

# VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Youth Tour Memories

By Bailee Field, Townsend

My trip to D.C. was one of the most memorable and unforgettable trips of my life. I had such a wonderful time touring our nation's capital and learning more about our country. We were able to see so much in a very short amount of time! One of my favorite days was when we were able to tour the monuments. The structures themselves are quite impressive — they are huge! I have always enjoyed art and architecture so studying them was very interesting to me. The Lincoln Memorial was my favorite because of the view, the historic quotes on the walls and the statue of Lincoln himself. We toured the Martin Luther King Jr. and Franklin D. Roosevelt memorials that night, which was a treat — they were even more beautiful all lit up!

We met with Senators Jon Tester and John Walsh, as well as Congressman Steve Daines, and had a short opportunity for discussion and questions. Representative Daines kindly arranged an afterhours tour of the Capitol Building for us when he realized that we had missed ours — he personally escorted us through the private underground passages from his office building to the Capitol, which was pretty cool. The rotunda was gorgeous — and enormous.

One of my other favorite experiences was our National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Day meeting. Most every state

was represented and I had a great time mingling and meeting many of the other representatives. The speakers and presenters were

very inspirational and educational, particularly the gold medalist paralympian, who encouraged us to never give up on our goals and dreams. The dance in the Hyatt ballroom that night was a blast, and made it a great way to spend my birthday!

Another highlight of the trip for me was seeing *The Lion King* at the Kennedy Center because I'd never been to a stage production of that quality. All of the costumes were amazing, and the singing and dancing was delightful to watch and listen to. I had never seen a musical of this caliber before and it took my breath away — I barely noticed it was more than three hours long! Being musical myself, I was blown away by the talent (and stamina) of the actors and actresses. *The Lion King* is one of my favorite stories, and they did a wonderful job with it. It was a great way to spend our last night in D.C., for sure.

All of the things we did on the trip were pretty amazing and unforgettable — touring Mount Vernon, going to the zoo, touring all the monuments, going to the National Mall of Museums, going to Arlington National Cemetery — it broadened my horizons substantially. I can't thank Vigilante Electric Cooperative enough for sponsoring my trip. I was so honored to be chosen as a delegate to represent Montana, and I had so much fun every single moment of this trip. Thank you!



Bailee Field with Representative Daines.  
 Photo courtesy of Bailee Field



The Lincoln Memorial.  
 Photo by Bailee Field

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# Distributive Generation and Net Metering

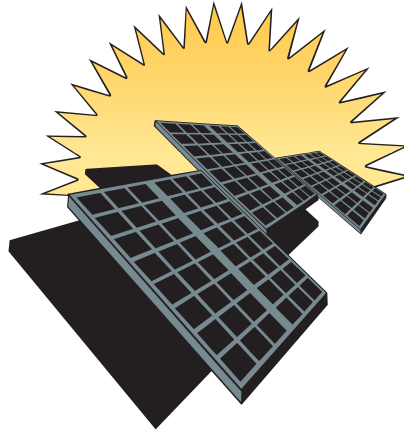
## Narrowing Our Focus

By Rod Siring

In last month's edition of this publication I wrote about distributive generation (DG) and Vigilante Electric Cooperative's net metering program. When looking back over our communication on this topic, there is one thing I haven't addressed. That is how net metering is addressed in our rate structure.

It is important to understand our goal with rates is to ensure that each rate class pays for its share of building and maintaining our electrical system. These are our fixed costs. Based on our 2013 cost-of-service study, the fixed costs for a residential service is about \$540 annually. Services with patronage under this amount are having their accounts subsidized.

We feel that no services should be subsidized by others. To be equitable, we maintain two schedules for residential accounts. Most residential services start in the "A" rate, but if the annual patronage falls too low it is switched to the "B" rate, which has a higher base charge and a higher kilowatt-hour



charge.

Currently all net-metered accounts are in the residential "A" rate. While it has not happened yet, it is conceivable that a net-metered facility could offset enough usage to drop patronage to the point where we will have to reclassify the service to the "B" rate.

What does the future hold for DG? With economies of scale and technological advancements — coupled with improvements in home efficiency — it is realistic to assume net-metered facili-

ties will offset a majority, if not zero out, the kilowatt hour usage on their bill.

Here lies a major issue. Neither of our residential rates fully capture our fixed costs in the base charge. While we support this type of installation, we must remain true to the goals of our rate structure design, where we are at least capturing our fixed costs. Again, no service should be subsidized by others.

