



Member Owned ~ Service Proud
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Carbon Light Lines

February 2014



KENNY CURRY
District 2 Director

Board Actions December 2013

Approved Department Production and Financial Reports.

Approved Policy 3-2 *Communications and Public Relations* and Policy 3-3 *Locating of Underground Facilities* as amended.

Approved the voting delegates and alternates for the various business affiliates at NRECA's 2014 Annual Meeting.

Approved Work Order Inventory #505 in the amount of \$1,473,395.55.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule: cold when you're away and warm when you're at home. In winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com, U.S. Department of Energy

2014 Lighting

LEDs meet (and exceed) 2014 lighting efficiency standards

By Megan McKoy-Noe and Brian Sloboda, NRECA

A new year calls for updated light bulb efficiency guidelines. No need to use bulbs with a twist; light-emitting diodes (LEDs) can help you switch on savings.

Congress called for improved energy efficiency standards for traditional incandescent bulbs under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. By 2014, light bulbs using between 40-W to 100-W must consume at least 28 percent less energy than classic bulbs. The change will save Americans an estimated \$6 billion to \$10 billion in lighting costs annually.

When these wave of standards kicks in, traditional 40-W and 60-W incandescents will no longer be available. In their place, some consumers are filling the gap with a solid solution: LEDs.

'Solid' lighting

Incandescent bulbs create light using a thin wire (filament) inside a glass bulb—a delicate connection that can easily be broken, as frustrated homeowners can attest. In contrast, LEDs are at the forefront of solid-state lighting—small, packed electronic chip devices. Two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light.

Invented in 1960 by General Electric, the first LEDs were red—the color depends on materials placed on the diode. Yellow, green, and orange LEDs were created in the 1970s and the recipe for the color blue—the foundation for white LEDs—was unlocked in the mid-1990s. Originally used in remote controls, exit signs, digital watches, alarm clocks, and car

signal lights, LEDs quickly gained momentum for large-scale lighting.

Measuring LED potential

The Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network has partnered with several electric cooperatives throughout the United States to test LEDs. Researchers are cautiously optimistic; LEDs offer several benefits:

- LEDs could last longer, perhaps for decades
- The energy to use LEDs could be substantially less than that of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) or other fluorescents
- With no mercury content, LEDs are more environmentally friendly
- The products are rugged and more resistant to breakage
- LEDs perform well in cold climates, especially outside
- LEDs can be dimmed and produce a more pleasing light

However, some consumers avoid LEDs because the price tag exceeds normal light bulb costs. But the true value lies in the lifetime of the bulb. It takes about 50 traditional incandescent bulbs, or eight to 10 CFLs, to last as long as one LED lamp.

Buyer Beware

Poor quality LED products are flooding the marketplace. Some are manufactured outside of the United States with components that produce low light levels, don't boast a long service life, or make exaggerated energy saving claims.

Don't be fooled. Look for the U.S. Department of Energy's ENERGY STAR logo for guaranteed color quality over time, steady light output over the lifetime, high efficiency, and a warranty. ■

Sources: *The Association of Electrical Equipment and Medical Imaging Manufacturers, U.S. Department of Energy, Cooperative Research Network*

The General Manager's Report



HELP US STAY SAFE

on our poles they will remove those items before commencing their work...those items will not be reattached to our poles.

Thanks for being there for us.

Chuck

Help us stay safe: Safety is paramount in our line of business and to insure that our Employees stay safe, a significant amount of our annual budget goes toward the training and equipment

our Employees need to insure they go home safe and sound at the end of each work day. Take a look at the photo to the left...that doesn't look very easy does it? Having been a lineman, I can assure you it isn't easy...even in the best of conditions. Add to that scenario, inclement weather conditions or trying



to accomplish that task in the dark of night. Now take a look at the rest of the photos. These are some of the items we have found attached to our power poles. Imagine trying to complete your work safely while having to climb a power pole and deal with; bird houses/feeders, "No Hunting" signs, fence wires, nails, street signs and a multitude of other items that have been attached to the Cooperative's power poles. The Cooperative's poles generally have enough "authorized" electrical related equipment attached to them to make climbing difficult let alone any added "unauthorized non-electrical items. Unfortunately we are seeing more and more of these unauthorized" attachments to our poles. So...my message here is... please help us. If you have attached something to our poles that could create a climbing hazard...please remove it. If our crews arrive at the site and find unauthorized equipment



EXAMPLES OF SAFETY HAZARDS ON POWER POLES





Powering-up after a storm

Power outages can be triggered by many conditions or circumstances. Weather is the leading cause, such as strong winds, lightning and snow and ice storms. Line crews must battle the elements to find the problem areas and restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Strong winds, lightning, snow and ice storms are just some of the instances that cause power outages. Weather accounts for thirty-one percent of power outages.

During power outages, there are a few steps in which Carbon's line crews restore power during a power outage.

Step 1 When a power outage occurs, Carbon Power & Light's line crews pinpoint where the problem is by starting at the local substation. Each of Carbon's substations serve hundreds of Members. If there is problem here, the cause could be from some type of failure in the transmission lines feeding the substation. If the problem can be fixed at the substation level, power may be restored to hundreds of Member-Owners.

