



VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Trustee Jim Petersen Receives NWPPA President's Award

Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) is a not-for-profit association of more than 150 public/people's utility districts, electric cooperatives, municipalities and crown corporations in the Western U.S. and Canada. It exists to enhance the success of its members through education, training, public information, governmental relations and value-added services.

Each year at its annual meeting NWPPA honors individuals for their work within public power. The President's Award is given for outstanding service and work on behalf of the industry and the association. This year there were two recipients, one being Vigilante Electric Cooperative Trustee Jim Petersen.

A fourth-generation farmer/rancher on the original family property south of Dillon, Jim Petersen has served as a Trustee of Vigilante Electric for 40 years. Jim's belief in the value of agriculture and commitment to the economic health in rural America is evidenced by his obligation to rural electrification and Vigilante Electric.

During Jim's tenure at Vigilante Electric, he has served as president, vice president and trustee. He has also served as president and trustee of Montana Energy Alliance, a propane subsidiary owned partially by Vigilante Electric Cooperative.



General Manager Rollie Miller stated that he nominated Jim for this award not only because he is a dedicated family man and thoughtful trustee for both Montana Energy Alliance and VEC but also because he considers him a trusted friend.

The trustees, management and staff of Vigilante Electric would like to congratulate Jim on this well-deserved honor and thank him for his time and commitment to our organization.

Theft of Electricity — We All Pay

It's often an "invisible" crime: someone illegally hooks into a power supply, hooks up a line that has been disconnected or tampers with a meter to avoid recording electricity usage. For most of you, this is an inconceivable act, but it is becoming a more serious and costly problem for America's electric cooperatives.

How costly is this problem nationally? According to studies by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, between one-half and two percent of electricity in the U.S. is lost to theft. This equates to roughly \$6 billion worth of electricity stolen annually, making electricity the third most stolen item after credit card data and automobiles.

Not only is electrical theft costly, it can be extremely dangerous. There are numerous incidents where people trying to pirate electricity lost their lives to electro-

cution. Additionally, people tampering with the electrical system cause dangerous situations for our linemen, since dealing with energized meters is one of the more hazardous things they do.



When Vigilante Electric Cooperative discovers a theft of electricity, area law enforcement is contacted immediately. Theft of electricity is illegal and punishable by fines and potential jail time. The person committing the crime is responsible for the cost of the energy used, as determined by Vigilante Electric, and all penalties assessed.

Through our advanced metering system and security measures, we do our best to minimize this issue, but we can always use our members' help. Everyone is affected by power theft, and detecting and reporting illegal activity will help reduce the price we all pay.

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Outages

They're Going to Happen

Vigilante Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost. While we continually strive to keep the system up and running, outages are going to happen. Temporary loss of service is inconvenient, but is often unavoidable and sometimes necessary. Rest assured, when outages occur our linemen do everything they can to get the power back on as quickly as possible.

Several factors such as nature, human error, equipment failures and animal interference lead to outages. Just this spring we have dealt with boulders breaking loose and taking out a pole, and high stream conditions causing a river bank to collapse and take a transformer pole with it.

Vigilante Electric will also take outages for routine maintenance, upgrades or when it is the only safe option available to our linemen. These planned outages typically occur during the work week, during normal work hours, and we make every effort to localize the outage area so that it affects as few people as possible.

Also, we make every reasonable effort to notify affected members prior to taking any planned outages. Obviously in an emergency situation this is not practical. To do this we need to have current information on how to contact you. Please be sure to keep us updated with phone numbers, current mailing addresses and email addresses.



Capital Credits 101

Electric cooperatives are different from other electric utilities. While there are many unique features of an electric cooperative, there is one thing we receive many questions about — capital credits.

Your cooperative is, by law, a non-profit organization. After all financial commitments are met, any excess revenue is credited back to the membership. Vigilante Electric Cooperative's capital credit system was adopted at the 1947 annual meeting and provides a method for allocating each individual member's share of excess revenues, or net margins.

The term "capital credits" is used because the actual money is invested in cooperative capital such as reserves or equipment. This money belongs to the members, but they have agreed to its use for capital purposes by accepting the capital credit provisions in the bylaws.

A capital credit statement is sent to members annually notifying them of the allocation of margins for the previous

year. When financial conditions permit, a general retirement (or refund) of capital can be made. These retired capital credits are then paid back to the individual member. It has been our past practice to retire the oldest capital credits first. The last capital credits retired were the remaining Capital Credits from 2001 and 76 percent of 2002.

Since adopting the capital credit system, Vigilante Electric has retired more than \$16 million to its members, and over the past three years the average amount of capital credits retired is \$762,779.

