

# HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

*The Beacon*

AUGUST 2024



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Holyoke, CO 80734-0057



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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.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

# KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER



DENNIS HERMAN

**R**unning a rural electric distribution system like Highline Electric Association requires facing various forms of adversity including storms, equipment failures, financial impacts of inflation, and supply chain constraints. But there are simple ways HEA tackles these issues to keep the lights on for our members.

You can count on us to:

**Be ready for anything.** We prepare for emergencies by maintaining our equipment and having plans in place. This way, when something goes wrong, we can fix it quickly and keep the power flowing.

**Team up.** We work with other utilities to help each other during tough times. By lending a hand and sharing resources, we can overcome obstacles together. Highline doesn't just provide help via line workers, we partner with other co-ops and public power districts for things including communication, policies, training, procedures, practices, and information technology.

**Stay flexible.** The electric industry is always changing and we are ready to adapt. Whether it's new rules/regulations or new technology, we're always looking for ways to improve.

**Take care of each other.** We make sure our employee team is supported and healthy, so we can do our best work. That means offering up-to-date equipment that functions when needed; training and equipment to enhance safety; and providing access to counseling and wellness programs to help employees cope with stress.

**Plan ahead.** It takes a team to put together an ongoing and perpetual plan that considers future needs, industry challenges, resource coordination, employee training, and equipment maintenance.

**Remember why we're here.** We're not just here to keep the lights on; we're here to serve our members. By staying focused on our mission and working together, we can overcome any challenge that comes our way.

**Use our strengths.** Everyone on our team brings something special to the table. By working together and using our skills, we can solve problems and keep moving forward.

For example, in our departments:

- Safety is our priority.
- Operations coordinates and maintains the system.
- Purchasing monitors inventory, making sure crews have the materials they need.
- Engineering provides design and support for our transmission and distribution facilities.
- Member Services ensures adequate communication keeps our members informed of company activities.
- Information Technology keeps the network, computers, and interfaces running smoothly.
- Finance keeps the wheels in motion for absolutely everything listed above.

Most of our members might assume our challenges lie in storm restoration work, but that's only a small part of adversity. Managing finances efficiently during adverse situations

## YOUR CO-OP NEWS

is crucial for controlling rates. This involves strategic budgeting, prioritizing investments, and seeking cost-saving measures to maintain financial stability and minimize the impact on co-op members.

Supply chain delays impact construction schedules and member satisfaction. Mitigating such challenges requires proactive communication, diversifying suppliers, and optimizing and planning inventory management to minimize disruptions and maintain operational continuity. At no time do we consider inferior replacement

products, as that significantly impacts safety and reliability.

I've only mentioned a few of the obvious things that impact our business, our system, our budget, and our employees.

By being prepared, working together, staying flexible, taking care of each other, staying focused on our mission, and using our strengths, we can — and have — overcome any challenge and continue to provide reliable electricity to our members.

## Meet Rich Rochlitz

Rich Rochlitz joined Highline Electric Association on June 10 as the apprentice lineman at the Ovid office.

Rich was born and raised in Julesburg where he now lives with his wife Lindsay and their new baby Ryland. His parents are Ryan and Donna Rochlitz.

Rich is dedicated to being the best husband and father he can be and is excited to work for Highline Electric.

Welcome to Highline, Rich!



## KEEP HEA EMPLOYEES SAFE

Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk. Please consider the following:



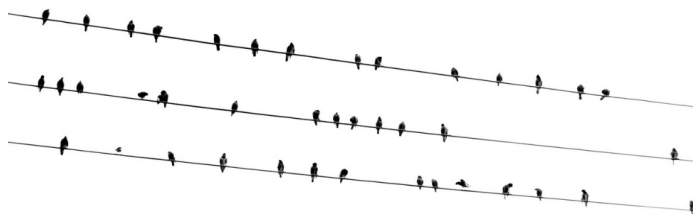
- If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.
- Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.
- If you call Highline during an outage, please notify us if the field was sprayed.

The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please do not subject our employees to these dangers.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Jim Jackson who celebrates an employment anniversary with Highline Electric Association this month. Jim has been with the co-op for five years.

## Never touch a powerline!



Dove season opens Sept. 1!

We know those doves sitting on the lines are tempting...but for your safety, please avoid contact with and do not shoot at or in the direction of any of Highline's equipment.



# Understanding Demand Billing

## What is demand?

Demand is the amount of power needed to supply every electrical device running in your home or business at a specific point in time. It is the maximum rate at which your household or business has consumed electricity.

Demand on residential bills is measured and recorded at the 60-minute interval of your highest rate of power consumption during the billing month. Commercial and larger demand accounts are measured at 15-minute intervals. Your high demand value resets at the beginning of the next month's billing cycle.

