

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

November 9, 2016

Co-op manager cites green energy purchases

General Manager **Tim Stephens** touted his co-op's renewable energy purchases in his report to the membership at the co-op's 2016 annual meeting held Oct. 28 in Livingston.

Mr. Stephens said the co-op buys about 73 percent nameplate capacity renewables. This renewable energy comes in the form of hydropower from Western Area Power Administration and mostly wind energy from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, said Mr. Stephens.

He also talked about the co-op's recent installation of a 4.6 kW solar array at the co-op's headquarters east of Livingston. He said the system, which provides approximately enough electricity to power an average home for about 2 ½ months, was built to answer member questions about solar energy. Members can track the system's power production by going online to the Park Electric website.

In other news at the annual meeting, the co-op's strong financial condition was underscored. Equity currently stands at 83 percent. To the applause of the membership, Mr. Stephens said the co-op is not planning a rate increase in 2017.

In trustee elections, incumbents **Mike Warren** and **Perry Anderson** were re-elected without opposition.

Job Market

Marketing/Public Relations Manager

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, based in Ashton, Idaho, is seeking an energetic, organized, and creative marketing/public relations manager. The co-op's service area includes portions of Montana.

The person in this position will utilize a multimedia approach and creatively market products and services for both electric and propane operations. This person will continue building the Fall River brand as a safe, reliable, low-cost energy provider, committed to the communities and members the co-op serves. Key responsibilities are: sales – develop and implement sales and marketing plan; marketing – create marketing materials and promote product sales; public relations – focus on community, brand recognition, and the co-op image; and, internal/external communications – newsletter, website and social media platforms.

Qualifications are as follows: Marketing and/or communications degree or at least two years related experience; sales and marketing experience in a highly competitive environment with demonstrated success in building a business brand; self-starter with the ability to think and plan strategically, must work well both collaboratively and independently; excellent writing and editing skills, with the ability to speak in public with clarity and confidence, and; valid state driver's license.

Fall River Rural Electric offers an outstanding career opportunity with competitive salary and paid time off, a friendly and positive work environment, and full health benefits and retirement plans. To view the basic job description and learn more about Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative visit www.fallriverelectric.com > Employment Opportunities under the QUICK LINKS heading. To apply; send resume and salary history by Nov. 25, 2016 to: Fall River Electric Cooperative; Attention: Human Resources, P.O. Box 736, Milville, UT 84326. Or, email to: melanienichols2@gmail.com

Journeyman Lineman

Big Horn County Electric Cooperative of Hardin has an opening for a journeyman lineman. Applicants must have or be able to obtain a Montana CDL, have completed a recognized four-year apprenticeship program; be proficient in operating digger derricks, bucket trucks, trenchers, underground locating and fault-finding equipment, be in physical condition to carry out the work associated with overhead and underground power lines, be willing to work in extreme conditions such as heat, cold, wind, rain, snow, at all hours and be on a rotating “on call” list, and have experience in rubber gloving, the operation of OCRs and regulators, underground and overhead distribution lines. Having a positive safety-minded attitude and being a “team player” is a must.

The successful applicant will be required to live within 15 minutes driving time of work, take a pre-employment physical and drug test, and be on a six-month probationary period.

Big Horn Electric is located in a farming/ranching community serving rural residents, including three-phase irrigation and pumping loads, an oilfield, and some small and large commercial loads in Big Horn County, Montana, and a small part of north central Wyoming.

The co-op offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits program. Send resumes to: **Monte Russell**, District Supervisor, Big Horn County Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 410, Hardin, MT 59034 or mrussell@bhcec.com. Ph: (406)665-2830. A company employment application with references will be required along with work history dating back five years. This position will be open until filled.

CALENDAR**November**

16	2016 NRECA Safety Leadership Summit	Fort Worth, TX
17	Legislative Issues Event	Malta, MT
18	Legislative Issues Event	Corvallis, MT
18	Legislative Issues Event	Dillon, MT
30	Legislative Issues Event	Kalispell, MT

December

1	Legislative Issues Event	Great Falls, MT
5	Legislative Issues Event	Missoula, MT
15	Legislative Issues Event	Sidney, MT
6-8	Midwest Electric Consumers Association	Denver, CO
13-14	MECA Winter Meetings & Holiday Banquet	Great Falls, MT

January

2	Start of 2017 Session of Montana Legislature	Helena, MT
9	Electric Co-op Day at Montana State Capitol Building	Helena, MT