

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

We are committed to the wellbeing of our members and employees to provide safe, reliable power and maintaining the company's financial strength.

#### How to reach us

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# **Power Pointz**

#### November 2019

## Be Prepared for Ice Storms and Winter Outages

Assembling supplies before a storm arrives is one of the keys to weathering a winter storm emergency. Make sure your supply kit includes:

- Flashlights with fresh batteries.
- Matches for lighting gas stoves or clean burning heaters.
- Wood for a properly ventilated fireplace.
- First aid kit, prescription medicines, and baby supplies.
- Food that can be kept in coolers and a manual can opener.
- A non-cordless telephone and/or fully charged cellular phone.
- Bottled drinking water.
- Battery-powered emergency lights and radio.

Maintaining warmth is a priority during a winter storm. Loss of body heat or hypothermia can be life threatening.

- Stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends/relatives or go to a shelter if you cannot keep your home warm.

Knowing how to keep your home and loved ones safe is also important:

- Switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored.
- To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so that water drips from the tap.
- Never use a charcoal grill to cook with or heat the inside of your home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas.

When outside, stay away from downed power lines.

- A power line does not need to be sparking or arcing to be energized, even if it is sagging close to or on the ground. Be aware that other utility lines can become energized by being in contact with an electrical line.
- Lines that appear to be "dead" can become energized as crews work to restore power or, sometimes, from improper use of emergency generators. Assume all low and downed lines are energized and dangerous. If you see a downed or sagging line, contact Garland Light & Power Co.
- Motorists should never drive over a downed line, as a sagging line could pull down a pole or other equipment and cause other hazards.
- Be careful when approaching intersections where traffic or crossing lights may be out.

### Message from Molly

We have been talking for several years about the new substation being built by Tri-State G&T (Garland's power supplier) and the many benefits it will offer Garland Light and Power Co. members. As I write this in October, construction has begun and we are well on our way to having this unit up and running by January 2020.

This project began many years ago when it became obvious that the Kysar substation north of Powell was failing and needed to be replaced. Garland looked into rebuilding Kysar and determined that it would be costly and inefficient since Garland's load growth had changed to the west part of the system and was already being constrained on the existing 69-kV WAPA transmission line that serves the area. Garland would need to pay in excess of \$6,000,000 for upgrades. That expense along with the cost of the actual substation made a new sub seem financially out of reach for the small co-op. Tri-State offered to assist Garland by siting, purchasing, permitting, and owning the new sub in order to accommodate Garland's need to tap the Tri-State 115 kV transmission line. This option would result in a substantial cost savings to the members of Garland Light and Power Co. and provide a source of power that will serve the members of Garland well into the future.

One of the questions raised is why this transmission line couldn't be underground. The answer to this is very simple. Cost. According to Tri-State, the expected <u>per mile</u> cost to underground 115 kV transmission in this area would have been in the \$4,200,000 to \$8,300,000 range. Other costly provisions would have been instituted due to the significantly longer time to restore an underground cable failure as compared to an overhead line. Since the line runs 3.5 miles, you can see how this adds up very quickly and would not have been cost efficient for Tri-State, Garland Light and Power, or Garland's members.

Once this substation becomes operational, the benefits to Garland will be immediate:

Added room for growth where Garland is seeing more opportunities. Improved reliability to existing system by adding another source of electricity. Decreased load on the WAPA 69 kV line that serves Garland's other substations. Flexibility when it comes to maintenance on other substations, lines and equipment.

Garland Light and Power Co. proudly serves our members and constantly looks for ways to improve the system. We are fortunate to partner with Tri-State, a company who agrees that our members deserve a reliable, affordable, and responsible supply of electricity.



New transmission line for the Iron Creek Substation.



Bulldozing work for the start of Iron Creek Substation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

### Youth Tour 2020

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association, on behalf of rural electric cooperatives in Wyoming, is sponsoring a trip for high school juniors and seniors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour in Washington, DC. The 2020 Youth Tour is June 19-26.

You are eligible to apply for this exciting experience because your parents are members of Garland Light & Power Co. Besides recognizing youth leadership in Wyoming our purpose is to educate young people about our Nation's history and electric cooperatives. During this week long trip you will see many sights in our Nation's Capital, Washington DC. These sights include the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Holocaust Museum, Library of Congress, Mt. Vernon and the Capitol, just to name a few. You



will have the opportunity to meet with Wyoming's Senators and Representative. You will meet students from all across our country who also are members of rural electric cooperatives. You will have the opportunity to hear wonderful speakers, learn about how our government works as well as learning about cooperatives.

In addition, one of the students selected for the Youth Tour will also be eligible to represent Wyoming as a member of the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC). As one of 41 members of the YLC, this student will attend a leadership conference in Arlington, Virginia, July 25-29, 2020 and the February 2021 NRECA annual meeting in San Diego, CA.

For more information please contact Molly or Michelle at the office. 307-754-2881. The deadline to contact us for more information is December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

### DIYers: Don't Mess With Electricity

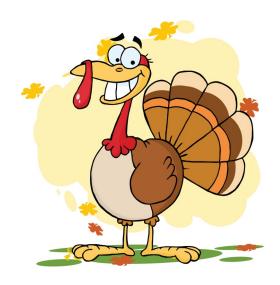
Even the handiest of handymen shouldn't mess with electricity. Instead of tinkering with plugs and wires, it's a good idea to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to do electrical work around your house.

Not convinced? The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends:

- Learn as much about your home electrical system as possible so you will know how to maintain it safely.
- Know your limitations. Do not start an electrical project that is beyond your skill level. Getting help from a pro could save your life and prevent a fire.
- Turn off the power to the circuit that you will work on.
- Unplug any appliance before you work on it.
- Test wires to make sure the power has been turned off before you touch them.
- Stay away from plumbing and gas pipes when you're working on electricity.



Garland Light & Power will be closed on November 28th and 29th for Thanksgiving.



# 2020 CALENDARS ARE HERE STOP BY THE OFFICE TO GET ONE

### LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

This program provides assistance for winter heating bills. It is available for the months of November through May. The State of Wyoming accepts applications from October 1st through February 28th each year. Benefits are based on household size, income and type of fuel used as the primary heating source.

Crisis Assistance-This is a one time per program year benefit available to persons who are facing an energy emergency. The benefit amount is based on the amount needed to resolve this crisis, up to a maximum of \$400. Crisis funds can be used for deposits on new accounts, LP tank sets, and back bills. Crisis assistance is available from October through the middle of April. Back bills prior to October 1st are the clients responsibility.

For a LIEAP application, call 1-800-246-4221.