## Why is HEA changing bills to show demand?

Highline Electric Association breaks demand from the energy usage line item to be fair and equitable to all HEA members.

HEA's wholesale rates are based on total co-op demand. Some members create more demand by using more appliances at the same time and as a result, create a higher demand for electricity.

Many utilities are moving toward providing their customers with a three-part bill that shows a demand charge, an energy usage charge, and a service charge.

In the past, it was easier and cheaper to simply bill metered kilowatt-hour usage. But with automated metering infrastructure available to capture demand, it makes sense to unbundle demand and make sure everyone pays their fair share, removing past subsidies among rate payers.

## I can't help what my demand is. Why am I being billed for demand?

The member demand has always been bundled with the energy and service charges, but now we are able to measure demand and bill separately. Unbundled charges for demand more fairly distributes the costs of providing service to all members.

Equipment to meet members' electrical demand must be on standby and ready to meet any increased need for electricity immediately. This may ultimately include installing additional transformers, wires, substations and even additional power plants.

## How can I find what my demand is?

Members can see demand on their bill. Members can also call HEA's billing department to get that information.

## How can I reduce demand?

All households that use electricity create a certain level of demand. For some families, it will be a matter of deciding when to use appliances to help manage and reduce demand. For other families, saving time will be more important than reducing demand.

The easiest way to reduce demand while meeting household energy consumption requirements is to spread usage throughout the day and night, perhaps using appliance timers, such as setting

your dishwasher on a delayed start.

Members can review household or business processes and determine if it's possible to perform high energy consuming tasks at different times of the day. Perhaps some appliances or equipment can be used in the morning and other appliances or equipment in the afternoon or evening to balance and reduce demand, with the goal of ultimately reducing peak demand.

With a little planning, demand billing provides you more control over your electric bill with the ability to manage when you use power, not just how much you use.

For comprehensive information on how to save energy and to reduce demand visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

## How do net metered accounts show demand?

Net metered accounts bill normally, showing the demand charge as a separate line item, as with all other co-op members.

## What appliances affect my demand?

Everything with a plug — from hair dryers to freezers — affects demand. For general information on appliances, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) to find a comprehensive list of appliances and information about their efficiency. If you're shopping for appliances, we recommend looking for the Energy Star label, as it will be among the most efficient.

## How much do lights affect my demand?

Lighting represents less than 15% of the average household electric bill, and it's possible to lower that by using LEDs and, of course, turning off lights when not needed.

To illustrate demand, one 100-watt light bulb running for 10 hours uses 1 kWh of electricity. Ten 100W light bulbs running for one hour use the same 1 kWh of electricity but require 10 times the generating resources — demand — to produce the same amount of electricity. Light bulbs are a simplified example, but when talking about large appliances in a home such as heating and cooling systems, electric ovens and clothes dryers, we can see how running all of these appliances at once requires significantly more resources than staggering their usage over various times.

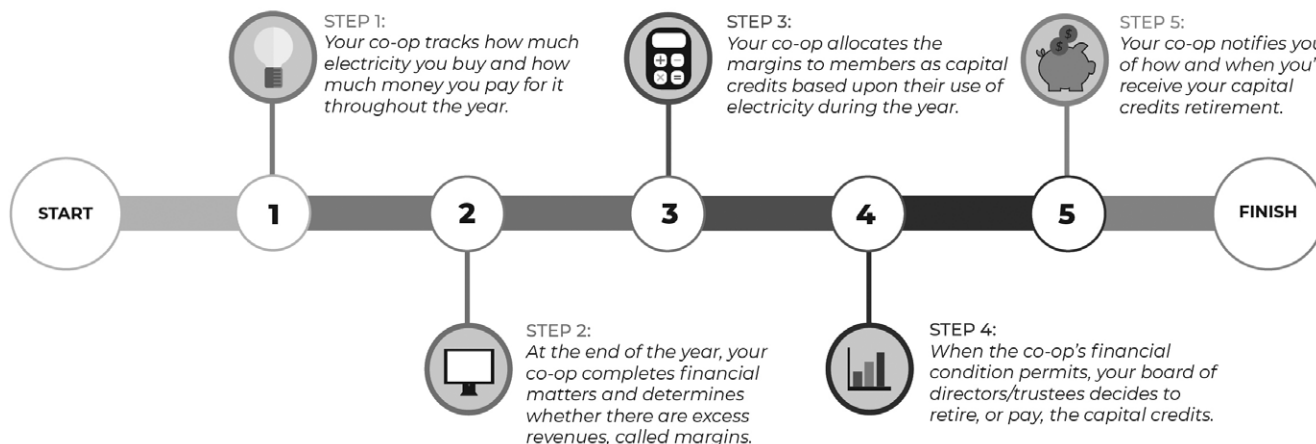


**If you signed up to receive text alerts from Highline Electric, please be aware that we are sending text message alerts from a new number effective immediately.**

**If you have any questions about a text message you receive about your Highline account, please call the office at 970-854-2236.**

## HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



## DO YOU SEE YOUR NAME BELOW?

Below is a list of names of Highline Electric Association members who have unclaimed capital credits from the electric cooperative.

