEZ, BOBBI JEAN GOMEZ, VENANCIO GONZALES, DAISY GONZALES, MANUEL GONZALES, PABLO GONZALEZ, IRMA GOODWIN, RANDY GORMAN, BRIAN E GORMAN, LEOETTE GORMAN PATRICIA GOSS IUDY GP. D & I FARMS GRAHAM, BILL L GRANADOS, RIGOBERTO GRAVES, AMANDA GRAVES, TERRY J GRAY, MELVIN A GREEN, DEWEY GREENO, BARBARA GREENWOOD, BARBARA GREGG, DELBERT GREIM TRUST GILBERT I GRETCH, CLAUDIA GRIFFITH, IOHANNA GRINSTEAD RONNIE GROSS DONALD GROSS, WIND GRUENEWALD, JOHN R GUADARRAMA, NEMESIO M GUERNSEY, CHARLES GUERNSEY, JEFF GUHL, JOHN GULICK, CAROL GUSMAN, PETE GUTIERREZ, JUAN MANUEL RODRIQUEZ HAEFFNER, MARLENE D HAGAN, DALE HAGE, TERRI HAIDLE DARYL HAINES BILLC HAIRSMITH, THE HAITH, IIM HALFACRE, HARRY W HALL, BRUCE HALL, MINDY T HALL, TONY

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HAM, DOUGLAS W

HAMILL, RANDY

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HOLGUIN, ROSA

HOLLINGSWORTH, TYLER HOLLOWAY, ADAM HOLMBERG, DONALD L HOLNESS, WILLIAM HOLT ERNEST HOOD, MEDORA HOOVER, FERLAIN HOPMEIER, W BRUCE HORN, DALE VAN HORNER, CLARENCE H HOSKOVEC, TODD HOUNSHELL, JEREMY HOUSING, COLORADO HOUSTON, MARY HOWARD, CLINT HOWARD, DAVID HOWE, JIM HOWLAND, WESLEY C HOYT, LAURIE HUARACHA, JOLENE HUFFMAN, PAM HUGHES, JIMMY HUGHES, ROBERT & RUTH HULL, I. W. HUNKER, DIANA HUNSINGER, PHILIP E I, BERTHA MUSTARD IDLAND, GERALD & DEB II, PREMIERE PARTNERS IMHOF, DORIS INC, CARGILL INC, CENCALL INC, CONAGRA INC, CONCRETE WORKS OF COLO INC, CYANOSTAR ENERGY INC, DEMSOFT INC, DUNN RANCH INC. E & C SCHMIDT INC, FARMLAND INVESTMENTS INC, JULESBURG DRAGWAY INC, LXM&T INC, LIND FARMS INC, M L & T INC, PFLUM FARMS INC, POPEJOY CONSTRUCTION INC, PROCTOR PORK PRODUCERS INC, S & M LAND INC, SACO AG INC. SASR INC STAUFFER COMMUNICATIONS INC, SUMMIT SPRINGS INN, PARK INVESTMENTS, DOUBLE N INVESTMENTS, GREENWOOD-ENGLE IRELAN, BEN IRIBARREN, MIKE T IRWIN, PATRICIA J ISBELL, TAMI ISENBART CURT I W OPERATING CO JACKSON, CULLY IACOBS SAMANTHA IACOBSON, BRYCE IACOBSON, MAURICE IACOBY, DALE A

