

January, 2011



PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association



Cimarron Solar energizes first 10 megawatts



The first of two major renewable energy projects, which will produce solar and wind power for purchase by Tri-State, reached a significant milestone on Oct. 13th, when Cimarron Solar Project's first module of 10 megawatts officially began commercial operation.

Designed and built by First Solar, Inc., and owned by Southern Company and Turner Renewable Energy, the Cimarron Solar Project is a 30-megawatt photovoltaic facility currently under construction in northeastern New Mexico.

The 250-acre plant site, located within the service territory of Tri-State member system Springer Electric cooperative is scheduled to be brought into commercial service in 10 megawatt blocks. "Right now, we're anticipating that the second 10 megawatts at Cimarron will begin commercial operation by the end of October and the final block of 10 megawatts will go into service by mid-November," said Scott

Fernau, Tri-State's senior transmission project manager.

The 51-megawatt Kit Carson Windpower Project is also nearing its startup phase. Tri-State's project field support, telecommunications, metering and SCADA personnel are working through the final phases of equipment testing at the Landsman Creek Substation, which will serve this eastern Colorado wind farm that is owned and operated by Duke Energy Generation Services.

"Once the work is finalized at the substation, we will be able to start backfeeding power to the Duke Energy wind site so that their construction crews can complete their testing and commissioning of their 34 turbines for a commercial startup by Dec. 1," said Fernau.

The Kit Carson Windpower Project is located on a 6,000 acre site approximately seven miles northwest of Burlington, Colo. It is within the service territory of Tri-State member K.C. Electric Association, based in Hugo, CO.

PREMA RETIRES \$367,950 IN CAPITAL CREDITS



The Board of Directors of Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association has approved the retirement of \$367,950 in patronage capital. This general retirement is for years 1991-1992. If you were a member in those years, you will receive a check in comparison to the total patronage.

Pictured left is PREMA Board President Dale Berndt presenting Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Romick with their patronage check.

To date, PREMA has returned \$6,500,090 in member's equity, showing stability and doing our part in keeping the cost of electricity as low as possible.

REMEMBER—Scholarship applications are due in the PREMA office by **5:00 P.M.** on **Friday, February 12, 2011.** The applications were printed in the PREMA newsletter insert that was included in the December edition of the Rural Electric Nebraskan. Please note that:

1. There is a spot on the application for activities, achievements or honors. If there is not enough room to write everything on the application, please attach a separate sheet of paper to contain the overflow.
2. There is a spot on the application for work experience and goals and aspirations.
3. There is a section of the application that needs to be filled out by a high school/college counselor or advisor, an instructor, or a work supervisor who knows you well. This takes the place of a letter of recommendation.
4. Make sure to attach a copy of your most recent academic transcript, AND a copy of your ACT or SAT Scores.
5. Attach the sheet with your answer to the essay question (question number 15) to the application.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Pat at PREMA and she will assist you.

800-507-0500

Familiar light bulb on its way out

By this time next year, the federal government will have turned the lights out on the familiar A-shaped incandescent bulb that's probably in most of your table lamps and overhead light fixtures.

Starting January 1, 2012, the traditional 100-watt and 150-watt A19 incandescent light bulb will not be made anymore. A year later, the familiar 75-watt incandescent also will be history; and, in 2014, Americans will wave good-bye to their beloved—albeit energy-inefficient—60- and 40-watt A-shaped incandescents.

The results: Most people will switch to more efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs or to a brand-new, high efficiency halogen bulb that manufacturers have introduced in response to the "light bulb law"



within the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

You might grumble about the considerably steeper price of the alternative bulbs—in the \$2-per-bulb range versus the 50-cent incandescent. But you could notice a difference in your electric bill once you make the switch, as CFLs last for around five years and use 75 percent less energy than tradi-

tional incandescents which burn out after about seven months of normal use.

A heads-up: Starting this July, light bulb packages will carry a Lighting Facts Label, which will explain how bright the bulb is, how long it will last and how much energy it will use. Instead of saying how many watts the bulb is, it will give its lumens—a measure of light output.

White walls can cut need for more lights

If you want to save energy in the kitchen, paint it white. An all-white kitchen—walls, cabinets, countertops and floors—requires only half of the lighting of a darker kitchen because light surfaces reflect light, while dark ones absorb it. Two other ways to save energy on lighting in your kitchen:

- * Choose highly polished countertops. They act like mirrors to reflect light. A shiny granite countertop, for example, will bounce under-cabinet lighting back up, making a little bit of light more potent.
- * Let the sun shine through kitchen windows by opening curtains during the day, by decorating with valances or café curtains instead of drapes that cover the whole window, or by removing the window treatments altogether if privacy isn't an issue. The more daylight you let into the room, the less need you'll have to flip on the light switch.

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News From Operations...

PREMA is proud to announce that Steve Ash has accepted the newly created position of AMI Coordinator. Steve has been with PREMA for more than 20 years, most recently serving as Hyannis Foreman.



Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a new project that PREMA is excited to bring to our customers. With this project, we will install new meters at all loca-

tions which will tie with equipment in the substations and to PREMA's computer system. This technology will measure and record electricity usage in intervals and provide usage data both to consumers and PREMA. Additional functionality of the AMI equipment may include pricing/event notification, pre-pay, remote upgrade



of firmware, remote changing of meter parameters, load forecasting, outage detection, mapping and restoration, asset management, power quality and line losses. Due to PREMA's large service area, we anticipate the completion of this project to be approximately three years.

We are also proud to announce that Burton Anthony has accepted the position of Hyannis Foreman. Burton has been with PREMA for more than 16 years, most recently serving as Journeyman Lineman at Hyannis.

PREMA customers in Box Butte, Sheridan and Garden Counties, along with City of Alliance electricity customers experienced a power outage on December 5th, during the early morning hours. The cause of this outage is unknown. Then again on December 6th, an outage approximately one hour in duration affected the same customers. It has been determined that equipment in the City of Alliance's substation on the north side of West Tenth Street caused the second outage. The equipment failure affected breakers on the transmission line feeding Alliance and part of PREMA's substations.

PREMA Operations, Management and Staff wish everyone a HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Serving Arthur, Box Butte, Cherry, Garden, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Morrill, Sheridan, Sioux and Dawes Counties Electrically

PREMA

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