

## Special invitation to LYREC members

### All-expense-paid conferences

Each year, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative sponsors members and/or a member couple to attend the Today's Members Program in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn. This program is held in conjunction with the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA) annual meeting.

The Today's Members Program is an educational opportunity for members to learn about the history, operations and some of the issues that affect cooperative members along with the future of electric cooperatives. If you choose to attend, it requires a three-day commitment.

Lower Yellowstone Electric will pay for the conference fees, hotel room, meals and mileage to the meeting.

This program is an important piece of what electric cooperatives are about – educating their members. If you are interested in learning more about cooperatives and are able to attend during this time, complete the registration form provided below this article.

This year, registration begins at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, and the meeting will conclude mid-morning Sept. 29. If you are interested in attending, please complete the form below or call Jami. ■

### ENTRY FORM FOR TODAY'S MEMBERS PROGRAM

(Participants must be members of Lower Yellowstone Electric to be eligible.)

Member's name (as it appears on your bill)

Mailing address

City

ZIP

Telephone number

Please mail form to: LYREC, P.O. Box 1047, Sidney MT 59270



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# The differences between overhead and underground power lines

BY TOM TATE

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home – overhead and underground. Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative’s members sometimes ask why the cooperative uses one versus the other, or even why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn’t one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to augur out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment – like transformers, fuses and reclosers – are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench is filled, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, and the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Lower Yellowstone Electric provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach – overhead or underground. ■

OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND  
**POWER LINES**  
THE PROS AND CONS

## OVERHEAD

**PROS**

- Lower cost
- Quicker construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

**CONS**

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

Photo: Astar Pelkon

## UNDERGROUND

**PROS**

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

**CONS**

- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins



# SmartHub allows online payments

**S**martHub is Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative's (LYREC) official online payment service. You can access SmartHub through the cooperative's website at [www.lyrec.com](http://www.lyrec.com) or through the SmartHub mobile app, available for Apple and Android devices. You can either make a one-time payment or sign up for recurring payments. There are no additional fees to use this service. Payments made through SmartHub are secure and are reflected on your account immediately.

## Pay Now

Pay Now is another online payment option. You must access Pay Now through the cooperative's website via computer. The only information you will need when using Pay Now is the account number and the last name on the account. Pay Now is quick and easy to access.

## IVR system

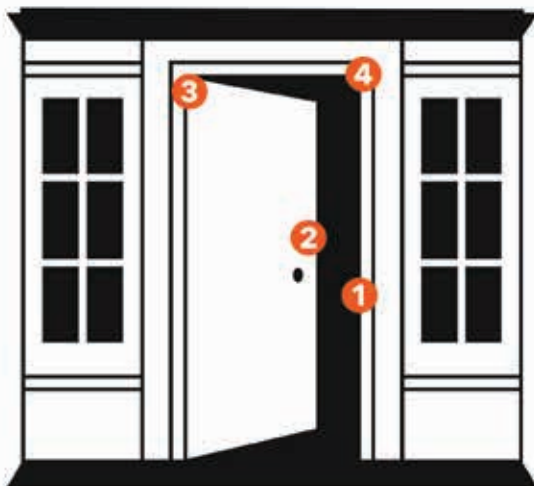
The IVR system allows members to inquire and make payments on their electric account 24 hours a day, seven days a week via phone. A one-time payment can be made by credit/debit card, or electronic check. Members may also set up recurring credit card payments through the IVR system. To make a payment, have your account number ready. Another way you may be able to look up your account is with your phone number. However, if LYREC does not have the correct phone number on file, you will have to use your account number. Dial 844-209-7159 to make a payment.

Lower Yellowstone Electric is excited to offer this software to our membership. It will allow our members to get current and valuable account information at their fingertips. LYREC can no longer take payment information over the phone. If you have questions, please call our office. ■

## WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Capturing Energy Savings by Sealing Air Leaks

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any amount of light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal, or a combination of materials may also be used.



**1 CLEANING SURFACES** - Clean the door and door jamb to be weather stripped. For best results, weather stripping should be applied to clean, dry surfaces above 20°F.



**2 MEASURING DOOR & DOOR JAMBS** - To ensure greater accuracy, measure your space twice before cutting the material. It is best to plan for one continuous strip for each side of the door and door jamb.



**3 CUTTING FOAM** - Cut long pieces of self-adhesive weather stripping material (foam, vinyl, etc.) for each side of the door jamb and door.



**4 APPLYING WEATHER STRIPPING** - Peel back the self-adhesive foam. Apply one continuous strip of material snugly along each side. Make sure the weather stripping meets tightly at the corners and is pressed firmly onto the door and door jamb. The material should compress tightly between the door and door jamb, without making it difficult to shut.

SOURCE: Department of Energy

## Capital credit retirement checks

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) needs help locating these past members so we can get them their capital credit retirement check. If you know how we can reach any of these past members, please call us at 406-488-1602 or 844-441-5627.

