



The DS&O HEADLINER

June 2010

The DS&O Electric Cooperative, Inc.
"Always looking out for you"

Notes From The Manager

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who took time from your busy schedules to join us at the annual meeting in April. This year's meeting featured the election of James Christopher as a new member to the Board of Directors from the Southwest District. The annual meeting not only provides the Board of Directors and staff with the opportunity to meet our members, but also to report on the concerns that face the cooperative and what can be expected in the future.

In the manager's report, I touched on the continuing reconstruction and repair projects as a result of the December, 2007 ice storm and also the increasing interest in wind and solar projects by cooperative members. I also reported on rate changes that will be considered later this year to improve the financial condition of the cooperative.

Since the 2007 ice storm, DS&O has been rebuilding and re-conductoring damaged line with the help of FEMA. Due to FEMA's financial assistance, DS&O will only need to fund 15% of the total cost of repairs which translates to approximately \$462,000 spent to date or a total of \$2,250,000 over the life of the project. The increasing costs to replace the aging distribution lines, as well as inflation, have an impact on everything from labor to the cost of new trucks. Utilities must also fund security systems, underground locate services, high speed communications systems and many other items of concern which did not exist even twenty years ago. All of these items impact rates and this impact is pressuring rates higher.

A new cost of service study is currently being completed to determine the amount that rates

should be adjusted and how the rate should be designed. Efforts of retail wheeling a number of years ago and the emphasis on customer

owned renewable energy, such as wind turbines along with government mandates regarding energy efficiency, will force much of the rate emphasis on the customer or availability charge. Increasing customer charges rather than energy charges enables utility's to promote energy efficiency without putting the cooperative in financial hardship. DS&O has slowly been moving in this direction for the past decade. Customer charges have increased from \$6.00 per month to \$15.00 per month over the past twelve years. The offset to the increase in the customer charge is that energy has not gone up as much as it otherwise would have, to the tune of over 1 cent per KWH. This trend is anticipated to continue with the new rate structures.

We will keep you informed about the size and timing of these rate changes here in the DS&O Headliner. We want you to know as much as possible about how your cooperative works. Please let me know if there are specific rates issues you would like for me to discuss in my column.

Have a great summer.



Don Hellwig
General Manager

DS & O Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Board of Directors

Doug Lindahl, President
Brian Lang, Vice President
Dean Allison, Secretary/Treasurer
William Chamberlin, Chapman
Harlow Haney, Carlton
John Peterson, Lindsborg
Lawrence Spohn, Marquette
Randy Cooper, Gypsum
Bruce Spare, Assaria
James Christopher, Falun

Staff

Donald Hellwig, General Manager
M. Wane Stull, Operations Manager
Randy Tritt, Line Supervisor
Judy Barten, Office Manager
Derrick Rutherford, Marketing &
Key Accounts Manager

In case of an outage call

1-800-376-3533

After hour calls will be answered
by dispatch and forwarded to
standby personnel.

After hours and on weekends call
1-800-376-3533

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Headquarters

129 W. Main • P.O. Box 286
Solomon, KS 67480

District Office

1292 Highway K-4 • P.O. Box 469
Lindsborg, KS 67456

See us on the Web at
www.dsоеlectric.com

Touchstone Energy

Here are a few Co-op Connection Card participants:



For more information visit



Don't Let the Air Out! Get Back to Efficiency Basics with Weatherization

Children running in and out of the house on a hot summer's day may hear a common warning: "Don't leave the door open—you'll let the air out!" But how many adults do the same thing without realizing it?

While you may not leave your front door open, air leaks in the attic and basement let valuable air in—and out—of your home.

Chad Robinson, a certified energy auditor, advises electric co-op members to look into weatherization before investing in other energy efficiency measures. "I certainly encourage the selection of energy-efficient appliances, but they don't provide the amount of savings that proper sealing of air leaks can. We're trained to look at the basics of building science—seal, insulate, and then look at the equipment. If a homeowner only has money for one area then nine times out of ten I recommend sealing."

For example, the U.S. Department of Energy's EnergyStar® program advises addressing air leaks and ductwork in your home before investing in a new heating and cooling system; sometimes, those are the real sources of problems rather than your equipment.

If air leaks are generally hidden, where do you start?

Most leaks occur in the basement and attic. Starting in your basement, look for gaps and cracks where your cement or block foundation meets the

frame of your home. Joists (building supports which are smaller than beams) between the floor and the foundation (called rim or band joists) create cavities, small empty spaces that are hard to insulate and may leak. Not all of the gaps are visible, so EnergyStar® suggests sealing the top and bottom of cavities around rim joists. Use caulk to seal cracks that are 1/4 inch or smaller; spray foam works best to fill gaps from 1/4 inch to about three inches.

It's also a good idea to seal gaps between the basement ceiling and the floor above, like holes for wiring and water pipes.