Our board of trustees and general manager are being very proactive on this issue. As progress is made, we will use these pages to update the status of our net-metering program. If you have questions or you would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to call.

## Pay by Phone

*Security and Convenience*

The ability to pay your bill by phone, wherever you are, is a convenient way to stay on top of payments each month. Recently, Vigilante Electric Cooperative partnered with our billing system vendor to roll out Vigilante Electric's Pay by Phone system.

With Vigilante Electric's Pay by Phone System, you can pay your bill, check your balance and update your account information over the phone, 24 hours a day. It's convenient to accommodate anyone's schedule.

When considering this system, the convenience to our members was one of the key attributes but not the most important. The driver for us moving to this system is security. Our new Pay by Phone system is a secure, Payment Card Industry (PCI) compliant service. Every business that accepts payment via credit and debit cards must adhere to PCI compliance rules to

ensure the safety and security of account information. Our new Pay by Phone system is the most cost-effective way to do this.

Some of you are already using our Pay by Phone system. To access it, you simply dial 1-855-385-9904. The voice commands will lead you through the process, but you will need your account number or a phone number on file to access your account. If you have problems using this system, our staff is here to help during this transition.

We are excited to be able to offer this additional service to our members. We feel it is a great complement to our other convenient payment options, such as electronic fund transfer (EFT) and E-BILL, which can be accessed through our website. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (800) 221-8271 or 683-2327.

## Prescription Discount Tracker

Total Paid Claims YTD .....	288
Total Savings YTD .....	\$9,269.32
Total Savings Percentage ..	39.54%
June/July Paid Claims.....	30
June/July Savings .....	\$1,350.59
May Savings Percentage ..	45.22%



## Reminder!!

For those of you that are using your Co-op Connections Card for Healthy Savings discounts, we would like to remind you that this is *not* insurance, and is not intended to take the place of insurance. The benefits through Healthy Savings are negotiated discounts with participating providers. For information regarding providers, consult the Co-op Connections website or call the Healthy Savings number provided on the back of your card.

# Energy Efficiency — Proper Insulation

One of the simplest ways to reduce your home's heating and cooling costs — and improve comfort — involves installing proper insulation. Doing so provides resistance to heat flow. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs.

Heat flows naturally from a warmer space to a cooler one. In the winter, heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It also can travel indirectly through interior ceilings, walls and floors — wherever there is a difference in temperature.

During the summer cooling season, the reverse takes place. Heat flows from the outdoors to the interior of a house.

To maintain comfort, heat lost in the winter must be replaced by your heating



system. In the summer, heat gained must be removed by your cooling system. Proper insulation, decreases heat flow.

Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness.

When calculating the R-value of multilayered installation, add R-values of individual layers. Installing more insulation in your home increases the R-value.

Insulation effectiveness also depends on how and where it's installed. For example, insulation that gets compressed will not provide its full rated R-value. The overall R-value of a wall or ceiling will be somewhat different from the R-value of the insulation because some heat flows around the insulation through studs and joists. Therefore, it's important to properly install your insulation to achieve the maximum R-value.

For more information, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov>.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

## Capital Credit Refunds

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is currently trying to locate the following individuals for payment of Capital Credits. If you have any information regarding names on this list please contact us.

*Vigilante Electric Coop., Inc. · PO Box 1049 · Dillon MT 59725 · MT Toll Free 800-221-8271 or 683-2327*

