



Carbon Light Lines

March 2011

JANUARY 2011 BOARD ACTIONS



JERRY RABIDUE

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR

- Approved Department Production and Financial Reports.
- Approved the purchase of four snowmobiles to be used in remote areas during the winter months.
- Approved amending the 2011 Capital Expenditure Budget to reflect the purchase of the 4 snowmobiles and to revise Policy 6-2 *Sales of Construction Materials and Other Products for Resale*.
- Approved to accept the NRECA Retirement Security Plan Adoption Agreement and adopting Resolution 11-01 authorizing the amendment of the Retirement & Security Plan.
- Approved Policies: 1-1 *Functions of the Board of Directors*; 4-21 *Flame Resistant Clothing* and 6-9 *Joint Use of Cooperative Poles/Facilities* as amended.

BOARD ELECTION PROCESS

People just like you serve on Carbon's Board of Directors. There are nine members on the Cooperative's Board. Your electric Cooperative is a member-owned, member-controlled, nonprofit electric distribution Cooperative. It doesn't have stockholders, so the Board isn't made up of the people who own shares and are looking for big returns on their investment.

To be qualified to serve on the Board, the person submitting their name for nomination shall be a bona fide resident of the district they seek to represent, a natural person and a Member of the Cooperative who subscribes to electrical service. The person seeking to represent the Cooperative cannot be employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances. The nominations committee, in their sole discretion and by majority vote, shall have the authority to determine if the person submitting his/her name for nomination to the Board of Directors is qualified.

The role of a Board of Director assists and works with other Directors through attention to effective discussion during regular and/or special meetings. Encourages effective appraisals of Board performance that will insure continuing and systematic attention to responsibilities concerning the present and future operational needs. Accepts and works with, or on, any committee or other special assignment. Informs and advises the General Manager on matters concerning the Members' interest which may be brought to the attention of the Directors. Recognizes the General Manager as the operating official through whom all complaints, problems and other matters should be communicated when concerned with matters of the Cooperative or its Employees. Directors are elected to staggered terms of three years

Nominees should possess personal characteristics such as leadership in the community, high integrity, high ethics and respect for the community and the ability to exercise sound judgment and logical reasoning. These are just a few of the prerequisites for nominees.

A commitment to the Board includes being willing and able to give all or part of 30 days a year to attend monthly/special Board meetings, State and/or National meetings, Director training programs and/or Committee and Annual Meetings.

If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or need more information, please call Marcy Knotwell at Carbon Power & Light at 1-800-359-0249 or 307-326-5206.

Deadline to submit your nomination for the Board of Directors is April 12, 2011

Find your name in "asterisks" somewhere in this newsletter & you can claim a \$10 bill reducer by calling Carbon Power & Light.

"YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT . . ."

From the Manager~*Charles Larsen*



*Member Owned
Service Proud*

Member-Owner Survey: One of Carbon's goals is to conduct a Member-Owner survey every three (3) years. The general purpose of this survey is to seek input from our Member-Owners as to their interest in: 1) their understanding of the Cooperative, 2) provide the Member-Owners the opportunity to submit suggestions on products and services that they see as a benefit to the Cooperative and their fellow Member-Owners and 3) get an overall feeling of our Member-Owner's satisfaction with their Cooperative's operation. In the past, previous Member-Owner surveys have proved to be a valuable tool and have assisted the Cooperative in developing operating procedures, along with programs and services closely tied to the specific needs of the Membership. My Staff and I recently reviewed a list of questions which will be used in the survey. Recipients of the survey will be based on a computer generated "random sampling" of our Membership. Our plan is to have the survey mailed in early May and allow for enough time to receive and compile the results prior to reporting on them at the Annual Meeting on June 25, 2011. If you are one of the randomly selected Member-Owners receiving a copy of our survey...please take the time to fill it out and return it...your input is important and we need to hear from you.

Outages: At the time of this writing, Mother Nature is showing off her mean streak. Its cold and the wind coupled with drifting snow seem to be relent-

less. It's at times like this that our electric distribution system is tested to the fullest extent. This is the time that we find out whether or not all the Cooperative's time and expense associated with system maintenance is paying off. With exception of one major power supplier outage that impacted the entire Platte River Valley and surrounding areas on the 22nd of January, we actually have suffered little in the way of power outages this winter (I'm "knocking on wood" at the moment). The outage on January 22nd was the result of a problem at Rocky Mountain Power's Platte Substation near Sinclair. Carbon receives transmission service for the valley from Rocky Mountain Power via a contract with our wholesale power supplier Tri-State. At first we were told that there had been a

fire in the Platte Substation, later we found out that there were other circumstances which, are still under investigation that led to the outage. At the Platte Substation, the opportunity exists for the Carbon circuit to be switched from the Rocky Mountain Power source to a Western Area Power Administration source, if there is a problem similar to what occurred on the 22nd. Unfortunately, the Rocky Mountain Power crews at the scene had difficulty in transferring the circuit, thus extending the outage longer than it should have been. During the outage I kept in contact with our "after-hours" dispatch service, who did an excellent job of providing information to our Member-Owners that called in with questions and I kept in contact with the dispatching service at Tri-State who worked closely with Rocky Mountain Power and assisted them [Rocky Mountain Power] in completing the transfer of the transmission circuit. I must admit that no matter how many of these types of circumstances that I work through...it's never easy for me to sit and wait for others outside Carbon's control to get my Member-Owners back in service...*it must be where all these grey hairs are coming from.*

As always...thanks for being there for us. Call if you have questions...anytime!

