

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

September 21, 2017

Fergus Electric to provide electric service to mine

We were pleased to learn of the recent agreement between NorthWestern Energy (NWE) and Fergus Electric Cooperative allowing Fergus Electric to provide electric service to the proposed copper mine north of White Sulphur Springs. Agreement on the proposed Tintina Resources-Black Butte Copper Project was approved by the state Public Service Commission. Fergus Electric Manager **Scott Sweeney** said NWE will provide a tap on its existing transmission line and will provide transmission service to the new tap. Fergus Electric will build a new transmission line from the tap to the new copper mine, Mr. Sweeney reported. Tintina Resources plans to begin mining in 2021.

Classes set on substations

MECA will host two Substation Classes. The first class will be held in Sidney, Oct 16-17. The class will run from 1 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 16, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Oct. 17. The second class will be held in Missoula on Oct. 19-20. The class will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 19 and from 8 a.m. to noon on Oct. 20.

A full course description was sent out Aug. 31 to line superintendents and/or operations foremen. **Dennis Tester** will provide training. Mr. Tester has been a lineman for 34 years and is employed by Lower Valley Energy in Afton, Wyo. The cost of the course is \$300 for MECA S/LC clients, and \$350 for non-MECA S/LC clients. The registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 29.

For more information, please contact **Lea Potoczny** of our office. She can be reached via email or phone. Her email address is meca@mtco-ops.com. The phone number is (406) 761-8333.

Job Market

Journeyman Lineman

Vigilante Electric Cooperative (VEC), headquartered in Dillon, Mont., has an immediate opening for a journeyman lineman. Excellent pay and benefits are provided in this position. VEC may accept applications from a fourth step and above "hot" apprentice lineman. This position requires residing within a 20-minute response time of the co-op's Dillon headquarters office. Please contact **Justin Bair**, line superintendent, at (406) 683-2327 or Justin@vec.coop, for further details/requirements related to the position and an application package. This position will remain open until filled. VEC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CALENDAR

September

23	Beartooth Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Absarokee, MT
29	Legislature's Energy & Telecommunications Interim Committee Meeting	Helena, MT

October

2	943.1 Conversation Skills Outside the Boardroom BLC Course	Great Falls, MT
2-5	MECA Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
3	METSPool Board & Executive Committee Meetings	Great Falls, MT
14	Sheridan Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
16-17	Substation Class	Sidney, MT
16-18	NRECA Region 7 & 9 Meetings	Denver, CO
18	NorVal Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Opheim, MT
19-20	Substation Class	Missoula, MT
27	Park Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT

November

8	Basin Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Bismarck, ND
28-29	MECA Winter Meeting	

December

12-14	Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting	Denver, CO
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