### CAPITAL CREDITS Continued from last month

LOWRY, ROCKY/BECKY HELENA, MT	MCKINNEY, MIKE PALM DESSERT, CA	MILLS, SHIRLEY MELROSE, MT	MURPHY, BILL/TAMMY COLUMBUS, MT
LUCE, ALTA JACKSON, MT	MCLAUGHLIN, CINDY DILLON, MT	MINNEHAN, TIM/CINDY DILLON, MT	NASH, BRIAN/KIMBERLY LAKE HAVASU CITY, AZ
LUDWICK, PATTY DILLON, MT	MCMORRIS, JEFF J/HEATHER DILLON, MT	MITCHELL, MICHAEL L/LISA TARZANA, CA	NELSON, HOWARD BOZEMAN, MT
LYON, ROBERT/SHANNON VICTOR, MT	MEHAGAN, NETHA WHITEHALL, MT	MOCABY, DAVIS/JOYCE GARDINER, MT	NELSON, JOSEPH/CHERI BUTTE, MT
MALONEY, WILLIAM L VERO BEACH, FL	MEHN, MIKE/TERI SAINT GEORGE, UT	MOORE, DAVID S MISSOULA, MT	NEWMAN, JOE M/DEBI OROFINO, ID
MARION, ROSE A BOZEMAN, MT	MEIER, DANIEL/BONNIE WHITEHALL, MT	MORALES, JUSTEENA LIVINGSTON, MT	NICHOLLS, MICHAEL J/SHERRY JUNEAU, AK
MASOLO, KYLE/PAM TOWNSEND, MT	MELVIN, LARRY/VICKIE LIMA, MT	MORGAN, JIMMY/TERESA BUTTE, MT	NIELSON, NEILA RODEO, CA
MATLOSZ, VICKY LIVINGSTON, MT	MELVIN, LARRY/VICKIE LIMA, MT	MORROW, KAREN M PITTSBURG, CA	NIMMICK, ROBERT T/HEIDI THREE FORKS, MT
MATLOSZ, VICKY LIVINGSTON, MT	METZ, RODNEY CUSTER, SD	MOSCA, MICHAEL NORWICH, CT	NORRIS, VIOLA DILLON, MT
MCBRIDE, E K/LADORA BIG SKY, MT	MEYER, DANIEL/WENDY BUTTE, MT	MUELLER, PHILLIP/DEBRA CARLSBAD, NM	NUNES, LARRY B/CANDACE BUTTE, MT
MCCORD, JUANITA E LEAD, SD	MICHLIG, TONY/LIBBY SPOKANE, WA	MUNCY, DALE HELENA, MT	OATMAN, JAY/ WHEELER, CINDY BELGRADE, MT
MCDUNN, ADAM BOZEMAN, MT	MILLER, GERALDINE IDAHO FALLS, MT	MUNGER, BEN/LAURA DILLON, MT	