HEA publishes the unclaimed capital credit list every year to notify HEA members that the co-op issued them a capital credit

check and that check has not been cashed.

Look for your name in the printed list below. If you're a current or former HEA member and find your name, email [capitalcredits@hea.coop](mailto:capitalcredits@hea.coop) or call 970-854-2236. Names will continue in next month's *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

- |                               |                              |                             |                          |                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ABBOTT, PAM                   | ANKENEY, CAROLINE            | BASS, DAN                   | BODEN, LAVERN F          | BROWN, PHILIP D            |
| ABERNATHY, BRETT              | ARENA, CROOK RECREATIONAL    | BASS, PAUL                  | BOEHM, PAUL              | BROWN, SUSAN J             |
| ABTS, DANI                    | ARMSTRONG, GRACE             | BASSETT, FRANCES            | BOEKHOUT, TED            | BROWN, TOBY R              |
| ABTS, MARY J                  | ARMSTRONG, SCOTT             | BATTY, PAUL J               | BOHLENDER, DANETTA       | BROWN, VICKI               |
| ACHEN, NORA JEAN              | ARNOLD, CHARLES & KRISTI     | BAUCKE, EDWIN L             | BOLIN, RODNEY & TIFFANY  | BRUNKHARDT, MARK D         |
| ADAMS, VIRGINIA               | ARVISO, ARMANDO              | BAUDER, BRIAN               | BOND, DENNIS L           | BRUNKHORST, SANDRA         |
| ADLER, JAKE                   | ARVIZO, JERESSEL             | BAUER, KENNETH L            | BONNE, SHIRLEY           | BRUNS, GEORGE              |
| ADMIN, FARMERS HOME           | ATKINS, KATHY                | BAUER, M SCOTT              | BOPPRE, SUSAN            | BRUNS, MARVIN              |
| ADYE, JULIE A                 | ATTCO                        | BAYSIDE MARINA              | BORNMAN, JOHNNY          | BRYAN, ROBIN J             |
| AGRI-FEEDERS, SOUTH PLATTE    | ATWOOD, LARRY                | BEAMER, KEITH               | BOSCHEN, MARY L          | BRYANT, TRESSIE            |
| AGUILAR, HILARIO              | AUSTILL, CAROL               | BEAUCHAMP, MATTHEW          | BOSTRON, JOHN            | BUCHANAN, DONNA            |
| AGUIRRE, LETICIA              | AWS                          | BECKER, GIB D               | BOSTRON, PHIL A          | BUCHANAN, ED & SHEILA      |
| AHLGREN, HARRY & JOAN         | BABCOCK & BROWN ENERGY       | BECKER, LINDA M             | BOURNE, MARCUS           | BUCHANAN, JOSEPH R         |
| AHNSTEDT, GERALDINE MAE       | BADE, STEVE R                | BEEDE, CRAIG                | BOWER, DAVID             | BUDD, JAMES S              |
| ALBER, ELNORA L               | BAILEY, DEBORAH              | BEELER, JAMES R             | BOYER, DAVID             | BUEHLER, DENNIS            |
| ALBERS, JAMES M               | BAILEY, STEVE                | BEEMER, JERRY R             | BRACHTENBACH, ZANE       | BUFFALO HILLS SIGN         |
| ALBERTSON, HARRY L            | BAK, DORIS JEAN              | BEGIN, DARLENE M            | BRACKEN, HOPE            | BUFFALO HILLS SIGN INC     |
| ALBRANDT, THOMMI              | BAKER, CHASE                 | BEISNER, ANDREA             | BRADLEY, DEBRA           | BUILDERS, COPPERSTONE      |
| ALBRECHT, EDWARD              | BAKER, JOE P & BARBARA L     | BEJARANO, EMMANUEL          | BRADLEY, MARK            | BULLOCK, JASON             |
| ALCORN, SAM L                 | BAKER, MARK                  | BELL, DAVID V               | BRADLEY, TINA            | BUNNER, JERRY              |
| ALLEN FARM, NORMA JEAN POTTER | BAKER, TRACY                 | BELL, DWANE OR MARY         | BRAKHAGE, KRISTA M       | BURGESS, DUWAYNE G         |