Black Pine Group LLC	Sidney, Mont.	Karst, Joann & Rusty	Fairview, Mont.
Booth, Clay	Lambert, Mont.	Kummer, Dean	Williston, N.D.
Cardenas, Mary E.	Sidney, Mont.	Lou's Auto Repair	Fairview, Mont.
Christensen, Rod	Lewistown, Mont.	Lueck, Lyle	Williston, N.D.
Conlon, Michael A. & Toni	Butte, Mont.	McCarthy, Richard & Jana	Grand View, Idaho
Cooper, Travis	Fairview, Mont.	McFarland, Robert	Fairview, Mont.
Demery, Francine	Dunseith, N.D.	Matthews, Scott	Williston, N.D.
Deming, Mark	Fairview, Mont.	Mavity, Cody	Fairview, Mont.
Dempsey, Ashley	Sidney, Mont.	Nelson, Chad	Sidney, Mont.
Diede, Alyce	Bloomfield, N.M.	Nenow, Patricia	Alexander, N.D.
Fasching, Scott	Wahpeton, N.D.	Paragon Water Solutions Inc.	Bottineau, N.D.
Galleske, Willis	Sidney, Mont.	Partin, Quint	Castle Rock, Colo.
Garbel, Lee M.	Mandan, N.D.	Poirrier, James	Williston, N.D.
Gentry, Gary Jr.	Sidney, Mont.	Prospective Inv. & Trading Co.	Tulsa, Okla
Grazier, Peter	Holstein, Iowa	Rains, Joyce	Sherman, Texas
Green Mountain LLC	Lambert, Mont.	Roeber, Mike	Redfield, S.D.
Hunter, Milo	Williston, N.D.	Schmitt, Tina	Helena, Mont.
Jensen, Gens & Patricia	Sidney, Mont.	Schmitz, Fred	Sidney, Mont.
Johnsrud, Cheryl	Williston, N.D.	Sharbono, Michael	Fairview, Mont.
Johnston, Cody	Fairview, Mont.	Slater, Jody	Bismarck, N.D.

Stebbins, Chris  
Steier, Bert  
Tasker, Wendell  
Tharp, Ronald D.  
Theis, Jannette  
Thomas, April  
Toavs, Darin  
Vondall, Bobby  
White, Clint

Fairview, Mont.  
Superior, Wis.  
Watford City, N.D.  
Imperial, Calif.  
Sidney, Mont.  
Sidney, Mont.  
Williston, N.D.  
Williston, N.D.  
Billings, Mont.



3200 W. Holly - Sidney, MT 59270  
**Phone: 406-488-1602**  
**Fax: 406-488-6524**  
**Website: www.lyrec.com**

**TRUSTEES**

Allen Thiessen ..... President  
 Greg Rauschendorfer ..... Vice President  
 John Redman ..... Secretary/Treasurer  
 Colin Gartner ..... Trustee  
 Dennis Schmierer ..... Trustee  
 Dennis Nelson ..... Trustee  
 Jim Vitt ..... Trustee

**EMPLOYEES**


Jason Brothen ..... General Manager  
 Brenda Bond ..... Chief Financial Officer  
 Jami Propp ..... Member Service Manager  
 Kyle Kavanagh ..... IT Coordinator  
 Cassie Parker ..... Staff Assistant  
 Margo Zadow ..... Billing Coordinator  
 Pam Wilcoxon ..... Plant Accountant  
 Tiffani Hentges ..... Customer Service Representative  
 Chris Hillesland ..... Chief Operations Officer  
 Rich Gorde ..... Foreman  
 Eric McPherson ..... Foreman  
 Kevin Goff ..... Operations Assistant  
 Kelly Keysor ..... Operations Manager  
 Lee Alvstad ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Richard Tremblay ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Aaron Eide ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Bryan Franck ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Jesse Obergfell ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Blade Jankovsky ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Dan Gieser ..... Meter Technician  
 Ryder Peterson ..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Tanner Roth ..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Mike Eberling ..... Mechanic  
 Bo Kindopp ..... GIS/Easement Technician  
 Corey Candee ..... Chief Information Officer  
 Edwin Gatzke ..... Line Locator/Meter Reader  
 Justin King ..... Material/Warehouse Supervisor

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## HIDDEN NUMBERS

If you find your meter number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$25 credit on your next statement. The meter number will appear within the four Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative pages. Give us a call during the month your meter is listed, and claim your \$25 bill credit.





## Operating report

Year to date:	May 2015	May 2016
Total miles energized	2,142	2,073
Total number of meters	6,088	6,116
Kilowatt-hours sold	116,421,905	118,016,006
Revenue	\$10,962,785	\$10,869,410
Total expenses	\$8,718,786	\$8,481,972
Operating margins	\$2,787,869	\$3,069,048