*CAPITAL CREDITS  
Continued on page 6*

*CAPITAL CREDITS  
Continued from page 5*

O'DELL, GARY  
ENNIS, MT

O'HERN, DOUG  
TOWNSEND, MT

OLIVERSON KURTIS/JENNIFER  
BOZEMAN, MT

ONDOV, RACHEL  
TOWNSEND, MT

OVERCAST, DIRK  
DIVIDE, MT

PALLAS, BOB/PATRICIA  
WHITEHALL, MT

PAUL, KENNETH/DEBBIE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MT

PEARCE BUILDERS,  
c/o TIM PEARCE  
JACKSON, MT

PECK, WILLIAM F/LAUREE  
JUDITH GAP, MT

PELTIER, GILBERT  
OPPORTUNITY, MT

PERRY, TRAVIS T/TAMMIE  
DILLON, MT

PETERSEN, PAUL H  
TWIN BRIDGES, MT

PETERSON, RON/MARGE  
SHELTON, WA

PIEPER, DEAN/GEORGENE  
TROY, MT

PIERCE, GARY/SUZANNA  
LIBBY, MT

PIERCE, VINCE/JENNIFER  
DILLON, MT

PIERCY, MARK  
BUTTE, MT

PIOMBINO, WILLIAM E  
CHESTER, NH

RABEY, BECKY  
HELENA, MT

REED, DONNA  
EUREKA, CA

REEDER, BRENDA  
BOZEMAN, MT

RICHARDSON, CHARLENE  
RONAN, MT

RILEY, PAT/JEANETTE  
HELENA, MT

ROBERTS, COLLEEN  
STEVENSVILLE, MT

ROBERTS, KIM  
DILLON, MT

ROWLAND, SCOTT L  
HELENA, MT

RUKES, JACK N/NORMA  
HELENA, MT

SACAJAWEA MOTEL  
c/o ROBERT/SHERRY GLASS  
DILLON, MT

SACRY, SANDY  
WHITEHALL, MT

SAGER, ROBERT  
WHITEHALL, MT

SAMSON, BOB/MARY  
LITTLETON, CO

SANDAU, CHARLES D/  
CAROLINE  
BILLINGS, MT

SANDERS, SARAH J  
SNOWVILLE, UT

SCHETZSLE, TONY J  
DEER LODGE, MT

SCHMIDT, SHANE/SHANNON  
REDDING, CA

SCHNEIDER, DAVID C  
NAMPA, ID

SCHNEIDER, RICH/TERRI  
BILLINGS, MT

SCHOLZ, BEN  
BUTTE, MT

SCHUMACER, MICHAEL/  
DAGMAR  
BUTTE, MT

SCHWARTZ, ALBERT  
LIMA, MT

SHAWVER, CRAIG  
ANACONDA, MT

SHERMAN, DAN M/SANDRA  
HELENA, MT

SHERMAN, TONY/STACEY  
SUN RIVER, MT

SHORE, TROY/LYN  
JACKSON, WY

SIEGLER, LISA  
TOWNSEND, MT

SILVER, JOAN M  
BUTTE, MT

SIMONSEN, JULIA  
DILLON, MT

SIMPSON, STEVE/KELLY  
WHITEHALL, MT

SLOAN, DAVID E/KELLY  
PINEDA, WY

SMELSER, KRIS R/STACEY  
HARDIN, MT

SMITH, DAN R/SHERRI  
BISMARCH, ND

SMITH, ERNEST J  
WHITEHALL, MT

SOLAN, JOE/REBECCA  
CLARKSTON, WA

SPARKS, HAROLD H  
EMIGRANT, MT

SPORTSMENS MOTEL  
c/o DAYLE SAULSBURY  
MISSOULA, MT

STALLINGS, SHAWNA  
KALISPELL, MT

STEELE, GLADE B/ROSEMARIE  
SPANISH FORK, UT

STEVENSON, JOHN/MARGARET  
BUTTE, MT

STILLER, PATTI  
CLANCY, MT

STINEFORD, LARRY/SUE  
BUTTE, MT

STOLTENBERG, ALICE/CURTIS  
KATY, TX

STOTTS, WAYNE/NADINE  
CLARK FORK, ID

STUBBLEFIELD, MRS M  
CLANCY, MT

SULLIVAN, WILLIAM/KATHY  
HOLMES, NY

SUTTON, CLEO/SHERRY  
BILLINGS, MT

SWIMMER, FORD  
RONAN, MT

SWOPE, ROY E/ALICE  
MILES CITY, MT

SYVRUD, AMY L  
CLANCY, MT

TALLMADGE, CINDY  
COEUR D ALENE, ID

THOMAS, MELISSA  
WHITEHALL, MT

THOMPSON, REX/JUDY  
HELENA, MT

THORNTON, NICK  
DILLON, MT

TIBBS, ROBERT D/DIANNA  
BERRY CREEK, CA

TIEDMAN, SUSANNE  
TOWNSEND, MT

TILLMAN, JACK/RITA  
WHITEHALL, MT

TOTH, STEPHEN  
DILLON, MT

TRAUB, TRAVIS/MARIANNE  
WHITEHALL, MT

TREAT, EUGENE H/ROSALYN  
MANHATTAN, MT

TURNER, JOYCE  
ANNIATON, AL

ULERY, ALAN  
CARMEN, ID

UNDERWOOD, DARRELL D/  
SHANNA  
MACON, GA

VAN HOEK, JEANNE  
ROCKER, MT

VANT, SHAWN  
GREAT FALLS, MT

VENANCIO, BRIAN/DIANE  
STAMFORD, CT

VERNIA, RAY/SUSAN  
LIVINGSTON, MT

WALKUP, KATHY/  
LOLLEY, DAVID  
BROADBENT, OR

WALTERS, JIM  
WISE RIVER, MT

WALTERS, MARY  
BOISE, ID

WATSON, RAY/PEGGY  
TOWNSEND, MT

WEHRI, MAX  
NEW LEIPZIG, ND

WEIXEL, RAYMOND  
JAMESTOWN, ND

WELTZ, REX/ROXIE  
HAMILTON, MT

WESTERN TELE-COMMCTN  
EDGEWOOD, CO

WHITAKER, GEORGE A/KATHY  
ROXBORO, NC

WHITE, MICHAEL/DORIS  
GULF SHORES, AL

WHITELEY, JODY  
BUTTE, MT

WILLIAMS, ANGELA  
BOZEMAN, MT

WITTEMAN, KENNETH  
ROUNDUP, MT

WOIRHAYE, ROBIN R  
HELENA, MT

WOODLAND, WALTER  
WHITEHALL, MT

WOODS, RON  
NORTH PALM BEACH, FL

WORSTER, SCOTT/AMY  
DILLON, MT

WOTEN, JERRY/JACQUELINE  
PORT CHARLOTTE, FL

ZIMMERMAN, GAYLAND  
CHINOOK, MT