

# HIGHLIGHTS

VOL. 42, ISSUE 1

Look for us online @ [www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com)

FEBRUARY 2021

## ANNUAL MEETING 2021

**A**nual Meeting will look different this year than it has in the past, as we will not have an in-person meeting due to COVID-19 concerns.

A virtual Annual Meeting will be held on May 18, 2021—reports from Board President John Joyce and Board Treasurer Sara Schlattmann will be recorded and posted on our website—[www.bighornrea.com](http://www.bighornrea.com).

**District 5**—Lovell, Deaver, Frannie areas—is up for election this year. William E. “Willie” Bridges is currently serving in this district and will run again. Letters will be mailed to all members in District 5 in early February seeking additional candidates.

You will still receive your Annual Meeting brochure in the mail. This

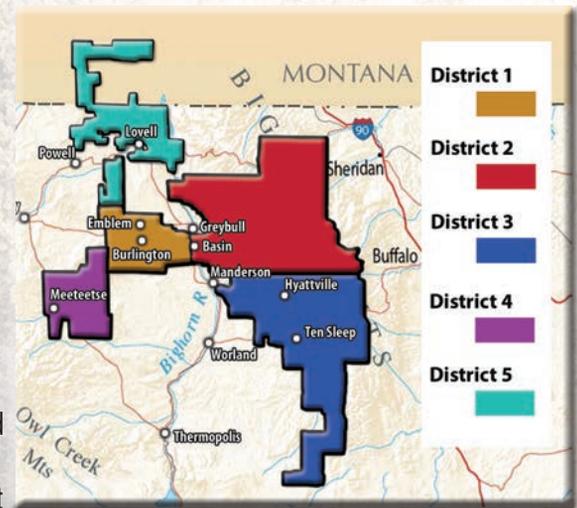
brochure will include your board candidates, minutes from our 2019 Annual Meeting as we were unable to meet last year, and company financials for 2020.

We hope to hold District Meetings in early May in each of our Board Districts to enable members to meet the board candidates and be informed about your cooperative. We will share more information on these meetings as the time nears. We will be very cognizant of health mandates and the safety of our members.

Ballots will be mailed to all members on May 18, 2021. Our 2020 election was handled by mail-in ballots and we had a record response! Ballots will need to be returned by mail to an independent

accounting firm in Cody by June 17th to be counted. Election results will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our July newsletter.

Big Horn REA is YOUR company. Please make sure to take part in this important process.



### INSIDE

- Thinking of Generating Your own Power? .....** 2
- Tip of the Month.....** 2
- What happens during a power outage .....** 3
- Watt's Cookin' .....** 4

### DID YOU KNOW

If all our nation's households swapped just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star Certified LED bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 2 million homes for a year.

### CLOSED

*Big Horn REA offices will be closed Monday, February 15th in observance of Presidents' Day.*



# Thinking of Generating Your Own Power?

## Make Sure You Contact Big Horn REA First

Today's changing energy landscape is bringing more attention to renewable energy resources, including wind and solar. Big Horn REA's Board of Directors has put into place guidelines for those who are interested in generating their own power and connecting it to Big Horn's lines.

### Interconnection with your cooperative

Whenever generation is connected to the electric grid, the safety of cooperative employees, member-owners and the general public must be given top priority. Big Horn Rural Electric Company has a mission to provide safe, reliable, and competitively-priced electric energy to our member/owners.

### Investing in wind or solar

Before investing in a wind or solar system or connecting it to the

power grid, you should meet with Big Horn REA to gain an understanding of the expectations for both the co-op and member-owner. Big Horn will work with you to complete the interconnection application – Application for Operation of Customer-Owned Generation and submittal of the Interconnection Agreement. A \$1,000.00 application fee shall be paid by the member-owner.

### Member-owner's responsibilities

Any proposed owner, operator, customer, producer, or provider of a generating facility/qualifying facility that is to be interconnected with the Big Horn's system will be responsible for all costs relative to the proposed interconnection project. These costs will include labor, expenses, overheads and other related costs for such things as:



- review of application; feasibility study; consultant costs to review/monitor proposed project; costs incurred by Big Horn's wholesale power supplier for evaluation;
- system upgrade; meter and metering costs; attorney fees; testing of interconnection; etc.

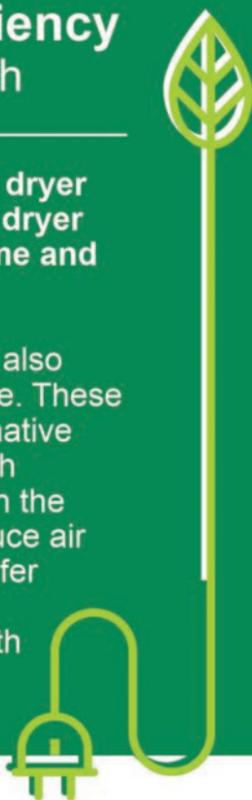
*continued top of next page*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

**Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.**

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



Payment for all estimated costs relative to the proposed interconnection project will be the responsibility of the interconnection customer and are due and payable before the project can begin. The non-refundable application fee will be applied to the total cost of the project when completed and will be retained if the project is withdrawn. Cost estimates will be

valid for forty five (45) days.

