

FLASHES

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.

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EXTENDED OFFICE CLOSURE FOR THANKSGIVING

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Thursday AND Friday, November 22 and 23, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The extra day will allow our staff to spend a little more time with their families.

In case of an unexpected power outage during this holiday weekend, our crews will be on stand-by to respond as quickly and safely as possible. If you experience an outage on the weekend or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.

Members To Receive Cash Back In December



The distribution of more than \$1 million dollars in patronage capital funds to owner-members who were members of the Cooperative in 1997 and a portion of 1998 is set for next month. This is one of the most significant benefits of being a Fall River Electric owner-member. Patronage capital is a program that pays owner-members cash back over time. Whenever Fall River Electric collects more money than it needs for operating expenses, those extra revenues, which are called "margins," become patronage capital and are disbursed to the owner-members of the Co-

op on an approximate twenty-year cycle. Unlike for-profit utilities that pay profits to shareholders, Fall River Electric belongs to you and the communities it serves. Patronage capital is used to invest in the Cooperative's infrastructure.

The amount of patronage capital paid to you this year is based on how much electricity you used during the years mentioned above. The Cooperative's board retires or pays out patronage capital only when the financial condition of the Co-op allows.

You can learn more about patronage capital by clicking the QUICK LINK title Patronage Capital on Fall River Electric's website at www.fallriverelectric.com. Please carefully review the letter enclosed with your check. If you have further questions, please call a friendly Member Service representative during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, at 800.632.5726.

Financial Standing Greatly Improved

Linden Barney, Chief Financial Officer, Fall River Electric Cooperative

Fall River Electric's financial condition has been steadily improving over the past few years. While weather and economic conditions always impact the Cooperative, setting goals and developing plans to meet them have been key factors in Fall River's improved financial condition.

A significant indicator of a cooperative's health is its equity balance. There is no hard and fast rule on how much equity an organization should have. Equity equals flexibility, but too much equity could jeopardize a cooperative's nonprofit tax status. Too little equity, however, limits the ability to borrow funds. In 2008 Fall River's Board of Directors set a goal to increase Fall River's equity ratio (equity as a percentage of total assets) to at least 38 percent within a ten-year period. In 2010 Fall River Electric had an equity ratio of 26 percent. As of today, Fall River's equity is at 40 percent. This higher equity gives the Cooperative more options financially in the case of extreme storm damage and the ability to take on projects that benefit the cooperative and its members.

As part of the plan to improve equity, Fall River

has been able to lower its long-term debt by \$8 million—from a high of \$74 million in 2010 to \$66 million in 2017. The increased equity and lower debt have been achieved while still investing more than \$3 million per year in utility infrastructure, as well as paying out more than \$1 million per year in patronage capital to owner-members. Fall River continues to be in the upper one-third of all electrical cooperatives in the United States when it comes to the cumulative amount of patronage capital returned to members.

Fall River's board, management, and staff will continue to do what they can to manage costs in order to minimize the impact of any future rate increase to owner-members, while maintaining a safe and reliable power system.





Tim Jenkins - Fall River Electric Foreman

Employee Spotlight - Tim Jenkins

Fall River Electric foreman Tim Jenkins knows the importance of a good coach and positive mentor. He grew up playing sports and values the lasting life lessons he received that are still pertinent even today. Now at age 39, Tim is giving back by being an assistant coach for the North Fremont High School boys basketball team.

"I learned a lot of lessons about life from my coaches," Tim says. "Whether it was about work ethic, being prompt, or the importance of building relationships, I received so much from them and I am trying to give back and help these kids get that same experience."

Tim has worked for Fall River Electric for eleven years and says he enjoys the gratification of helping restore power.

"I love what I do and I love this place," Tim says. At the end of the day, it is rewarding to get people's power back on at night."

Originally from Malad, Idaho, he current-

ly lives in Island Park with his wife Roz and two step children, Kylie and Kasie. When he is not at work, Tim stays busy golfing, hunting, and fishing.

"I love the outdoors, that is why I live here. It is the most beautiful place any time of the year," he says.

A majority of his spare time, however, is spent coaching local sports. Tim has helped coach girls middle school basketball, assisted with the Upper Valley Youth Association, and helped with the annual basketball camp at North Fremont High School. This fall marks his first season as assistant coach for North Fremont. This year, the team is slated to be one of the best.

"We have a great bunch of kids," he says. "Their work ethic is above and beyond what you would even imagine. I am excited to see the kids grow and develop, and see the change that will come with these kids. I want to bring a winning attitude to North Fremont."

