

P.O. Box 1049,
Dillon, MT 59725-1049
(406) 683-2327
(800) 221-8271



Vigilante Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Website: www.vec.coop
E-mail: contact@vec.coop

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: HELPING TO FULFILL OUR MISSION

Energy efficiency is defined as the use of less energy to perform the same task or produce the same result. Vigilante Electric Cooperative has a long history of helping our members use less electricity in their homes, businesses, ranches and farms. Our programs have been successful over the years and are a product of our association with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). While we have noted this collaboration repeatedly over the years, we have never written about this history and the basic elements of how these programs work.

Congress created BPA in 1937 to deliver to market and distribute power from the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River. Today, there are 31 dams that make up the Federal Columbia River Power System. In 1975, the final two dams, Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River, and Libby Dam on the Kootenai River, were completed.

BPA operates and owns one of the nation's largest high-voltage transmission systems, and through this safe and reliable service, provides low-cost power to markets throughout the west. Today, about one-third of the power consumed in the Pacific Northwest comes from BPA. This equates to nearly 3 million people and more than 1.2 million jobs that depend on this power.

BPA revenue comes solely from selling power, transmission and related services. This fiscal responsibility ties it to the utilities and people it serves in the Northwest. The power and related services are sold at cost, providing a benchmark that helps keep rates low. Low-cost, renewable hydropower has been a crucial element in the growth of the Northwest economy.

When the last of the federal dams were completed, it was widely perceived that the Northwest would soon run out of electricity unless new power plants were built to augment the hydropower supply. In the 1970s, the favored new generating technology was nuclear.

Studies indicated, however, that the region could meet much of its future energy needs through energy efficiency. BPA was directed to acquire all cost-effective conservation before buying the output of any new power plants in the future. BPA began acquiring energy savings from its customers in 1981.

When Vigilante Electric pays its power bill to BPA, a portion of that money is earmarked for energy efficiency. At the beginning of each two-year rate period, BPA establishes a budget that reflects the cost of acquiring energy efficiency from customers.

Through substantial oversight, research, monitoring and verification, BPA maintains a portfolio of cost-effective, energy-efficient measures. It sets the amount of the incentive for each measure and reimburses utilities for approved projects. What the utility does with this reimbursement is up to the utility. Vigilante Electric passes 100 percent of this incentive back to its members for qualifying projects.

When you look at the complete picture, you will see that energy efficiency is more than a feel-good piece on the front page of a newspaper. It is an integral part of BPA's resource mix. It helps keep rates lower by cost-effectively meeting resource needs, and helps us with our mission to our members — providing reliable energy at the lowest possible cost. RM

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND GENERAL MANAGER

Andy Johnson,

President
Dist. #6
Dillon North/Glen

Tom Mitchell,

Vice President
Dist. #8
Dillon South/Grant

Norm Tebay,

Sec/Treas.
Dist. #1
Cardwell/Whitehall/Three Forks

Dean Hanson, Trustee

Dist. #2
Silver Star/Waterloo

John Moos, Trustee

Dist. #3
Townsend/N. Helena/Lump
Gulch

Colt High, Trustee

Dist. #4
Twin Bridges/Point of Rocks

Cheyenne Garrison, Trustee

Dist. #5
Wise River/Silver Bow/Melrose

Dean Peterson, Trustee

Dist. #7
Jackson/Wisdom

Allen Martinell, Trustee

Dist. #9
Dell/Lima

Rollie Miller

General Manager

CAPITAL CREDIT REFUNDS

VIGILANTE Electric Cooperative is currently trying to locate the following individuals for payment of Capital Credits. If you have any information regarding names on this list please contact us at 800-221-8271 or 683-2327 or by email at contact@vec.coop.