Step 2 If the problem is not at the substation, the line crews move down the distribution lines to see if they can isolate the problem there. These are the lines that supply power to your community or towns. When power is restored at this level, all of the Members served by this distribution line could see the lights come on provided there are no further problems down the line.

Step 3 The final supply lines, called tap lines, deliver power to the transformers that are mounted on poles or to an underground transformer

pad mount outside your home, business or school. Line crews restore service to the greatest number of Member-Owners first.

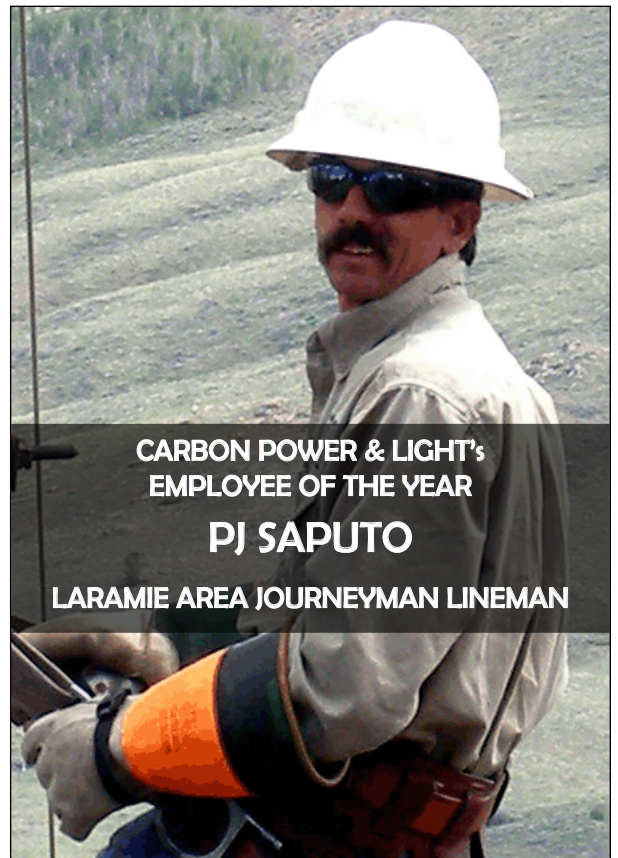
Step 4 Sometimes damage will occur on the service line between the meter and the transformer on the nearby utility pole or pad mount. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does.

Powering-up after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply switching a switch or removing a tree from the line. The main goal is to restore power safely to as many Member-Owners in the shortest amount of time possible.

Report any outage or service interruption to Carbon Power & Light day or night. During an outage, Carbon Power & Light uses every available phone line to take your calls. Please keep in mind that during a major storm, hundreds of Member-Owners may be without power at the same time causing the phone lines to be overloaded. Please be patient and try again later. It is important that you report your outage or service interruption so our line crews can isolate the issue.

Note: **Before an Outage Occurs:** Individuals who rely on electricity for life support devices please call Carbon Power & Light's office at 800.359.0249 or 326.5206.■

Member Statistics Report	Nov. 2012	Nov. 2013
Total Utility Plant	\$35,319,532	\$37,477,132
Cost of Purchased Power	\$948,778	\$697,699
Expenses Less Power Cost	\$361,617	\$342,759
Tax and Interest Paid	\$45,413	\$46,866
Interest Received on Investments	\$2,627	\$2,064
Miles of Energized Line	1,906	1,925
Consumers Per Mile	3.2	3.2
Total Meters	6,164	6,252
Residential/Rural	3,840	3,457
Residential/Seasonal	1,573	1,574
Large Power/Commercial	660	1,118
Other	91	103
Total kWh Used	10,186,224	9,518,130
Residential/Rural	4,126,782	3,192,871
Residential/Seasonal	389,321	299,900
Large Power/Commercial	5,375,267	5,732,074
Other	294,854	293,285
Average Residential kWh Used	1,074	924
Average Residential/Rural Bill	\$134	\$123
Average Seasonal kWh Used	248	191
Average Seasonal Bill	\$55	\$50



**CARBON POWER & LIGHT'S
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

PJ SAPUTO

LARAMIE AREA JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

PJ Saputo was selected by his co-workers as the Employee of the Year.

PJ is one of Carbon's Journeyman Lineman in the Laramie area. PJ started working for Carbon back in June of 2005

PJ will have the privilege to travel to Nashville, Tennessee to take part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Annual Meeting in March.

PJ will have the opportunity to listen to top-notch experts in informative sessions discuss the current issues facing Cooperatives' across the country.

All of us at Carbon Power & Light congratulate PJ!

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 you 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

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Dan Hodgkiss – Treasurer

DISTRICT 2

Robert Johnson – President
Jerry Rabadue – Vice President
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Clay Thompson
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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.

Rawlins National Bank
202 5th Street
Rawlins, WY 82301

First National Bank
21st & Grand
Laramie, WY 82070

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

**OFFICE HOURS FOR
CARBON POWER & LIGHT**

— MAY - SEPTEMBER —

Monday - Thursday

7 AM - 5:30 PM

— OCTOBER - APRIL —

Monday - Friday

8 AM - 4:30 PM

