Thank You

On behalf of Lower Valley Energy, Inc. our board of directors, managers, staff and especially the cooperative members directly affected by the winter storms, we extend our most sincere thanks and appreciation to all the local and regional organizations and individuals that without hesitation sent tremendous resources of manpower and equipment to help us restore utility services during our Teton Village/Airport outage in February. Deploying promptly and working 24/7 in extremely challenging continuing storm conditions of wind, deep wet snow, ice and rain—together—we restored power on a timeline that exceeded all expectations.

We extend special thanks to the 5 neighboring utilities and crews:
• Bonneville Power (Idaho Falls, ID)
• Fall River Rural Electric (Ashton, ID)
• High Plains Power (Riverton, WY)
• Idaho Falls Power
• Wasatch Electric (Salt Lake City)
• Jackson Hole Mountain Resort crews and management

We also extend our most sincere gratitude to these individuals and organizations:
• Wyoming Senator Dan Dockstader
• Rich Ochs, Emergency Operations Center
• Cindy Harger, Teton County Public Information Specialist
• Jackson Hole Airport
• Teton County Sheriff’s Office
• Teton County, Board of Commissioners and staff
• Town of Jackson, Council and staff
• Teton Village Fire Department
• Wyoming Highway Patrol

Other collaborating volunteers and restoration partners we would like to thank for their attention to details and caring hospitality for our work crews:
Lance Koudele Aerial Photography, Jackson Hole Grocers, Pizza Hut, Bubbas, Luckys Market, Canvas Unlimited, Macys, Smiths, Creekside Deli, 49er Inn, Hampton Inn, Alberstons, Elevated Grounds and other local businesses who were at the ready.

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Next steps: With our temporary line in place and service restored to our members, we have begun clean up. Our board of directors, management and staff are evaluating all options to replace and reconstruct the line. We will be in communication with our members during this proactive process.

Thank you to all who helped us overcome this weather disaster, the most notable in the 80 year history of our cooperative. We also appreciate the patience and understanding of our members as we fought daunting conditions to restore power.

Why are my bills so high?

The cost for electricity at your electric cooperative is 6.3¢ per kWh, while the national average is 12.6¢. But while the average American spends maybe 30% of their annual energy use on heating, we spend upwards of 50% because it is so cold for so long. The largest amount of energy we use to live in this part of Wyoming is heating.

Weather can greatly influence our energy bills, especially in the winter. A warmer winter will obviously mean a lower than normal bill, and vice versa.

According to Meteorologist Jim Woodmencey (MountainWeather.com—Jackson, WY), December and January of 2016-2017 were both much colder than average, with consistently cold high and low temperatures. Long held as one of the coldest winters in recent memory, December and January of 1978-79 recorded numerous days with low temperatures between 30 and 50 below zero. One industry standard to measure the relative coldness of a location is a heating degree day (HDD). The December/January of 1978-79 recorded 3,100 HDDs, while the 2016/2017 time period recorded just over 3,400 HDDs! So by HDD standards, we were 10% colder!

It takes a lot of energy to live where we do, but at Lower Valley Energy you should know we are always striving to provide you with reliable, inexpensive energy.