### Cooperative's responsibilities

Big Horn REA is your partner in providing you with safe, reliable electric service. Big Horn will make reasonable efforts to process and analyze the interconnection application and project within ninety (90) days of receiving said application and necessary related items.

Consideration of an application and possible purchase of energy from an interconnected customer must be in compliance with Big Horn's policies, rules and regulations and prudent business practices.

## What happens behind the scenes during a power outage?

The year 2020 was unique, to say the least, thanks to the arrival of COVID-19. Contributing to the chaos was a record-breaking hurricane season, intense heat waves, lightning storms that sparked wildfires, and various other inclement weather concerns.

What do all these weather phenomena have in common? Unfortunately, they all had the potential to result in power outages. Here in the U.S., we are fortunate to have an advanced power grid in place. Power transmission and distribution is reliable in our country, and we are proud to deliver the electricity you depend on each day. Excluding outage times attributed to major weather or other catastrophic events, electricity consumers in our country typically experience only about two hours of total power interruptions per year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. When outages due to major events are taken into consideration, the EIA reports the total outage time at six hours a year. Big Horn REA members experienced 99.96% reliability in 2020!

What happens on our end when your power goes out? Rest assured we swing into action in a safe and efficient manner to ensure your power is restored. How long that takes depends on

several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages, and how long it takes for our work crews to safely access the storm-damaged areas. We are careful to follow standard restoration procedures to ensure safety and to get the job done right by:

- Assessing damage to utility equipment.
- Addressing immediate safety risks, including downed power lines.
- Ensuring that essential public health and safety facilities are operational.
- Prioritizing repairs that will restore power to the greatest number of people first.
- Repairing transmission lines that carry power to large areas.
- Assessing and repairing (in this order) substations, distribution lines, and service lines to properties.

Thank you for your patience during power outages. Know that in the event of an outage, we are working hard to restore it as safely and efficiently as possible, day and night.

ONCE THE POWER IS OUT

## HOW IS IT SAFELY RESTORED?

When conditions are favorable for a storm, severe weather can take down power lines or disrupt your electric service in several ways.

It can happen when wind causes trees or branches to fall into power lines or when ice buildup on wires causes the lines to sway and "gallop." When lightning strikes, transformers and other electric equipment can be affected.

Slick road conditions can also play a role when vehicles strike a power pole or pad-mounted transformer and cause a disruption in service.

Please know that when the power does go out, we are doing all we can to safely and efficiently restore power. Here are the steps we take in the assessment and restoration process:

**STEP 1: ASSESS THE DAMAGE**

We assess the damage to utility equipment and power lines across the service area

**STEP 2: ADDRESS SAFETY RISKS**

We address immediate safety risks, including downed power lines

**STEP 3: RESTORE ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

We ensure that public health and safety facilities are operational

**STEP 4: PRIORITIZE REPAIRS**

We repair (usually in this order): transmission towers and lines, substations, distribution lines, and then service lines to properties

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is live and deadly



**A** new feature for 2021 to allow you to get to know our employees just a little bit better.

# Watt's Cookin'

— At Big Horn REA —

## TODD HERMAN



Our Lovell area Line Foreman Todd Herman has worked at Big Horn REA for 26 years.

### What do you bring to your co-op?

I know the area, as I grew up in Basin, and I know a lot of our members. I am very knowledgeable about the electric system.

### What is the best thing about working at Big Horn?

I like this area. With this job

I'm doing lots of different things and always working in different places, so it's never boring! Also, we have a lot of good equipment that makes our jobs easier.

### What is your favorite meal from childhood?

My mom's meat and potatoes and my dad's pancakes!

## Recipe

### Todd's Hash Brown Casserole

#### Ingredients:

32 oz frozen hash browns, defrosted	1/2 cup onion
1/2 cup melted butter	2 cups Colby cheese, grated
1 - 10.25 oz can of Cream of Chicken soup	1/2 tsp pepper
1 pint sour cream	

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350. Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Reserve 1/2 cup cheese for the top. Please in a greased 9x13 pan. Top with reserved cheese. Bake for 45-55 minutes, or until hot and bubbly.

## HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of  
BIG HORN RURAL  
ELECTRIC COMPANY

Box 270 VOLUME 42 NO. 1  
Basin, WY 82410 (307) 568-2419  
FAX 307-568-2402 1-800-564-2419  
bhrec@bighornrea.com  
www.bighornrea.com

MANAGER: Jeff Umphlett  
(307) 899-8153  
jeff@bighornrea.com

### Staff and Crew

Dotti Brown	Sheila Kampbell
Rusty Burden	Heather Lawrence
Bill Dahlke	Anthony Nelson
Clint Getzfreid	Bill Phillips
Todd Herman	Tristen Snyder
Reece Hill	Greg Tharp
Carrie Hunt	

For Outages or Trouble

Call the office number: **ANYTIME**  
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).

Big Horn Rural Electric Company is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Board of Directors

John Joyce	..... President
Manderson	• 568-2514
	jjoyce56@gmail.com
Willie Bridges	..... Vice President
Cowley	• 548-2545
	willieb@pryorntneng.com
Steve Helburn	..... Secretary
Greybull	• 765-2900
	stevehelburn@gmail.com
Sara Schlattmann	..... Treasurer
Otto	• 921-2024
	hortonwyo@gmail.com
John Fernandez	..... Ass't Secretary
Meeteetse	• 272-1553
	john@bighornrea.com