Need Help Paying Your Energy Bill?

Winter weather is approaching and with it comes higher energy bills. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has begun processing applications for 2018. Participants may now apply via regular mail, email, phone, or in-person.

To receive further information, call the number for the state you reside in:

IDAHO – 208.522.5391
MONTANA – 406.587.4486
WYOMING – 307.739.4500

Safely Decorate For The Holidays

It's almost time to deck the halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months. Keep the holidays safe with these lighting tips:

- Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets or wires can cause shock or start a fire.
- Purchase LED lights that use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.
- Make sure cords are not pinched in doors, windows, or under heavy furniture.
- Never mount light strings in a way that can damage the cords.
- Always unplug decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Turn OFF all indoor and outdoor decorations before you go to bed and before leaving your home.



Holiday Lighting Contest

The second annual Holiday Lighting Contest begins on Monday, November 19. Enter for your chance to win a \$250 energy credit by posting your entry on our Facebook social media page at www.facebook.com/FallRiverREC. Just snap a nighttime outdoor photo of your light display and post it. For those who do not use social media, you can email your photo to memberservices@fallriverelectric.com. Be sure to include your name and phone number so we can contact you when you win. A \$250 energy credit will be awarded for the best residential holiday display and another \$250 to the best commercial display. Winners will be selected on December 19. String up those lights, pump up the inflatables, and enter to win!



FALL RIVER
Rural Electric Cooperative
Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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District 1
Rexburg/Rigby



Jay Hanson
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor



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District 4
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Brent Robson
District 5
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District 6, Ashton
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Ron Dye
District 7
South Island Park



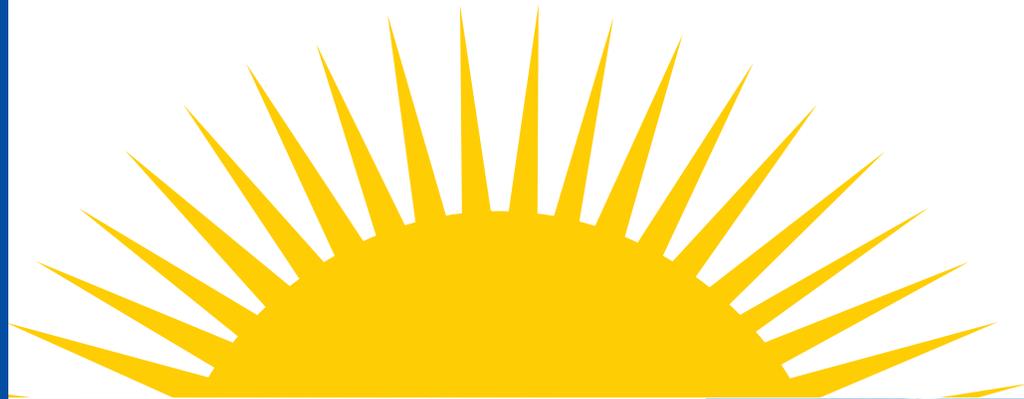
Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9
West Yellowstone
Board President



Bryan Case
Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



Ushering Fall River Electric Into The 21st Century

Fall River Electric headed into the 1980s with exciting changes on the horizon as the thriving company was met with significant growth to the region it serves.

Wholesale power prices had been so low in the 1970s that the Felt Power Plant had been taken off-line. By 1980, with prices increasing, the Felt facility was put back on-line and began producing power that summer. In 1984 Felt was leased to Bonneville Pacific Corp, generating additional income for the Cooperative.

At the start of the 1980s, wheels were already set in motion to begin building a hydropower plant at the Island Park Dam. In 1991 General Manager Dee Reynolds reported that the Federal Regulatory Commission had granted Fall River Electric Cooperative the license and extension of time to construct the Island Park Hydroelectric Project. The board unanimously approved the plans and construction began. The ribbon cutting was held on November 12, 1993, a monumental moment for the Co-op and its owner-members.

As the tremendous growth rate of the Cooperative continued, the board decided it was now time to build a new headquarters on land two miles southwest of Ashton. The old building was sold to the City of Ashton. The first regular meeting of the board

was held at the completed headquarters in June 1999.

Looking to the future

In August 2008, Dale Swensen presented a proposal for Fall River Electric to work together with the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District to build another hydroelectric project at the Chester Dam, adding to the Co-op's ability to generate its own power. After six years of hard work, the Chester Hydro facility started generating power in 2012.