One challenge of distributing retired capital credits is keeping track of every member we owe. If you do have capital credits and leave our system, please keep us informed of your current address. The following is a list of past members who we are looking for. Please review the list, and if you know the whereabouts of anybody on the list, please contact us.

ADDERLEY, ADRIAN
DILLON MT

ANDERSON, JAMIE
WINSLOW AZ

AUGUST, MISTY
DILLON MT

BARTOS, PAUL/
CARRIE
POPLAR MT

ALEXANDER, FAWN/
ELLEN CURTIS
CARLIN NV

ANDERSON, RICHARD/
LINDA
DRIFTWOOD PA

AUGUST, SHAUNA
DILLON MT

BELICE, SHAWN E
CHINOOK MT

ALLEN, SHIRLEY
PROCTOR MT

ATT BROADBAND
DENVER CO

BALER, MARTIN R
WHITEHALL MT

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Capital Credits

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BENNETT, JOHN/
BRENDA
KIMBERLY ID

BEST, GARY
GLENDALE AZ

BICKFORD, ERAN
BOULDER CITY NV

BIRD, BRITTNEY
DILLON MT

BLACK, WILLIAM
MELROSE MT

BLANKENSHIP,
CRYSTAL
HELENA MT

BOOHER, WILLIAM/
MARGARET
TROY MT

BOOSE, TIM/TRACI
WALLA WALLA WA

BOOTH, CRYSTAL
GRIDLEY KS

BOTTO, DAWN
HEYBURN ID

BRICKER, JEFF
ENNIS MT

BROADWATER,
LAWRENCE ESTATE
HELENA MT

BROWN, DAN
MARBLETON WY

BROWN, DREW
SPRINGDALE MT

BUELL, JACK JR
DILLON MT

BUHL, COREY/
THERESE
CHOTEAU MT

BUTZ, TIM/VIRGINIA
TOWNSEND MT

BYERS, CATHRYN
CORVALLIS MT

CALLENDER, ISAAC
LAGRANDE OR

CARR, REBECCA
CHADRON NE

CASSELS, ROBERT/
FLORA
SUN VALLEY NV

COKELEY, BEN A
MONMOUTH OR

COLEMAN, H D/
CATHERINE
RICHARDTON ND

COLLINS, RICHARD
TOWNSEND MT

COMBO, TIM
BUTTE MT

COX, JOHN
DILLON MT

CRAMER, JOHN
RAMSAY MT

CRAWFORD, CHRIS
BAKER MT

CRENSHAW, JAMES
KENTON TN

DAVIDSON, LYLE/
PATRICIA
WOLF POINT MT

DILL, KEVIN
ALPINE WY

DILLON HOTEL LLC
c/o MATTHEW
KING JR
COEUR D'ALENE ID

DIORIO, ROCKY
DILLON MT

DITTMER, CHRIS
OGDEN UT

DREITZ, RON/SANDY
GLEN DIVE MT

DREW, LINDA K
CONNELL WA

DULANEY, BRANDON
HELENA MT

ELLINGTON, PENNY
WHITEHALL MT

ELLIOTT, NEAL
TOWNSEND MT

ESCHENBACHER,
ANNELIS
MISSOULA MT

FIGGINS, BRYAN/JUDI
TOWNSEND MT

FLEMING, RENEE
FALL RIVER MILLS CA

FLIGGE, JOSHUA
TOWNSEND MT

FRANTUM, JOEL
BOZEMAN MT

GALBRAITH, JAMES
DILLON MT

GARCIA, ANTHONY/
MICHELLE
WILTON CT

GASOWSKI, NICK
DILLON MT

GEORGE, SHELLIE N
TOWNSEND MT

GOULD, DENNIS/
SHERRY
WHITEHALL MT

GRAHAM, DAVID
TOWNSEND MT

GRASKY, JAMES/
MARY
CHOTEAU MT

GUISBERT, THAD/
CHERYL
INVER GROVE MN

GUTIERREZ, LYDIA
RENO NV

HAMMOND, L C/
CHARM
HARDIN MT

HARGIS, JACK
BOZEMAN MT

HARTUNG, TARA
LAS VEGAS NV

HAY, ROBERT
WEST YELLOWSTONE MT
HAYDEN, JAMMIE
DILLON MT

HAYES, MELINDA
DILLON MT

HENNE, WILLIAM/
BECKY
ELLISTON MT

HENRICKS, JOHN/
MICHELLE
BUTTE MT

HENSEL, ERIC
FLORIDA CITY FL

HESTER, CHARLIE
ANACONDA MT

