

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

JANUARY 2023



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.

HEA OFFICE HOURS

Holyoke: M-F | 7:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
Sterling: M-F | 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Ovid: M-Th | 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

HOW DO WE MAINTAIN RELIABILITY?

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation is the nationwide entity responsible for the reliability of the electric grid. Its 2022-2023 Winter Reliability Assessment should provide a wake-up call to us all. NERC's assessment finds that a large portion of the North American Bulk Power System is at risk of insufficient electricity supplies during peak winter conditions. Specifically, higher peak demand projections, inadequate generator weatherization, fuel supply risks and natural gas infrastructure are contributing to risks to the grid across North America.

The report isn't all bad news, though. There's some good news later in the report for Highline Electric Association and our members as NERC's regional evaluation for our part of the country determined that the expected generating resources meet operating reserve requirements under normal and extreme peak demand scenarios this year. Is that good enough? Can we take that assessment and rest assured that our grid will remain reliable? Unfortunately, the answer is no. We will likely have a battle ahead of us to maintain the reliability that we've all come to expect.

One major risk to grid reliability stems from the current legislative and regulatory environments in Colorado. The legislature has mandated an energy transition that will shut down hundreds of megawatts of dispatchable resources, such as coal and natural gas power plants, and replace them by the end of this decade with intermittent resources, such as solar and wind farms. This transition in and of itself is not the problem, but it does require that every utility engage in a thorough planning process to carefully

implement the changes without negatively impacting grid reliability, which leads me to the current regulatory situation in Colorado.

Highline's power supplier, Tri-State G&T, along with many other generation operators in the state, are required to undergo periodic resource planning exercises under the watchful eye of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. The reliability problem is that this planning requirement does not extend to all utilities that serve in the state. Investor-owned utility Xcel Energy is concerned enough with this gap in regulatory oversight that it is introducing a bill in the 2023 legislative session to address the issue.

There's an old saying: "A lack of planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on my part." Unfortunately, that couldn't be further from the truth when it comes to the electric grid. Xcel Energy is the "Balancing Authority" responsible for ensuring that there are adequate generation resources to serve the majority of Colorado, and not just for its own consumers. Our electric grid is like a perfectly balanced seesaw, where the amount of electricity being produced must match the amount of electricity that consumers want to use at that moment. If there's too little generation running for the electric demand, then the whole thing starts to fail. Historically, the amount of generation running was ramped up and down under control of the Balancing Authority to match the electricity consumed. But as dispatchable generators are replaced with renewable resources that cannot be controlled in the same way, Balancing Authorities may have to instead control the amount of electricity consumed

YOUR CO-OP NEWS

in the form of controlled blackouts. If any entity-serving load in Colorado fails to adequately plan and ensure that its generation resources can serve its loads, then there could be reliability issues across the whole system that we share.

The legislative bill that Xcel is proposing isn't perfect, but we are working with like-minded entities across the state to amend the bill. It is likely that we will need your

help to get this bill across the finish line at the Colorado legislature. While it's too early to tell, we may ask you to participate in a letter-writing campaign during the legislative session. It is imperative that we let our elected representatives know that unreliable electric service is not an option, and every utility must pull their weight to avoid causing problems for all of us.



Parade of Lights

In December, HEA sponsored two parades in our communities. Thank you to all who came out to participate and to watch the parades.

The Holyoke Parade of Lights was December 5 and the Sedgwick County Parade of Lights was December 8. Both had the theme of *Elf Christmas*, and there were more than 15 float entries into each parade.

Congratulations to the 2022 Parade of Lights winners: Holyoke FFA took first place in the Holyoke parade and the Town of Julesburg won the Sedgwick County parade.

DEADLINE SOON: Apply for Scholarships Today



Highline Electric Association, Tri-State G&T and Basin Electric Power Cooperative work together each year to provide 13 scholarships to graduating seniors in our service area. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000. In 2018, Highline's board of directors voted to convert two of Highline's \$1,000 scholarships to renewable scholarships that may be redeemed by the recipient for up to four years if they maintain eligibility criteria. Please visit www.hea.coop for information and applications.

The scholarship application deadline is February 14, 2023 at 12 p.m.



