

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Steve Nile, President.....District 4
Joe Schiffer, V.P.....District 5
Arlo Jensen, Sec.-Treas.....District 1
Jim DeCock.....District 7
Tim Fulton.....District 6
Tami Kimball.....District 2
Richard Pinkerton.....District 3

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

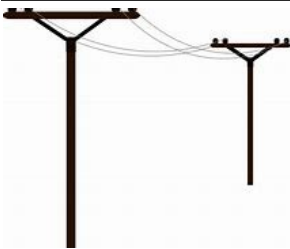
406-342-5521

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



OFFICE PERSONNEL
Jason Brothen.....Manager
Marj Cunningham.....Office Mgr
Karen Morales.....Billing Clerk
Amy Robbins.....Cust. Serv. Rep.
LINE PERSONNEL
Ken Rolandson....Operations Mgr
Rick Lewis.....Foreman
Daren Reeder.....Lineman
Trent Perkins.....Lineman
Shane Freese.....Lineman
John Cunningham...Appr.Lineman

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .

Jason Brothen



UNPLANNED OUTAGES

This summer has again brought on more outages where we have to tell the membership that it is one of our transmission suppliers with an outage. 90% of the time MYEC is not involved with transmission outages because we do not own the bulk transmission lines that feed our substations. MYEC does own some smaller transmission lines between a few substations, but that has not been the issue lately.

Our transmission suppliers are Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU), and NorthWestern Energy (NWE). Just like MYEC and other utilities, they have an aging system and are taking outages for upgrades. If they cannot perform the maintenance, it results in outages. When it happens on the transmission side, MYEC is left to the mercy of other crews to fix the issue. This is stressful and tough for the Cooperative. We value our membership and have a personal contact with you, so when there is an outage we want to react quickly and fix it. When it happens at the transmission level, there is basically no control. After we figure it out that our members are out because of our supplier's outage, the majority of the time we can do a temporary 'switch' to another feed. Then after we find out that our supplier has fixed their problem, we do a switch back to the original feed. This causes our members to experience another small outage that, if all goes well, should last less than 5 minutes or hopefully not more than 10 minutes. It is necessary to have our consumers on the original power supply feed due to load capacities.

MYEC does try to communicate what is happening by phone, radio (KIKC), and Facebook when we can. If there are scheduled outages, we will always do our best to communicate with you. That is why it is so important that you give us a specific phone or cell number that we can call you at for planned outages or other maintenance work in your area.

Thank you to our members for your patience this summer during these unplanned, and planned outages. Remember, working together is a principal of the Co-op.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Air Infiltration into Your Home is Taking Money Out of Your Pocket

Properly insulating your home can save hundreds of dollars a year off of your home heating and cooling bills. However, even before you worry about insulation, you need to deal with air infiltration. Air infiltration is about drafts—air leaking into or out of your home. Your home will never be energy efficient if it has air leaks. Think of your home as if it were a swimming pool. If your pool was leaking water, would you worry about heating the water you have to constantly add or would you worry about stopping the leaks. So it is with your home, you have to stop the leaks first.

You may consider hiring an energy auditor to professionally evaluate your home. They can help you locate leaks, assess your insulation needs and provide you with a report that will help you to reduce your energy bills while improving the comfort of your home. Even if you don't hire an energy auditor, there are plenty of things you can do yourself.

If you plan to find the leaks yourself, one method is to wait for a windy day. First, turn off the heater, air conditioner or any other ventilation equipment. Close all exterior doors, windows and close the fire-place damper. Turn on your stove and bathroom ventilation fans. Light an incense stick and move it near possible points of air infiltration. If the smoke is sucked in or blown away, there is a draft and it should be sealed. This can still work without wind, but drafts are more difficult to detect.

Source: *Internet*



COOPERATIVE: Organization owned by and operated for the benefit of those using its services. Cooperatives have been successful in a number of fields, including the processing and marketing of farm products, the purchasing of other kinds of equipment and raw materials, and in the wholesaling, retailing, electric power, credit and banking, and housing industries. The income from a retail cooperative is usually returned to the consumers in the form of dividends based on the amounts purchased over a given period of time.

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH: OCTOBER 2021

- ◆ There are more than 40,000 cooperative businesses in the United States with 350 million members (many people belong to more than one co-op). These cooperatives generate \$514 billion in revenue and more than \$25 billion in wages, according to a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, with support from USDA Rural Development (<http://reic.uwcc.wisc.edu/default.htm>).
- ◆ Cooperatives represent a strong business model and greatly contribute to both the national and local economies.
- ◆ Studies show that consumers want to do business with companies that share their values, making today's environment ideal for cooperatives and their commitment to the communities in which their members live and work.
- ◆ Co-op Month has been a nationally recognized celebration since 1964, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, a former Minnesota governor, proclaimed October Co-op Month.
- ◆ The first national Co-op Month theme, in 1964, was "Cooperatives: USDA Helps Build a Better America."
- ◆ Every October, the U.S. Department of Agriculture releases its annual Co-op Month proclamation.

OCTOBER 2021