JAEGER, CYNTHIA

JAMES L MERCK JR

JAMES, DENNIS

JANSMA, MIKE

JAMES DAVID WALLACE JR

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

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KONKOLESKI, LORI KOPP, ERIK KORF, KELLY KORF, LEOETTE KORMAN, LEW KORTUM, RICHARD & MARVIN KRAMER, BETTY KREHER, ROBERT M KRUEGER CAROL KRUEGER, KAY (ANDREWS) KRULL, MICHAEL KUENNING, C J KUNKEL, MIKE D L A W SALES LACER, DINA LADD, REX & SHARON LAFARGE LAIR, MAXINE SNYDER & RICHARD LAMBERT, DARRELL LAMBERT, MYRA LAMBERT, PATRICK X LAMM, MICHELLE LANDSMAN, IAMES & CHERYL LANE, JAMES A LANG, GREGORY LANGIN, EDWARD LAPPART, LILLIAN M LARAMORE, DESIRAE LARSEN, ERWIN J LAWN, LUXURY LAWRENCE J O'SULLIVAN SR LAWRIE, JOHANNA LAWSON CONSTRUCTION CO LE PLAINS LEASING CO LEAVELL, GRADY R LEBLANC, JACK E LEE, BEVERLEY S LEE, JAMES H LEE, ROBERT LEEPER, DOROTHY LEI ESTATE, ELIZABETH ANN LEITSCHUCK, GARY LETT, BETH LEWIS, KURT LEWIS, SALLY LEWIS, WILLIAM C LIKE, TOM LINDBERG, DONNA R LINDENBERGER, IOHN LINDENTAHL, D.I. LINDSEY, LISA LINDSTROM, ROSS J LINN, PAUL LISSOLO, LESTER L LLC, GATEWAY ANTIQUES LLC, OVERSEAS LLC, P & M PETROLEUM MANAG. LLC, ROSES AND WHEAT LLC SCURLOCK PERMIAN LLC, STERLING LAND INVEST LLLP. GUENZI FAMILY LAND LOCK, MATT & IENAE LODGE, IOOF HALL GRAND LOGAN, DARMON LONG, CALVIN A LONG, JIM LONG, MICHAEL LONGTIN, ISABELLA LONTINE, LEROY LOOP, MARI LOPEZ, ANDREA LOPEZ, ELIZABETH LOSEKE, SCOTT L LOUDDER, CAROL LOUNGE, CHAMP INN & MILI. LTD, WISDOM INDUSTRIES LUDEKE, MICHAEL LUKENS, DONALD E LUKER, ALVIN

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MILLER, MARVIN

MILLER, MOLLIE

MILLER, REBECCA

MILLER, SUSAN REESE

MINARDI, JAMES & DEBORAH MINTON, EDWARD JAMES MISPLAY, MIKE MITCHELL, DUDLEY MITCHELL, DUSTIN MITCHELL, IAMES E MITCHELL, ROY L MOBILE, WESTERN MONASMITH, DON MONHEISER, JOSEPHINE MONK, JEFF MONTEITH, PAUL MONTEITH, TOM MONTGOMERY, BILL MONTGOMERY, JOHN MONTGOMERY, MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, ROBERT MOODY, JAMES P MOORE, FREDA MOORE, JACKIE MOORE, NORVAL & MARGARET MOORE, TED D MORENO, THERESA MORGAN, TIM MORRILL, BROCK MORRIS, JACK F MORRIS, MIKIE MORRISON, SHIRLEY MOSES, BILL MOYER, J T MOYER, MARIE E MUELLER, MARVIN MULLENAX, DEAN A MUNSON, LYLA MURPHY, DARLENE MURRAY, ARCHIE MUTUAL, CONNECTICUT MYERS, DALLAS MYERS, DENNIS MYERS, ROGER MYERS, SUE MYLREA, TIMOTHY D NAILL, GARY E NAT L ADVERTISING CO NATION, RUTH NAVARRO, PAUL P NEB, IEFFREY S NEEMANN, JOYCE E NEIL SAMUELLA NEILSEN, FRANK W NELSON, DARLENE NELSON, LEE NERUD, JOSEPH D NESS, CHRISTOPHER P NESTOR, REBECCA NEW DIRECTIONS MEDIA NEW TESTAMENT ASSOCIATION NEWTON, MIKE NEXT MEDIA OUTDOOR NICHOLS, MICHAEL A NICHOLS, TROY & NICHOLS VIRGIL NIELSEN, ELISABETH NIELSEN, TERESA NOLAN, MICHAEL L NOLAND, VERLIE NOON, LYNDA NOPENS, DALLAS NORRIS, JERRY NORTH, ELIZABETH NORTHROP, MARK NOYES, HELAMAN NOYES, RICHARD NUNEZ, JAIME O'BRIEN, KEVIN ODONNELL, ROBERT OGDEN, LISA M OGERLY, JERRY OGG, MARY OGG, TONI M OIL, BRIGHT & SCHIFF OIL, NEW LONDON OLIVAS, YOLANDA

OLSEN, DORIS JO

O'NEAL, SHAWN M

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