In the attic, there are many small areas where air may come in, but focus on large spaces. For example, if your home has dropped soffits—part of the ceiling that has been lowered for lighting design — be sure they've been properly sealed. These design elements, common in bathrooms and kitchens, are often built before your home's drywall is installed, leaving part of your wall open to air from wall or floor cavities.

Even though there may be insulation covering dropped soffits in your attic, be sure all cavities around the soffits have been properly plugged. To do this, place fiberglass insulation inside plastic garbage bags and stuff it tightly into any cavities.

Pay attention to dirty insulation; it's a big clue that air is moving through the area. Just like the basement, be sure to seal gaps between the attic ceiling and the rooms below, including holes for wiring, lighting, and the attic door.

There are many more ways to protect your home, including weather stripping doors and windows and sealing ducts. For step-by-step instructions



on how to weatherize your home and start saving energy dollars today, download Sealing Air Leaks and Adding Attic Insulation, a do-it-yourself guide to weatherization from ENERGY STAR. The guide is available at www.energystar.gov.

Load Management: A Way to Level Out Peak Electric Use

Your household and family members are consuming electricity at any given time. This is known as "load." We add up all of the electric consumption from our members at any given time to determine the total load for the whole system.

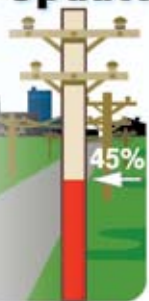
There comes a time, every day, when the system reaches its peak. That's when all of us, all at once, are using the most electricity. Of course, DS&O Electric must have enough power to meet these needs. It's also the time when it costs the most to provide that power. The way to help keep your electric rates stable is to reduce this peak. It's what we call "load management." There are some things you can do at home that can help.

Since the late afternoon to early evening is the peak time for us, you can help by using major appliances, such as the washer and dryer, in the morning or later on in the evening. When preparing dinner, remember that slow cookers and other small appliances consume less electricity. Using energy wisely helps to reduce the need to invest in new power sources.

You can help promote load management at home. If you have any questions about load management or if you need more information about how you can help, just give us a call at 1-800-376-3533.

FEMA Rebuild Update

As of April, we have completed 140 miles of FEMA rebuild work.



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Power off • The screensaver on your computer uses the same amount of power as when it's on and being used. Switch your PC off if you're going to be away for a while.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy





us at www.dsoelectric.com



Summer Storm Safety

DS&O Electric Cooperative encourages you to practice caution and safety during summer storms, which at times can be severe. Beware of flooded areas cause by heavy rains - water and electricity do not mix! Below is safety advice to use following a summer storm:

Flooded areas—Be careful when attempting to walk in flooded areas and remember that submerged outlets or electrical cords could energize the water.

Wet electrical equipment—Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines, and dryers. Electrical parts can pose a shock hazard or overheat and cause a fire.

A qualified service repair dealer should recondition electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require complete replacement, while a trained professional can recondition other devices.

Portable generators—Take special care with portable electric generators, which can provide a good source of power, but if improperly installed or operated, can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. A qualified, licensed electrician should install your generator to ensure that it meets local electrical codes. Other tips include:

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.

- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load, and are free of cuts, worn insulation, and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator.
- Do not operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

THERE'S ONLY ONE WATER HEATER AS FAITHFUL AS THE MARATHON.

Both of these water heaters run like clockwork... without a worry. And both are known for their longevity. One is located in Yellowstone National Park and the other is available through your nearby electric cooperative. Now you can have your own "Old Faithful" and get a lifetime of dependable hot water.

For the efficiency. For the durability. For the planet...Choose Marathon!

DSO
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1-800-376-3533

Marathon
WATER HEATERS

The New Old Faithful

NEW MEMBERS

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CHIP ALLEN
JAVIER GUTIERREZ
YOUREEN CALDWELL
HAROLD HUTCHENS
CHRISTOPHER STANISZEWSKI
RAYMOND RUNGE
CHANEL HAYWOOD
DOUGLAS LINDEN
PAMELA ADKINS
KELLY G POTTER
CHIQUITA POWELL
KATHERINE C SENA
JULIA MAYDEN-HOLMES
MARIE HOGAN
WYLIE HUTCHISON
MEGAN MCCOY
ROBERT D GREENE
JAN BUDIG
VICKI SCHMID
KEITH SPENKLE
MERLE NELSON
CHRISTOPHER SCOTT
CHRISTIE KNAPTON
KIMBERLY GOFF
MAURO A ORCESI
ANDREW BENEDICT
CHELSEY HARRIS
ANTHONY BROOKS
PRESTON PICKLE
KRISTINA SMITH
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JOYCE LYNE
KEVIN HEDGE
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JOHN B BOWMAN
JESSICA SIMMONS
CONNOR COOK
MELISSA D'ALANNO
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BRANDON LAMBERT
DAVID W HART
APRIL BULLOCK
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KATIE SCHUMACHER
MARTIN C LEWIS
JA WALKER
JEREMY DAVIS
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MARYANN PALMER
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DONALD BROWNING
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CHARLES RUDOLPHI
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RAYMOND LANG
ANTONIO SOLORIO
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CHARLES HALL

