



HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC • NEWS & VIEWS

hillcountyelectric.coop • 1.877.394.7804  

MARCH • 2016



Manager's Message

By Craig Gates, General Manager



First, I want to thank Rick Stevens, my predecessor, for building a great organization under the direction of the Hill County Electric (HCE) Board. I have been at the helm of HCE for all of one month and I can say one thing for sure, it has been a whirlwind.

The Board and employees of HCE really do care about you, their members. It is quite refreshing to see a team of directors and employees who go to work every day with one thing on their mind and that is ensuring that you, the members, are served at the lowest cost possible. I came to this opportunity knowing that HCE is a very strong cooperative, seeing the organization is firmly in the hands of such caring people is both a welcoming and an energizing feeling.

As I move forward as the management leader of the Cooperative, I will do all I can to keep our cost low and our service level high. I will be a steward of your capital patronage and ensure that the organization continues in the direction set by your elected Board. It is my privilege to be here and I will do all I can to make sure that I do not let you, or the Board who has entrusted me with this great responsibility and opportunity, down.

The people on the Hi-Line have been very open and accommodating to me, again a testament to the wonderful people in Montana. I will see you around as time goes by and I look forward to getting to know as many of you as I possibly can.

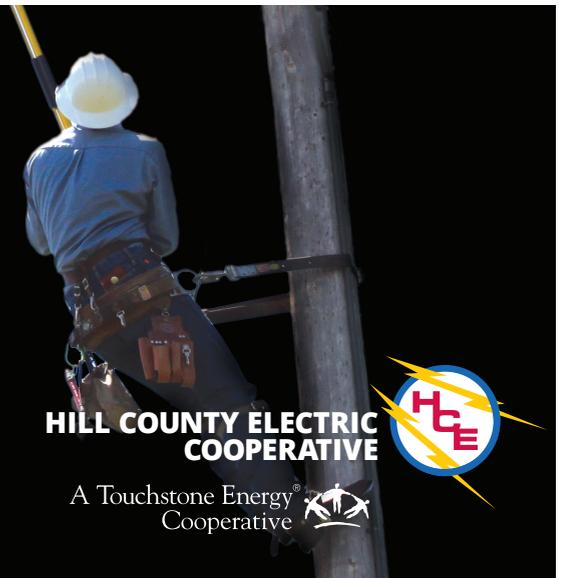
YOUR ELECTRICITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY.

We make sure your life is always powered. Learn more at

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

**HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

A Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 



Keeping The Lights On



- HCE crews changed out two poles that had tested bad on the energized 69kV Transmission line which feeds HCE’s Colony Bay substation.
- Outback Power, working for HCE, cutover the new distribution line along Lower Box Elder Rd. Two power interruptions, one on February 1st and the

other on February 3rd, were needed to complete this work.

HCE Happenings

Last month, Hill County Electric (HCE) had approximately 2,031 account hours affected by outages. Of these hours:

- Underground faults: 43
- WAPA/NWE: 128
- Equipment or material failure: 179
- Planned maintenance: 1642
- Miscellaneous or unknown causes: 38

This compares to 156 hours one year ago. HCE crews worked on locates, work orders and maintenance across the service area. Outback is completing a single-phase four mile project on Lower Box Elder Rd.

Rate Change Effective April 1st

Hill County Electric (HCE) is thankful for all of our Cooperative members and we are grateful for the privilege to be able to serve you, the members. That is why increasing rates is not an easy decision and not something the Board and Management of Hill County Electric takes lightly.

HCE incurs costs to deliver electricity to our members no matter the level of energy use. These costs include meters, poles, wires, transformers, substations, property taxes, etc. In short, it is the cost to maintain all the equipment so that HCE can deliver the best possible electric service to our members.

A rate change will take effect April 1st so the new rates will appear on the bill you receive in May. The base charge does not change.

Here is the change an average Rate Class 11 Residential Service, using 1000 kWh/month would see on their monthly bill:

Current monthly bill: \$30 monthly base charge + 1000 kWh x 9.5 cents (Energy + Delivery Charge) = \$125.00

New monthly bill: \$30 monthly base charge + 1000 kWh x 10.25 cents (Energy + Delivery Charge) = \$132.50

The difference between the monthly charges is \$7.50, which equates to a 6% increase on average. The rates being implemented are intended to be fair to all rate classes while still keeping the rates as low as possible.

Note: Industrial Rate Class members are covered by contractual arrangements and their rates increase on January 1st of each year.

KWH Rate Class		Fees		Current	New
11	Residential	Energy kWh Charge	0.0500	0.0500	
		Delivery kWh Charge	0.0450	0.0525	
15	Annual	Energy kWh Charge	0.0500	0.0500	
		Delivery kWh Charge	0.0700	0.0775	
31	Irrigation	Energy kWh Charge	0.0850	0.0925	
41	Small Commerical	Energy kWh Charge	0.0500	0.0500	
		Delivery kWh Charge	0.0425	0.0500	
45	Large Commerical	Energy kWh Charge	0.0500	0.0500	
		Delivery kWh Charge	0.0250	0.0325	

This chart shows how the different rate classes will be affected.

Delivery kWh Charge

The cost of maintaining all of the equipment so that HCE can provide the best possible electric service to our members.

Energy kWh Charge

This charge covers the cost of energy purchased and the administrative costs HCE incurs to meet the electricity needs of our members.



HCE Bylaws - Article III

Meeting of Members

SECTION 3.01. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the month of May of each year at Havre, Montana, for purposes of electing Board members, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not constitute a dissolution of the Cooperative.

