

the quarterly newsletter from
your energy company

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Surviving a Winter Power Outage

- * Never try to heat a room with a gas range or oven. It can cause deadly build-up of carbon monoxide.
- * Do not try to operate a furnace that requires a blower while the power is off.
- * Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed to keep the cool air trapped during an outage.
- * In general, food in a full freezer will stay frozen for two days. If it's not full, group the packages together in a corner of the freezer. As long as the food still contains ice crystals, it can safely be refrozen once the power comes back on.

Patronage Capital Certificates CASH IN NOW!

Look for your Patronage Capital Certificate in the mail. Patronage Capital Certificates give our members the choice to either cash in their 2003 Patronage Capital now, or they can wait 15 years and let it grow to its full value. Lower Valley Energy is always looking for additional ways to help our members benefit from membership. Remember, as part of a member-owned cooperative, members earn money back as they use our services and get up-front low rates. It really does pay to own your own energy company! In mid-December, Lower Valley Energy will also be sending out the traditional Patronage Capital refund checks to members during 1989.



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EnergyEdge

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Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC) at Spring Creek Resort

Dr. Jim Little, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Lower Valley Energy (LVE) presided over the October 26th meeting between local energy providers and suppliers and the Wyoming Public Service Commission.



Steve Wright, the Administrator of Bonneville Power Administration.

Jim Webb, President/CEO of LVE, shared his company's concerns, starting off with discussion on developing an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) to find the best energy sources for LVE's future energy needs. Of looming concern is LVE's fixed rate period with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) that ends in October of 2006. Although energy costs have risen nationally in the last 10 years, LVE has had no electric rate increase. As a side note, attendee Ty Teeple from Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative in Victor and Driggs discussed their need to raise rates twice since 2001. Northwest Requirements Utilities' John Saven talked about LVE's current approximate 21% cost advantage over the average BPA energy subscriber, but warned that increases are inevitable and could equal up to a 35% step up in cost. LVE hopes to present the findings of the IRP on December 8th and 9th to the public.

In 1996, the Wyoming Public Service Commission awarded LVE the first certificate to provide natural gas to the area. Since then, demand at peak in the winter requires 5 truckloads of natural gas per day to enter Jackson alone. The natural gas pipeline project seeks to use existing corridors between Merna and Jackson to lay a pipeline and eliminate the projected 600+ truckloads per year in the near future.

Mission Statement

Lower Valley Energy is your local energy provider focused on:

- Exceptional Service
- Reliability
- Competitive Rates

Tips for an Efficient and Comfortable Home



Contact Lower Valley Energy to schedule an energy audit/analysis of your home to find areas of possible heat loss and inadequate insulation levels.



Have a qualified technician service your heating system before winter to ensure it will operate safely and efficiently.



Clean or replace filters on forced-air furnaces. Seal unused flues in fireplaces.



Install a programmable thermostat that automatically lowers room temperatures during the night. Close doors to unused rooms.



Install ceiling fans to circulate air and promote heat efficiency.



Install drapes or other coverings over windows to help prevent heat loss.

Also discussed at the meeting was the transmission project, a \$50 million substation and transmission line into LVE's southern infrastructure from the Soda Springs area. Besides enabling more secure energy with respect to reliability and load growth, the project is made possible by a 3-way partnership between PacifiCorp, BPA and LVE.



Steve Wright, the Administrator of Bonneville Power Administration, speaking to the Wyoming Public Service Commission and audience.

The Administrator of BPA, Steve Wright, spoke about the current state of BPA, especially in light of the energy crisis in the west several years ago. Besides managing costs and minimizing projected expenses, Wright said BPA will continue to "pay people not to buy energy" (also known as the Load Buyout Program), which is essentially passed along to LVE members through conservation programs. In addition, as part of its far-reaching vision, BPA believes that one of its core tenets, environmental responsibility, will impact the organization favorably while enabling users good energy choices.

At the conclusion of the session some attendees toured the natural gas pipeline proposed route and other LVE facilities.

Lineman School

LVE is currently in the research and planning phase of a trade school program known as ACE (A Career in Energy). ACE would be the area training school for the energy industry focused on exceptional educational opportunities, career development, safety, and commitment to excellence. The vision of the program is to continually seek the opportunity to teach, train, develop, and expand the educational opportunities of those seeking a rewarding career in the energy industry.



Brian Tanabe (left) and Gay Erickson providing help at the Wyoming Rural Electric Association annual meeting.

WREA Annual Meeting

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) held their annual meeting at Teton Village on September 28th through the 30th.

Tuesday, the 28th was the legislative committee assembly to help plan for

the 2005 legislative session. The following day was a general session and update on generation and transmission issues from the leaders of Tri-State, Basin Electric, Deseret Power and Western Area Power Administration.

LVE News & Views

LVE in the Community

Operation Round-Up



Lower Valley Energy is pleased to be an active partner in helping make our community a better place to live. LVE's Operation Round Up makes helping those in need easier than ever before. By allowing LVE to round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar amount each month, the few extra cents will be used to provide assistance with energy expenses for local families and individuals needing help.



The Operation Round Up program is administered by an independent Board of Directors who review applications to determine the most appropriate and best use of the funds. Customers who wish to participate in this program simply need to include a note with their payment, call their local LVE office, or sign up online (at www.LVEnergy.com). Applications are also available for those wishing to apply for local assistance. LVE believes that by working together we can make a difference.

Clair Retiring

Clair Carlson, a Lower Valley Energy employee for 29 years, is hanging up his energy cooperative hat. Clair has seen the company change in his years with LVE, starting first in the warehouse, moving into the meter department, and finally branching out into the conservation field. LVE consumers have certainly benefited from having had employees like Clair working for them. He will be truly missed around the office.



Clair Carlson (left), longtime LVE employee at his retirement party with President/CEO of LVE, Jim Webb.

Are You Ready For The Winter Heating Season?

Have your natural gas heating system checked by a trained technician. Regular tune-ups on your natural gas furnace/heating system are imperative for energy efficiency. A complete tune-up can reduce your heating bill from 3 to 10%. Remember to keep all filters clean for more efficient operation and energy savings.

Schedule your natural gas heating system tune-up before it gets cold by calling Lower Valley Energy or one of these local service companies:

Serving Jackson

Frog's Service & Repair 734-1168
Grand Teton Plumbing 733-1711
Western Mechanical 733-9991
Wyoming Mechanical 733-7337
Alta Mechanical 208-354-3645
Fox Creek Heating 208-787-3058

Serving Star Valley

Diamond V Heating 886-5782
Freedom Heating 883-2212
Galloway's 885-4328
Lower Valley Heating 883-1060
TriStar Building Supply 885-3016



LVE Website

Check out LVE's new website at www.LVEnergy.com! While the site is still being developed, it is fully functional and offers such features as online bill review and payment. Please contact LVE at lvenergy@lvenergy.com if you have any suggestions.

GREENPOWER

Lower Valley Energy is pleased to announce renewed partnerships this summer with the **Grand Teton Lodge Company** and **Jackson Hole Mountain Resort**, respectively, and their agreements to double their renewable energy commitment of wind power.

Green Power is Lower Valley Energy's wind-generated, renewable energy project. Whether you are a residential or commercial customer, please give us a call at 883-3175 or 733-2446 to sign up and help support conservation and our environment.