Also, during the 80s and 90s a significant number of substation and major power line projects were completed. This added greater reliability to the system as well as brought more power to Fall River Electric to provide for the growing number of new residences and commercial businesses. These projects focused on Teton Valley, Island Park, and West Yellowstone areas.

As Fall River Electric welcomes the next decade of safely and economically providing reliable energy, the future is bright. Thanks to the many men and women who have made Fall River Electric what it is today, including the general managers: Calvin Wickham, '76 to '88; George Mangan from '88 to '90; Dee Reynolds from '90 to '09; and now Bryan Case who became general manager in 2009. Here's to eighty years and the next one hundred!



www.fallriverelectric.com



Board Member Behrens Earns National Certification

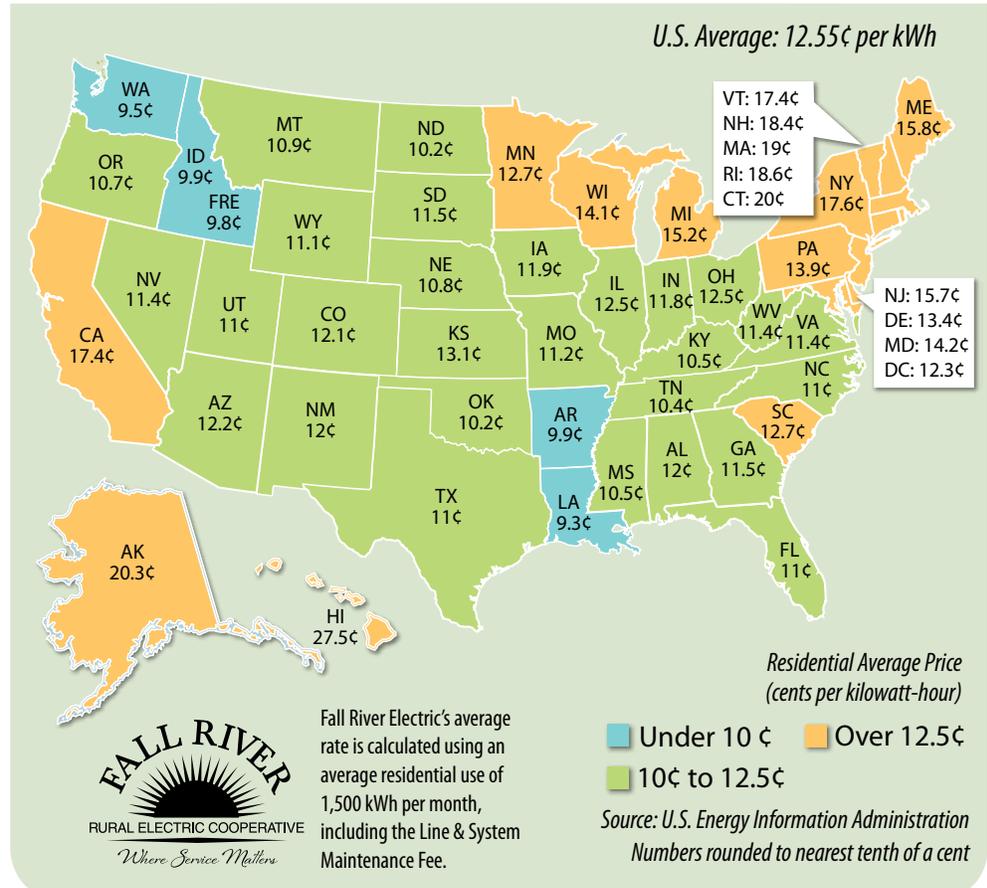
Fall River Electric board member Georg Behrens of Victor recently earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate (CCD) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric providers in the United States. This first part of NRECA's three-part Director Education Program, the Credentialed Cooperative Director program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Now that Behrens has completed his CCD, he can pursue the Board Leadership Certificate available through NRECA.

Behrens has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's in energy management and renewable energies. He was elected from District 3, which includes the Victor area east of Highway 33 and a portion of Driggs south of Ski Hill Road.

Fall River Rates Are Some Of The Lowest In The Nation

Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2016 figures, in cents per kWh



As you can see from the NRECA prepared map, Fall River Electric rates are some of the lowest in the nation. Our average residential rate of 9.8 cents per kilowatt-hour (\$0.098) includes the Co-op's Line & System Maintenance fee and is based on monthly use of 1,500 kWhs.



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Keep up-to-date on news, including power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [facebook.com/fallriverrec](https://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).