HOLLINGER, KENDRA
DILLON MT

HOWARD, SHARON
BUTTE MT

HOWE, ALLAN L
LA VERNE CA

HUGHES, CHERYL A
BEND OR

HUGHES, MIKE/
CARLEEN
BOZEMAN MT

HUMPHREY, GARY/
BONNIE
CHISHOLM MN

HUMPHREY, LYNNE
DILLON MT

JABLONSKI, SCOTT/
JACUELINE
HELENA MT

JAKKOLA, JUSTEN
DILLON MT

JENSEN, JENNIFER
DILLON MT

JENSEN, SHANE
CLANCY MT

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Capital Credits

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JERSET, MELISSA
DILLON MT

JOHNSON, BEN
WHITEHALL MT

JOHNSON, GERALD
WHITEHALL MT

JOHNSON, LELAND/
KATHRYN
HELENA MT

JUNEAU, DENNIS
BROWNING MT

KAMPS, KELLY
MAPLE FALLS WA

KARAMANOS, JIM
DILLON MT

KAUFFMAN, LONNIE
DILLON MT

KEEGO LODGE LLC
DILLON MT

KEENAN, EILEEN
GLENWOOD SPRINGS CO

KIMPTON RANCH CO
c/o BRIAN/JACKIE
TOSTON MT

KINSEY, CAROL
BUTTE MT

LA RUE, ANTHONY
OROFINO ID

LEFFERDINK, JEFF/
BRENDA
HELENA MT

LEWANDOWSKI, JODY/
EUGENE
DILLON MT

LEWIS, JAMES D
DILLON MT

LITTLE, WILLIAM/
ELISE
FORT DEFIANCE AZ

LOCKMYER, DONNA J
HELENA MT

LUCAS, DON L
MENLO PARK CA

MAC DOWELL,
ELISABETH
KALISPELL MT

MAGER, TOM/JESSICA
COLORADO SPRINGS CO

MANSFIELD, JOSEPH J
ESTATE
c/o MARGARET
MANSFIELD
SPOKANE WA

MARSHALL, KELLY
HELENA MT

MATTHEWS, ELLYN T
GREENTOWN PA

MCINTYRE, MATT
BUTTE MT

MCKESSICK, KIP/
KRISTI
GREAT FALLS MT

MCMORRIS, STEVE/
MELISSA
BILLINGS MT

MEILE, STEVE
DILLON MT

METGE, DEBRA
DUBOIS ID

MEYER, DEBRA L
GOLDENDALE WA

MILLER, CLAUDE E
ESTATE
c/o SHARON MILLER
BATTLE GROUND WA

MOORE, BILL/
NANETTE
POOLER GA

MOORE, JOHN
DILLON MT

MORETZ, THOMAS/
GALE
BOONE NC

MORRIS, ANDREW/
NATALEE
BUTTE MT

MORROW, RUTH
SHERIDAN MT

MRKICH, THERESA
DILLON MT

MUNTZER, THOS
LIMA MT

MURLO, WILLOW
DILLON MT

MURPHY, DENNIS
HELENA MT

MURPHY, SCOTT
HELENA MT

MYERS, JEFF
DELL MT

NAKAO, BRUCE
LOS ALTOS HILLS CA

NELLIS, ERIC/LISA
MANHATTAN MT

NELSON, HAROLD/
NANCY
DILLON MT

NELSON, RICHARD R
DILLON MT

NEWMAN, ANN
GRAFTON
ONTARIO CA

NORRIS, JAMIE
DILLON MT

NOYCE, MARGARET
TRUST
MISSOULA MT

OLSEN, JOLINE
MARYSVILLE CA

OLSEN, MIKE/ANNIE
FORT GREELY AK

OLSON, DAVID/
SABRA
LIVINGSTON MT

ORBELL, CHARLIE/
NANCY
CUMBERLAND CTR ME

O'REILLY, MAUREEN
HELENA MT

PANKRATZ, KENDRA
DILLON MT

PAYMENT, CLINT/
LYNETE
ASTORIA OR

PEDERSEN, ALAN/
HOLLIE
FLORENCE MT

PELLY, LEO
WHITEHALL MT

PETERSEN, CHRIS
SHELBY MT

PETERSEN,
CHRISTINE
DILLON MT

PETERSON, DIANE
WHITEHALL MT

PETTIJOHN, DAVID/
AMANDA
LINCOLN NE

PEUSE, DESIREE L
BUTTE MT

PHILLIPS, RICHARD/
ROBIN
CARDWELL MT

PONTIUS, PAUL
WARSAW IN

PORTER, DAVID/
TRACY
FORT BRAGG CO

PRIEST, LEONA
EUGENE OR

PRIOR, KEVIN/
VIRGINA
SULLIVAN NH

PULLEY, YVONNE V
DILLON MT

PURCELL, GLORIA
HELENA MT

RAINIER, RUTH
TOWNSEND MT

*CAPITAL CREDITS
Continued next month*