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OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

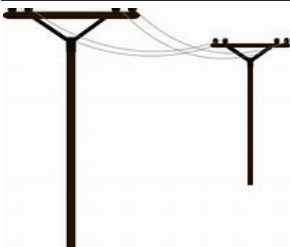
406-342-5521

**MID-YELLOWSTONE
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**



OFFICE PERSONNEL
Jason Brothen.....Manager
Marj Cunningham.....Office Mgr
Karen Morales.....Billing Clerk
Jessica Thompson..Cust.Serv.Rep.
LINE PERSONNEL
Ken Rolandson....Operations Mgr
Daren Reeder.....Lineman
Trent Perkins.....Lineman
John Cunningham...Appr.Lineman
Brent Battenfeld.....Lineman
Tyler Fennern.....Appr.Lineman

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .

by Jason Brothen



EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY

As a consumer-member of Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative (MYEC) keeping the lights on at a cost you can afford is the focal point of everything we do. Transparency is one of our core values, so in addition to sharing co-op successes, I believe we also have a responsibility to tell you about the challenges too.

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule that impacts energy production from power plants. The power plant rule will undoubtedly threaten access to reliable electricity for our local community and communities across the country.

The rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS)—a technology that has potential but has not been proven to be viable as required. No power plant in North America currently used CCS at the scale and levels mandated by EPA. When power plants aren't able to comply with EPA's CCS requirements, they will be required to shut down, significantly limit operations, or switch fuels. These unrealistic standards will force the unnecessary and early shutdown of many power plants that currently provide reliable electricity 24/7.

MYEC receives nearly 91% of their power from Western Area Power Administration and the remaining 9% from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Even though the majority of MYEC's power comes from hydro at this time, baseload generation from the coal and natural gas will be important to compliment the hydro along with new resources like wind and solar. However, given the intermittent nature of these energy sources, we simply cannot depend on the wind because it doesn't always blow, nor the sun because it doesn't always shine. The need for always-available power generating resources is still essential. Basin Electric, having a diverse energy portfolio, will be a great resource of baseload generation.

The timing of the power plant rule is equally troubling. At the same time the EPA is leading our nation down the path to fewer power plants, utilities are facing a surge in electricity demand—driven by the onshoring of manufacturing, the growth of the American economy and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

EPA'S POWER PLANT RULE THREATENS ELECTRIC RELIABILITY (cont.)

Many states have already experienced rolling outages, and if the supply of electricity is further threatened by the EPA's power plant rule, the problem will only get worse. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's electric reliability watchdog, recently forecasted that over the next five years, all or parts of 19 states are at high risk of rolling power outages during normal peak electricity demand conditions. It's also no secret that when demand is high and supply is low, costs go up. We're concerned about threats to reliability as well as cost increases to our members. I don't say all of this to worry you, but I do want our members to understand the challenges that lie ahead. Just as we've always done, we will look for solutions that serve our members best. We are joining electric co-ops across the county to fight these regulations, and we are working with our local elected officials to help them understand the consequences this would have on all Montanans.

Co-ops are no strangers to innovation, and we're taking proactive steps to address today's energy challenges and tomorrow's energy needs. We will continue to explore new technologies and strategies that bolster reliability and our local grid.

Whether it's on the farm or in the city, there's something inspirational about common folk banding together to work as a community to better their lives. That's what we call the cooperative way.

COOPERATIVE –
Businesses people trust.

LOOK FOR HAZARDS ON THE FARM!

BE AWARE

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air.

Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and a power line may be closer than it looks.

USE A SPOTTER

Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.

REALIZE THINGS CHANGE

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A

newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year. Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

LOOK AROUND, TOO

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

Begin Your Fall with Some Energy Saving Tips

- ◆ Find and seal drafts throughout your home
- ◆ Open and close curtains for better energy efficiency
- ◆ Inspect your furnace before winter arrives
- ◆ Avoid blocking your vents
- ◆ Adjust the temperature on your water heater
- ◆ Check your home's insulation
- ◆ Reverse the direction of your ceiling fans for fall
- ◆ Use smart LED lights for lamps and decorations
- ◆ Turn off kitchen appliances when not in use
- ◆ Keep oven doors closed when cooking
- ◆ Take advantage of the sun for natural heat and lighting

