



September 2011

FALL RIVER FLASHES

Providing safe, reliable and renewable power at the lowest possible cost to members.

Join us on Social Media

You can now learn more about saving energy, electrical safety, and all things Co-op by joining us on Facebook and Twitter. Simply go to our website, www.fallriverelectric.com, and click on the Facebook and Twitter icons at the top of the page. We'll keep you informed and you can let us know how we are serving you.



Want the News Without the Paper?

Sign up to get your monthly version of the Fall River Flashes in an e-mail. You don't have to download anything and you can learn more information just by clicking on the e-mail we send you. Interested? Sign up on our website, www.fallriverelectric.com.

Chester Turbines Named

The votes are in and the winning names for the Chester Hydropower Project's three new turbines are Snap, Crackle, Pop, submitted by Adam Williams, who won the \$200 prize!

Fill Your Tank for the Fall

Fall is just around the corner. Remember to fill your tank before the first cold day arrives. Call Fall River Propane at 208-652-7431 or visit them online at: www.fallriverpropane.com for more information.



www.fallriverelectric.com

Wholesale Power Costs Increase

by Bryan Case, General Manager



The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced that it will increase our wholesale power costs next month. For Fall River, this cost increase will be approximately 8.7 percent. In order to understand how BPA's decision affects Fall River's members, it helps to know where Fall River gets the power we sell to you.

BPA currently supplies 90 percent of the power we send to members. The other 10 percent comes from hydropower projects owned by your Cooperative. When the Chester Hydropower

Project is finished, the proportion of power generated at Fall River's projects will rise to 15 percent, but that still leaves us purchasing a vast majority of the power our members use from BPA. Fortunately, BPA's power is some of the least expensive in the entire nation.

You may recall that we ran an article this past January, letting you know that BPA planned to raise rates this fall. Earlier in the process, BPA expected to raise rates by as much as 20 percent, as well as increase transmission rates. Opposition from consumer-owned utilities like your Cooperative helped bring the rate increase down significantly, and eliminate the transmission rate increase altogether. We are fortunate to be facing a much lower increase, but wholesale power makes up about 40 percent of our budget.

At their next few meetings, your Cooperative's Board of Directors will discuss their recent Cost of Services Study and other financial projections in deciding how we will respond to BPA's rate increase. Though they will be looking to keep rates as low as possible, we expect that it will be necessary to pass some of this cost increase on to members to ensure Fall River can continue providing safe and reliable power.

Fortunately for all Fall River members, and I count myself among them, we can know that our Board of Directors is looking out for us. Not only do they pay the same rates as you and I, they are elected by us, their fellow members and neighbors.

Your Photos Say a Thousand Words

Share the unique beauty of Fall River's service territory with other members. Enter your original photo in the 2012 Calendar Photo Contest for a chance to have your photo featured in Fall River's next calendar and win a credit of \$100 for first prize.

Photos must be high resolution and taken within the Fall River service area. Electronic submissions are preferred. Contact Amy at 208-652-7431 or visit www.fallriverelectric.com for more information.



Board Welcomes New Member

The Fall River Board of Directors welcomed Debbie Smith to the board last month. Debbie Smith was appointed for District 4 (East Driggs) after Dick Smith resigned his position on the board in order to return to his career as a civil engineer. Debbie was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the District 4 seat for two years, the remainder of Dick Smith's term.



Debbie Smith has a background in customer service and public relations. She currently serves as a Deputy Assessor for the Teton County Assessor's Office.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

Ashton, Driggs &
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1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

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436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Skene District 1 Rexburg/Rigby	Sonja Cherry District 6 Ashton
Jay Hanson District 2 West Victor	Ron Dye District 7 South Island Park
Boyd Bowles District 3 East Victor	Ralph Burton District 8 North Island Park
Debbie Smith District 4 East Driggs	Doug Schmier District 9 West Yellowstone
Chris Ricks District 5 West Driggs/Tetonia	

Members Helping Members

Fall River Helping Hands relies on donations from members like you to provide emergency energy assistance to other members who have an immediate and urgent need. It is a fund of last resort.

You can donate to Fall River Helping Hands for as little as 50 cents a month when you have us round up your electric bill. Combined with the donations of others, your spare change can have a big impact. You can donate by having us round up your bill, by making a reoccurring monthly donation of any amount, or by making a one-time donation. Fall River Helping Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation may be tax-deductible.



To join Fall River Helping Hands, give us a call at 208-652-7431/800-632-5726 or sign up on our website: www.fallriverelectric.com.

Help with energy bills this winter

If you are struggling to pay for energy costs, you may qualify for energy assistance or weatherization assistance. Call your state contact for more information:

Idaho members: Idaho Energy Assistance & Weatherization Program: 208-522-5391/800-632-4813; 357 Constitution Way, Idaho Falls

Montana members: Montana Energy Assistance & Weatherization Program: 406-587-4486/800-332-2796. You can also contact Social Services in West Yellowstone at 406-646-7311 or stop by their office at: 200 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone

Wyoming members: Wyoming Energy Assistance & Weatherization Program: 307-875-1890/800-246-4221; 115 W. Snow King Ave., Jackson

You can also contact **Fall River Helping Hands** at 208-652-7431 to see if you might qualify for assistance through this member-funded program.

Teens Get More than Experience at Youth Rally

Teens who attended the Idaho Consumer-owned Utility Association learned about electric cooperatives, how policies are made, and leadership skills. They also came home with scholarships to help them in their future educational pursuits.

- Ky Trupp - \$200
- Austin Case - \$400
- Suzie Hill - \$400
- Marinda Grube - \$200
- Hailee Harrigfeld - \$200
- Gary Anderson - \$500
- Kholtyn Barney - \$200
- Elizabeth Kendell - \$200
- Hayden Beard - \$200

Suzie Hill was voted Miss Congeniality and Gary Anderson was voted Mr. Congeniality. Gary will also return to Youth Rally next year as a returning director.