Co-op Connections Savings

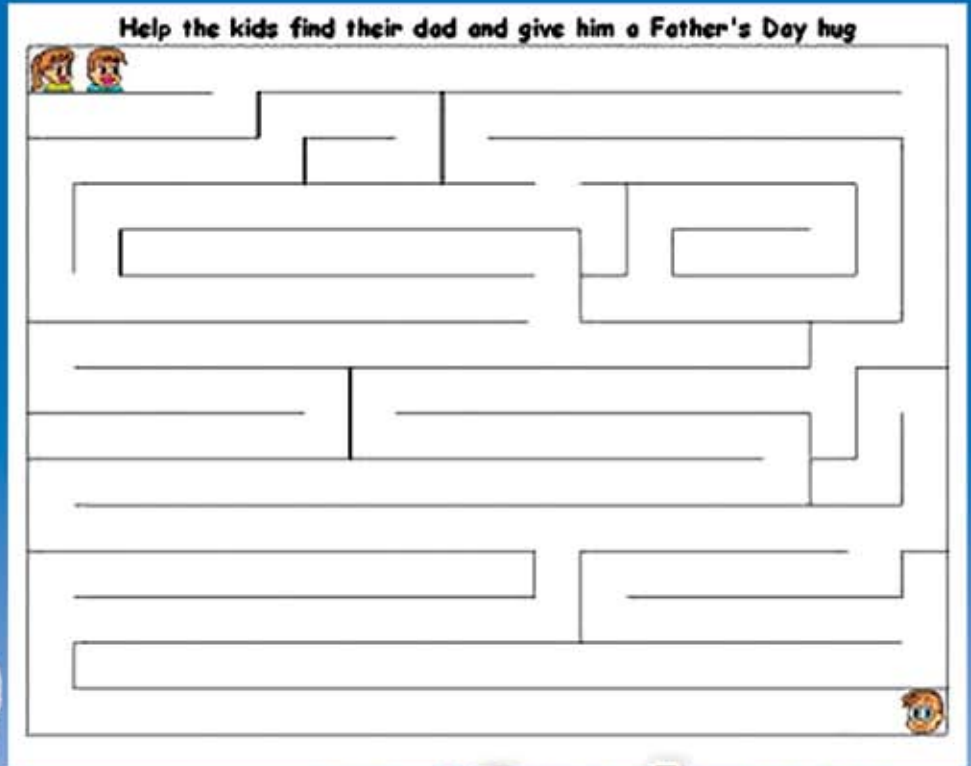
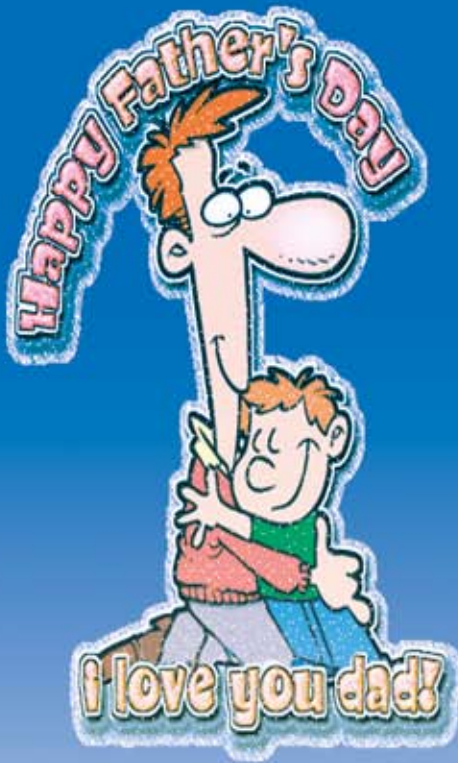


| Co-op Connections Card | Prescription Filled | Pharmacies Used | Saved by our Membership |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Year to Date Total | 956 | 190 | \$15,046.98 |
| Month of August | 72 | 14 | \$1,901.47 |

"Always looking out for you"

KIDS CORNER

FUN FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES!



Father's Day - June 20th • Flag Day - June 14th

A Dad is a person
who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
what you have on your mind.

He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends
A dad can be one
of your very best friends!

He's proud of your triumphs
but when things go wrong
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong.

Thank you, Dad. . .
for listening and caring
for giving and sharing
but, especially, for just being you!
Happy Father's Day

Watt is it?

Ampere, Amps: The measurement of the flow of an electric current through a conductor.