| ALLEN, ANN DAXTON             | BALL, SARA                   | BELL, LOIS M                | BRANDT, AGATHA           | BURKE, JIM & BAILEY        |
| ALLEN, DANITA                 | BALL, SHANA                  | BELLENDIR, ANTHONY          | BRANDT, JOHN F           | BURMESTER, TAMIE R         |
| ALLEN, DENNIS                 | BALLARD, STEPHANIE           | BEMUS, MELISSANNE           | BRANT, MICHAEL           | BURNAM, LONNIE             |
| ALLEN, EDGAR D                | BANE, DAISY                  | BENNETT, TRAVIS             | BRAUER, DOUGLAS R        | BURNS, DELMAR L            |
| ALLEN, JEFF                   | BANE, DAVID                  | BENSON, CURTIS              | BRAWLEY, SHAWN           | BURTARD, ROB               |
| ALLENBORG, DUANE              | BANK, CENTURY                | BENSON, PAULINE L           | BRAZ, BILL               | BURTON, DAVID              |
| ALVAREZ, JOE M                | BANK, FIRSTTIER SAVINGS      | BERG, RICHARD J             | BREDEHOFT, DEBORA        | BURTON, KAREN              |
| AMADOR, ARDIE                 | BAPTISTA, STEVEN             | BERG, TED                   | BRENDA K VAN WYE SIEVERS | BUSHEFF, LILA MAE          |
| AMEN, DAVID & JACOB           | BARAY, LUIS                  | BERGES, TONY LEE            | BRETZ, ROBERT & DIANA    | BUSIG, INEZ                |
| AMESBURY, DANIEL              | BARBER, PAM                  | BERRY PETROLEUM             | BRIDGERS, ELIZABETH      | BUSS, RAYMOND J            |
| ANASTASSIA                    | BARBMOORE, DUANE K           | BERRY, WAYNE L              | BRIGGS, MICHELLE L       | BUTLER, H M                |
| ANCONA, TERRY                 | BARE, SKYE L                 | BEST, PHILIP N              | BRILEY, ROSE             | BYAM, KENIS D              |
| ANDAVAZO, MANUEL              | BARGER, CHRIS                | BEUTLER, T SCOTT            | BRINER, MILFORD C        | BYERLY, THOMAS K           |
| ANDERSEN, BYRON R             | BARKLEY ESTATE, ERIC W       | BIERMAN, JAMES F            | BRISBY, TAMMIE           | C F GREEN PACKING PLANT    |
| ANDERSEN, DEBBIE              | BARKLEY, FRANCES             | BILGER, KEVIN               | BROCK, WILLIAM P         | C QUARTER CIRCLE RANCH INC |
| ANDERSEN, KARYN L             | BARNARD, ROBIN E             | BILLINGER, TONYA            | BROCKBANK, BRIAN         | CAHOW, ROBERT E            |
| ANDERSON ESTATE, JENNIFER     | BARNES, MELINDA              | BINGHAM, JOHN BRUM & BETTY  | BROOK, JIM               | CAIN, RAY D                |
| ANDERSON, BILL                | BARNETT, DAN                 | BIRCH EXPL LTD LIABILITY CO | BROOME, ELIZABETH        | CALFRAC WELL SERVICE       |
| ANDERSON, DAVID L             | BARRETT, ART                 | BIRGE, STEVE                | BROTHERS, MONTEITH       | CALLAHAN, CONRAD & STACEY  |
| ANDERSON, DON                 | BARRETTE, HOPE               | BIRKBECK, JERED & LAURA     | BROTHERS, SCHNEIDER      | CALVERT, MAX A             |
| ANDERSON, JACKIE              | BARROWS, DANIEL              | BJL HOLDINGS LLC            | BROUGHTON, RHONDA S      | CAMPANY, MARK              |
| ANDERSON, MONTY               | BARTELS, A E                 | BLAKE, CASEY                | BROUGHTON, ROLAND E      | CAMPBELL, COURT & SANDRA   |
| ANDERSON, PAUL                | BARTON, DARREN R             | BLANKENSHIP, ROBERTA        | BROWN, BERNARD K         | CAMPBELL, MARCIA           |
| ANDERSON, RANDALL G           | BASEGGIO, VINCENT & LAWRENCE | BLEDSE, HENRY A             | BROWN, FRANK C           | CAMPFIELD, TAMARA S        |
| ANDRES, MIKE                  | BASHAM, KATHERINE            | BLUE BIRD MOBIL HOMES INC   | BROWN, JOYCE M           | CARMAN, JAMES D            |

*This list will continue next month.*