You Are Invited to Highline Electric's Annual Meeting

Highline Electric Association's 2023 annual meeting is fast approaching. This year marks HEA's 85th anniversary.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in the Phillips County Event Center at the fairgrounds in Holyoke. Members will receive a direct-mailing notice in March with the most up-to-date information regarding the meeting. This meeting will also be livestreamed and details can be found at www.hea.coop.

HEA board President Mike Bennett and General Manager Dennis Herman will give their reports on the condition of the association.

An election will be held for three director positions. These positions require the nominee to be a member of HEA and comply with Article III, Section 3 of the association's bylaws, a copy of which is accessible online at www.hea.coop.

There will be two director positions from District 1, and the nominees must reside in Logan, Weld, Washington or Morgan county, Colorado. The incumbent directors for this district are Pam Stieb and Brad Stromberger.

There will be one director position from District 2, and the nominee must reside in Phillips or Yuma county, Colorado. The incumbent director for this district is Aaron Sprague.

Petitions to nominate a director are available at all HEA offices

A minimum of 15 signatures is required for nomination. Only members of HEA may sign said petition. Each member signing the petition must reside in the same district as the person being nominated. If the membership is in joint tenancy, only one tenant may sign.

Circulators of said petition should attempt to verify the correctness of the name and address of each signer and must require that the signature take place in the presence of the circulator. The circulator should sign the affidavit at the end of said petition and have the affidavit notarized before submitting it to HEA.

All petitions must be received at Highline Electric Association, 1300 S. Interocean, Holyoke, CO 80734 or P.O. Box 57, Holyoke, CO 80734 on or prior to January 27, 2023.



Congratulations to the following HEA employees who observe an employment anniversary in January:

Jeff Pocock, 31 years **Jessie Heath, 8 years**
JT Baker, 26 years **Elise Pocock, 8 years**
Kris Camblin, 25 years **Mendi Lutze, 7 years**
Melissa Nelson, 20 years

ELON NELSON RETIRES

We at HEA congratulate Metering Superintendent Elon Nelson on his retirement from Highline Electric Association after more than 46 years of service. If you contacted HEA within the past four decades after hours during an outage or talked to a meter tech in the field, you've probably talked with Elon.



Elon first joined the cooperative family as summer help after his senior year of high school in 1975, working in the warehouse and on the line crew putting up capacitor banks. In September 1976, Elon was offered a full-time position as an apprentice lineman.

During his time at Highline, Elon held various positions, including lineman, construction foreman and metering superintendent. He's worked under the management of four general managers and four managers of engineering. Elon recalls his most memorable experience while at Highline being the Storm of 1977. This storm damaged more than 10,000 poles. At the time, Elon was living in Fleming. While on his way to Holyoke to begin restoration, his Ford Mustang got stuck. He remembers walking to the highway and flagging down a ride to Holyoke. One of his greatest career accomplishments was overseeing the AMI installation that was completed December of 2021.

In his retirement, Elon is most looking forward to not having a "boss." In all seriousness, though, he plans to do more of what he loves: spending time with his grandchildren, doing a little traveling, being at the farm, getting back into playing the piano and advertising collectibles. While at HEA, Elon has enjoyed the camaraderie among employees. "Highline's still the best show in town. It's been good to me."

HEA thanks Elon for his more than 46 years of service and dedication to keeping the lights on. Please join us in wishing Elon farewell as he embarks on this new adventure.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Highline Electric Association is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Dennis Herman, Manager, Highline Electric Association. To file a complaint of discrimination, write U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication and Compliance, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-260-1026 or 800-795-3272. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

If you are late paying an irrigation account two times during the irrigation season, a deposit will be required before the well will be energized the next season. If a deposit is required and you are late paying one time in the current year, a deposit will be required the following year.

Irrigation Load Control Program Deadline in February

As of the new year, letters should have arrived in landowners' mailboxes about HEA's 2023 load control program. All irrigation wells that were in the 2022 load control program last year will be in the 2023 program and on the same option unless we are notified.

If you want to have a well(s) in the 2023 load control program that was not in the 2022 load control program, please call our office and a contract will be sent to you.