Chuck

TIME'S RUNNING OUT: FILLING THE GENERATION GAP

Electric co-ops have important energy choices to make. We can't stall or wait for a magic "electricity" bullet. Tighter government regulations—and the high cost to comply with new rules—may signal lights-out for many of the nation's older coal-fired power plants at a time when forecasters predict energy demand will eventually outpace supply. We're approaching crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on—we need to build new power plants.

The recent economic turmoil, terrible as it was, provided some much-needed breathing room on addressing our growing energy needs. But as the economy rebounds, so will our nation's hunger for electricity. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts when the final 2010 numbers are tallied, energy use will shoot up 5 percent from 2009 levels.

We've encouraged you to be energy efficient both for your sake (lower electric bills) and to help mitigate the need to build new generation sources. You've certainly done your part; between 1980 and 2006, the average amount of energy each American used dropped 2.5 percent. But with an ever-expanding population, these measures are not enough to completely offset escalating energy demand.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 MW of new generation by 2017 to meet demand. *Aslam Qazi* Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW—leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, some of our current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. If we wait too long, we could see power shortages by the end of this decade.

Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) take between three years and a decade to build—not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's the truth—and you wouldn't be satisfied with only having power 40 percent of the time.

At Carbon Power & Light we're focused on affordability and reliability.

Our nation needs to build new power plants before the need for electricity outstrips current generation resources. Although Carbon Power & Light doesn't build and operate power plants—as a distribution cooperative, we focus on delivering power to you—we're working with wholesale power suppliers like Tri-State G&T to find the best fuel mix solution for your future. We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.

Member Statistics Report	Dec. - 2009	Dec. - 2010
Total Utility Plant	\$32,441,760	\$34,619,713
Cost of Purchased Power	\$713,584	\$1,231,789
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$213,767	\$327,754
Tax and Interest Paid	\$52,491	\$56,107
Interest Received on Investments	\$10,602	\$5,861
Miles of Energized Line	1,865	1,883
Consumers Per Mile	3.3	3.3
Total Meters	6,155	6,149
Residential/Rural	4,248	3,870
Residential/Seasonal	945	1,516
Large Power/Commercial	861	676
Other	101	87
Total kWh Used	11,199,414	19,926,612
Residential/Rural	5,759,979	4,661,472
Residential/Seasonal	192,428	382,571
Large Power/Commercial	4,833,504	14,569,118
Other	413,503	313,451
Average Residential kWh Used	1,356	1,205
Average Residential/Rural Bill	\$163	\$148
Average Seasonal kWh Used	204	252
Average Seasonal Bill	\$51	\$56

Carbon welcomes any comments or questions consumers may have. If you have a question on any part of the cooperative business, please write the cooperative and we will see that your question is answered. Any comments or questions can be addressed to Carbon Power & Light, Inc. PO Box 579, Saratoga, WY 82331, ATTN Newsletter.

Visit our website at www.carbonpower.com

Edited by Charles Larsen

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH YOUR POWER: Please check your breakers. If you can determine that your neighbors are also without power; call Carbon at 1-307-326-5206 or 800-359-0249.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

Gary Jacobsen – Secretary

Laurie Forster

Dan Hodgkiss – Treasurer

DISTRICT 2

Robert Johnson – President

Jerry Rabidue – Vice President

Kenny Curry

DISTRICT 3

Dick Clifton

Clay Thompson

Tom Dunn

For online bill pay, go to www.carbonpower.com or by ACH.

For more information please call the billing department.

REMEMBER you can pay your bill at the following locations.

First National Bank
21st & Grand
Laramie, WY 82070

Rawlins National Bank
202 5th St.
Rawlins, WY 82301

Bank of the West
302 N. 1st
Saratoga, WY 82331

PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

Pay your bill in less time using Carbon Power & Light's online E-Bill. You can easily pay your bill anytime - without worrying about mail delays or potential late fees.

Log onto www.carbonpower.com and click on E-Bill to get started.

Pay Your Bill
Online

24
Hours a Day

It's fast, easy,
and secure.



COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Call Carbon Power &
Light's Computer
Support Specialist at

326-5206 or 800-359-0249