SECTION 3.02. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called by resolution of the Board or upon a written request signed by any three trustees, by the President, or by not less than ten (10) percent of all the members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings of the members shall be held at Havre, Montana, with the location and the time of such meeting specified in the notice of the special meeting.

SECTION 3.03. Notice of Members' Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be given to each member, either personally or by mail, not less than ten (10) days nor more than twenty-five (25) days before the date of the meeting. Such notice shall be given by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon a default in the duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at such member's address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meetings.

SECTION 3.04. Quorum. A quorum shall exist for transaction of business at any meeting of the members if five percent (5%) of all members or 50 members, whichever is fewer, are present in person. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice, provided, that the Secretary shall notify any absent members of the time and place of such adjourned meeting.

SECTION 3.05. Voting. All voting shall be in person, and each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation or these

bylaws. No member shall attend or vote by proxy or by mail, or both, at any meeting of the members, provided that voting by a member who is not a natural person (such as a corporation, church, city, county or other legal entity) shall be allowed upon presentation to the Cooperative, either prior to or upon registration at each member meeting, of satisfactory evidence that the person presenting the same is the officer, director, trustee, or other official designee authorized to vote for such a member who is not a natural person.

SECTION 3.06. Voting List. At least fifteen (15) days before each meeting of the members, the Secretary shall make a complete list, arranged in alphabetical order, of the members entitled to vote at such meeting and their addresses. Such list shall be produced and kept open at the time and place of the meeting and shall be subject to inspection by any member during the whole time of the meeting.

SECTION 3.07. Order of Business. The order of business at the annual meeting of the members and, so far as possible, at all other meetings of the members shall be essentially as follows:

- (a) Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum;
- (b) Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due giving thereof, or of the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be;
- (c) Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon;
- (d) Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, trustees and committees;
- (e) Election of trustees;
- (f) Unfinished business;
- (g) New business; and
- (h) Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board or the members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of an action upon any item of business the transaction of which is necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business; provided, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted until and unless the existence of a quorum is first established.

**Mark Your Calendars-
HCE Annual Meeting is May 14, 2016**

Swap & Shop



SWAP & SHOP is a classified advertising section of the Hill County Electric and Triangle Communications websites and newsletters. It is maintained as a service to customers and communities wanting to buy, sell and announce non-commercial items. To include an ad, go to itstriangle.com/swap-and-shop and complete the online form. Administrators will review the information within two business days and if approved, the ad will appear on the website. It will stay online for 60 days unless you notify us to remove or change it. It will also appear in any of the HCE & Triangle newsletters printed during that 60 day window. HCE and Triangle reserve the right to abbreviate ads. If the section is full, we will display ads on a first come, first-served basis.

Agriculture

Vehicles and Agricultural Items For Sale

2011 Dodge Laramie, leather seats, navigation, new tires and 80K. 42 ft Melroe Chisel Plow with harrows. 42 ft Gysler Chisel Plow with harrows and rod. 8" 41 ft Wheatheart Augar with hydraulic mover and 20HP Honda engine, used little. Call 406.390.2541.

Agricultural Items For Sale

1981 Case 4690 Tractor, 4943 hrs, good condition. Krause Model 2158 37 ft Rockflex disc with 22" blades. White Model 272, 35 ft Rockflex disc, 22" blades. One John Deere Model 1610 41 ft chisel plows, will sell with or without Morris drag harrows. Flex Coil Model 75, 40 ft coil packer. Call 406.397.3333.

John Deere 535 Balers For Sale

Two John Deere 535 Balers for sale. Field ready condition. Miscellaneous parts included. Call Travis 406.855.1065.

Community Events

Sweet Grass Arts & Crafts Spring Fling

Vendors wanted! It takes place 4/30/16 from 9am-3pm. Email becky@voyafa.com or call 406.930.1880.

Quilt Show

Quilt Show at the Montana Seed Show on 3/11 - 3/12. Contact Carla at 406.353.2663 or 406.353.2213 or Sharon 406.379.2663 for more info.

For Sale

Used Marvin Thermopane Windows

Windows complete with screens in assorted sizes: 1-35"x35" slide, 1-47"x35" slide, 1-94"x46" crank out, 4-70.5"x35" crank out, 1-36"x36" slide and 1 used steel door with window. Call 406.355.4479.

2002 Chevy S-10 Blazer

4 door and 4WD. Lots of new parts. Call 406.265.4026.

Heavy Duty HDX Westin Grille Guard

Fits pickup 2011 & up. Make offer. Call 406.376.3179.

Banjo for Sale

Deering "Goodtime" open back banjo. Includes gig bag, electronic tuner, capo, metronome, finger picks and lots of banjo music. Leave a message at 406.632.5873 or e-mail kwschmied@gmail.com.

38" Vizio Flat Screen Television

Excellent condition. \$75. Call 406.932.4583.

Household

Bali Blinds For Sale

New in box, Two 27"x64" white, light filtering and 1" vinyl horizontal. Two 23"x64" white, room darkening, 1" vinyl horizontal. Please call 406.654.1736.

In Search Of

Used Refrigerator

Looking to buy used refrigerator in good condition for a church. Please call 406.292.3252 or 406.292.3677.

Vehicles

1978 1/2 Ton Ford F150 4WD Four Speed

Fixer-upper with a topper and 351 engine that runs good. Asking \$1,000. Call 406.357.4282.

2005 Ford Taurus

118K miles, good tires & comes with snow tires. Only two owners. \$2,850 OBO. Call 406.376.3179.