The deadline for all additions, changes or removals is February 28, 2023.



Attention Irrigators:
April 15 is the deadline to retire an irrigation service and avoid paying the annual minimum.

2023 Rebate Product Guide

- Eligible rebates must be submitted within **90 days** of purchase.
- Rebate amounts under \$25 will be issued as a credit on the Highline account. All rebate requests must include itemized payment receipts (including product model number) and ENERGY STAR® verification documentation where stated.

Product	Eligible Rebate
Electric Outdoor Power Equipment	25% of cost up to \$150 for electric snow blower, walk-behind mower or bicycles. 25% of cost up to \$50 for electric leaf blower, pruner, trimmer and power washer. 25% of the cost up to \$100 for electric chainsaws. \$25% of cost up to \$1,000 for electric riding mowers. 50% of cost up to \$25 for additional batteries purchased with or for qualifying equipment can be included with original purchase rebate application. Maximum yearly outdoor equipment rebate of \$300 per account, except riding lawn mowers (stand-alone \$1,000 cap per member account).
ENERGY STAR® LED Bulbs (500 lumens or greater)	50% of lamp/bulb cost up to \$8 per lamp/bulb. Yearly cap of 50 lamps/bulbs per account.
Refrigerator/Freezer Recycling Only (min 7.75 cu ft.)	\$120 if old unit is recycled. Proof is required to receive recycling credit. A form can be downloaded at hea.coop or available upon request. Freezer/refrigerator rebates are limited to a max of two recycles per member, per year.
Induction Cooktops/Ranges (measuring 30" or larger)	\$100 per unit for electric-to-induction. \$350 per unit for gas-to-induction or new construction. Replacement of gas units with induction require verification of gas cooktop/range.
ENERGY STAR® Dryer	\$60 per unit. \$180 heat pump unit.
Ground Source Heat Pump System	\$850 per ton for new installation. \$425 per ton for existing unit replacements. ENERGY STAR® rated. \$100 per unit for ground source heat pump powered water heaters (a.k.a. desuperheater).
Evaporative Cooler	\$200 per unit. Minimum 2500 CFM, no window or portable units.
Air Conditioners	\$100 per unit. Minimum 16 SEER or 15.2 SEER2. 1 ton minimum. No window units.
Air Source Heat Pump System (AHRI Certificates required.)	Tier 1 , >=15 SEER and >=9.0 HSPF or, >=14.3 SEER2 and >=7.6 HSPF2. Less than or equal to 2 tons \$675, greater than 2 tons \$1800. Tier 2 (cold climate) , >=16 SEER and >=10.00 HSPF or, >= 15.2 SEER2 and >=8.5 HSPF2. Variable speed compressor or 3 stage minimum. Less than or equal to 2 tons \$1000, greater than 2 tons \$2400.
Whole House Fans	\$100 per unit. Replacement or new installations qualify.
Smart Thermostats	\$50 per unit. Must be WiFi and have learning capabilities. Limit 2 smart thermostats per member account.
Electric Water Heater	\$50 per unit for new construction. \$100 per unit for gas conversion. \$375 per unit for ENERGY STAR® heat pump water heater. 30 gallon minimum.
Electric Commercial, Industrial and Irrigation Motors (10-1500 hp)	\$10/HP up to 500HP and \$8/HP for motors above 500HP. \$1.50/HP wiring assistance if motor replaces fossil fuel or is a new install. Contact HEA for form.
Variable Speed Drive (VSD)	Contact HEA for details. Soft start kits added to existing motors are not eligible.
Irrigation & Industrial/Agricultural Auditing	Contact HEA for details.
EV Level 2 Charging Station	50% up to \$500 non-managed or \$1,000 for member system managed chargers
DC Fast Charger	50% up to \$3,000 for 50-75kW peak output or \$5,000 for 763-149kW & \$7,500 for 150kW+.
Commercial Lighting (all commercial fixtures must be DLC listed)	
Pole Mounted LED Lighting	25% of total LED head cost. Project cap of \$20,000.
Commercial Lighting New / Retrofit	Contact HEA for details. One project per member account per year. Project cap of \$20,000.