

Fire near Brockton damages power lines

The last part of April brought unseasonably warm weather reaching into the mid-80s. The warm temperatures, severe drought conditions and high winds made a fire near Brockton, Mont., on April 30 difficult to contain.

The fire, which originally sparked on the north side of the Missouri River, quickly spread south into Richland County due to the 30-mile-an-hour wind gusts.

Shortly after 3 p.m., the Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) line crew working near the Springlake Substation noticed a large cloud of smoke south of Brockton. As the line crew was updating the operations department on the fire damage to LYREC's system, a 55-foot transmission pole snapped and fell directly in front of them. Due to safety concerns, Kelly Keysor, LYREC's operations manager, called the crew that was at the scene, along with all available lineworkers, to the shop to begin loading material for the following morning.

The next morning, LYREC and Powerline Pro crews assembled, then headed to the damaged line. When the crews arrived, a majority of the poles were still burning. The operations department called emergency locates so the crews could start digging, while the crews placed material over a 4-mile stretch. Once everything was located, Powerline Pro began the rebuild on the 1.5 miles of distribution line and LYREC crews worked on the 2.5 miles of transmission line. Our neighboring co-op, McCone Electric, also joined with five lineworkers, additional bucket trucks and a digger.

The damage reached over 4 miles of line and included 51 total pole replacements and six reframes. Originally, the crews planned for a two-day rebuild, but the crews had started to energize meters by 4:30 p.m. By 8 p.m., all meters had been energized, except for one oil well.

LYREC would like to thank McCone Electric Cooperative and Powerline Pro for assisting in the rebuild. Without the help of our neighboring co-op and Powerline Pro, we would not have been able to rebuild the line as quickly. One of the seven cooperative principles is "cooperation among cooperatives." This is just one of the many benefits of being part of a cooperative and is portrayed by helping our neighboring cooperatives when in need. ■



New employee joins staff



Preston Long

Preston Long attended line school at Bismarck State College and graduated in May. He began his employment with Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative shortly following graduation as a lineworker.

Long is originally from Hysham, Mont. During the last couple years in high school, Long worked at Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative (MYEC) in Hysham through a school program and as summer help. Long was unsure of the career path he wanted to take, but he was interested in working in the electric field or as a welder.

“MYEC gave me the opportunity to get my feet wet and helped me decide what path I wanted to take,” he said. ■

Use caution when burning



Each spring, farmers and homeowners across Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) service territory “spring clean” by burning weeds, old vegetation, prairies and ditches. Although for the last 77 years, Smokey Bear has taught us that fires are bad, they are also an essential tool in land management. Properly controlled burning can have many benefits; however, if these burns are not managed safely, they can cause property damage, power outages, injury and even death.

Take special note of power poles and lines. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. In some cases, the pole can look like it has little damage on the outside, all the while burning from the inside out.

How to prevent burn-related damage to power poles:

- Plan your burn before you begin.
- Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed, as well as humidity (as a general rule, relative humidity should be 40 percent or higher, the temperature should be less than 60 degrees and the wind should be 5-15 miles an hour at 6 feet off the ground).
- If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least 4 feet around the base of the pole.
- Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.

If a power pole catches on fire, call the fire department, and alert your utility right away. Once the fire breaks out, NEVER spray water near the pole, power lines or any other utility equipment. Electricity and water do not mix, and you could cause a short circuit that could cause serious injury or death. ■



Suds and Savings

Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.

10 ways to save energy in the laundry room

BY ABBY BERRY

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances, and let's face it, laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends the following tips for saving on suds:

1. Wash with cold water. Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half, and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.
2. Wash full loads when possible. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.
3. Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle in the washer. This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.
4. Dry heavier cottons separately. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.
5. Make use of the "cool down" cycle. If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.
6. Use lower heat settings to dry clothing. Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.
7. Use dryer balls. Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying, and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.
8. Switch loads while the dryer is warm. This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.
9. Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle. If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.
10. Purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers. When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.

To learn about additional ways you can save energy at home, visit www.energy.gov/energysaver. ■



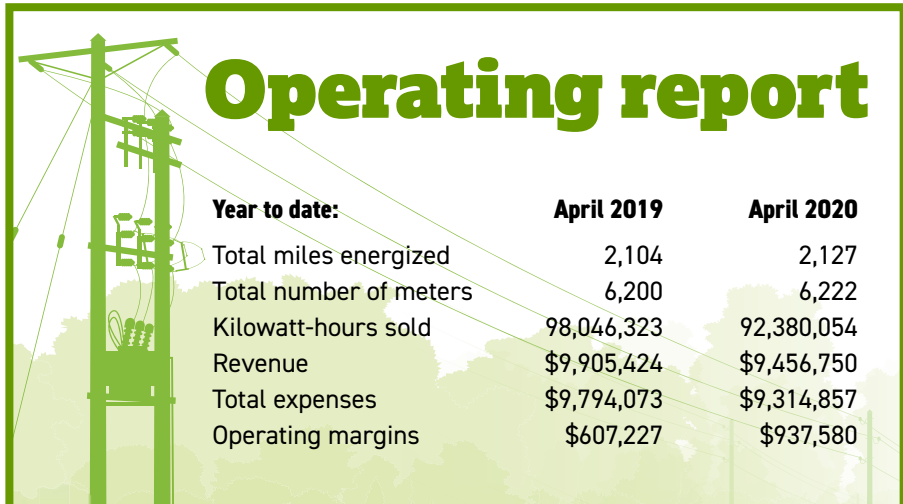
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THINGS TO DO:

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- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

Operating report

Year to date:	April 2019	April 2020
Total miles energized	2,104	2,127
Total number of meters	6,200	6,222
Kilowatt-hours sold	98,046,323	92,380,054
Revenue	\$9,905,424	\$9,456,750
Total expenses	\$9,794,073	\$9,314,857
Operating margins	\$607,227	\$937,580

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- John Redman Secretary/Treasurer
- Colin Gartner Trustee
- Dennis Schmierer Trustee
- Dennis Nelson Trustee
- Jim Vitt Trustee

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- Brenda Bond Chief Financial Officer
- Jami Propp Member Service Manager
- Kyle Kavanagh IT Coordinator
- Margo Zadow Billing Coordinator
- Pam Wilcoxon Plant Accountant
- Tiffani Hentges Customer Service Representative
- Melissa Buckley Customer Service Representative
- Chris Hillesland Chief Operations Officer
- Rich Gorde Journeyman Lineman
- Eric McPherson System Controller
- Kevin Goff Operations Assistant
- Kelly Keysor Operations Manager
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- Justin King Warehouse Supervisor

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