Alt, Katherine - Annapolis, MD
 Amos, Lonnie - Burnet, TX
 Armading, Pam - Whitehall
 Armstrong, Randy & Dana - Fallon
 Barlow, Jared - Hildale, UT
 Barrett, Timothy - Lima
 Bateman, Ida Estate - Butte
 Bates, Allen R - Toston
 Beckenhauer, Doug - Reedley, CA
 Berg, Ben - Hazen, ND
 Bertke, Carol - Manhattan
 Birr, Jeremy & Heather - Astoria, SD
 Boaz, Steven & Rebecca - Belgrade
 Boisse, Shawn & Randi L - Kettle Falls, WA
 Boling, Craig - El Dorado Hills, CA
 Bombaugh, Amanda - Dillon
 Boule, Joe - Helena
 Bowe, Jude - Helena
 Brown, Dustin - Dillon
 Bryant, Lanny & Ann - Missoula
 Burch, Clarene - Hamilton, MT
 Burns, Arthur - Pray
 Burts, Judy & Everett - Monitor, WA
 Burwell, Abbie - Dillon
 Cabera, David & Trista - Butte
 Camba, Gus & Stacy - Belle Glade, FL
 Campbell, Julie - Dillon
 Campbell, Wanda - Amity, OR
 Cayer-Reese, Emily - Jackson
 Chacano, Gerardo - Killdeer, ND
 China Wok, Chan Herman - Townsend
 Chowning, Clint
 Polson
 Crawford, Misty - Bozeman
 Crenshaw, Cameron & Kelly, Colleen - Helena
 Cundith, Maris - Helena
 Currie, Justin & Granman, Tiffany - Rochester, WA
 Curtis, Randy - Belle Fourche, SD
 Danielson, William - Townsend
 Davies, Amber - Bozeman
 Davis, Leonard - Whitehall
 Defrancesco, Rick - Twin Bridges
 Delisi, Steve - Monroeville, PA
 Delker, Frank L - Buena Vista, CO
 Devisser, Jay - Anaconda, MT
 Dobbs, Elaine - Dillon
 Donaldson, Matthew - Dillon
 Drown, Kristen & Laura Stulc - Three Forks
 Dunivan, Duane & Elizabeth - Mechanicsville, MD
 Dunkin, Jared - Townsend
 Dunlap, Nicole - Twin Bridges
 Elmer, Patrick - Dillon
 Everson, Brent - East Helena
 Fowler, Tammy & Pacurian, John - Townsend
 Gannett, Richard - Missoula
 Gassenberg, Joe - Dillon
 Gaudet, Lacey - Billings
 Gay, David - Lander, WY
 Goeltz, Jeff - Jackson
 Granite Creek Construction - Bozeman
 Grassy Mtn Ranch Owners Assoc - White Sulphur Springs
 Gregory, Meckisha & Jeremy - Jackson
 Griffin, Dino & Kris - Youngsville, LA
 Guisbert, Thad & Cheryl - Inver Grove, MN
 Gunter, Don & Shayla - Newport Beach, CA
 Haley, Tracy & Teresa - Butte
 Hansen, Rebecca - Salina, KS
 Harris, Jami & Pergande, Jessica - Townsend
 Havens, Stephanie - Townsend
 Hawkins, Wade & Wendi - Interlachen, FL
 Hayden LLC - Eloy, AZ
 Herren, Travis - Lancaster, CA
 Hiebert, Thomas & Kayleen - Winnemucca, NV
 Hillman, Peggy - Grass Range
 Hochstetler, Edwin - Whitehall
 Holland, John - Billings
 Howard, Alan K - Dillon
 Hutchison, Kayla - Alzada
 Ingram, Jacob - Havre
 Inhelder, Robin - Wise River
 Irby, Megan - Dillon
 Irvin, Lucas - Helena
 Jacobs, Wyatt & Coryell - Manhattan
 Johnson, Deborah, The Crystal Room - Mount Shasta, CA
 Jones, Bill & Tamra - White Sulphur Springs
 Jones, Deborah - Butte
 Killham, Martin & Joy - Dillon
 King, Casey - Dillon
 Kluger, Jan - Sheridan
 Kotcher, Joanna
 Lima
 Krist, Kevin - Wise River
 Lacey, Dan & Megan Walter - Butte
 Lambert, Marc - Belgrade
 Larsen, John & Cynthia - Glendive
 Lay, Jason & Amanda - Hastings - Helena
 Leahy, Jeff & Nicki - Bozeman
 Linjanen, Merle - Wolf Creek
 Macarthur, Crystal - Lima
 Magpantay, Samantha - Dillon
 Marcure, Andrew - Dillon
 Marinko, Shannon & Carla - Sioux Falls, SD
 Marsh, Geneva - Billings
 Martinez, Cory - Dillon
 McDonnell, Tim - Helena
 McDowell, Shawn - Ennis
 McDuffie, Bart - Helena
 Meyer, Otto - Dillon
 Miller, Troy & Jane - Stevensville
 Mock, Christina - Dillon
 Morrow, Pat - Townsend
 Music, Norman - Oregon City, OR
 Nugent, Kathy - Dillon
 Oakes, Pete - Three Forks
 O'Reilly, Sean - Helena
 Paige, Walter - Alpena, MI
 Pate, Andrew J - Sherman, ME
 Payne, Curtis & Jennie - Townsend
 Pedersen, Kathy
 Helena
 Petelle, Kristi - E Helena
 Peterson, Josh - Dillon
 Peterson, William & Kristy - Butte
 Pletcher, Tara - Hermon, ME
 Provus, Robert & Melissa - Otis Orchards, WA
 Quayle, Stephen & Janet - Bozeman
 Rebman, Mary - Dillon
 Roberts, Jim - St. George, UT
 Robinson, Richard - Helena
 Rose, H S - Pocatello, ID
 Ross, Shannen - Dillon
 Russell, Dana - Missoula
 Sandru, Cindy - Helena
 Schilling, Jeff & Shirley - Elliston
 Sehulster, Tom - Butte
 Seymour, Danny & Debbie - Dillon
 Simpson, Amanda - Townsend
 Smith, Angela - Billings
 Smith, Derek - Dillon
 Smith, Jason - Helena
 Smith, Kyle & Leslee - Dillon
 Spengler, John & Mary - Cottonwood, CA
 Stockburger, Daniel & Roma - E Helena
 Swan, James & Carole - Dillon
 Thompson, Luke & Kim - Rice Lake, WI
 Toledo, Ray - Belgrade
 Trost, Kaylee - Bozeman
 Tucker, Albert & Rene - Missoula
 Turner, C J - Blackfoot, ID
 Turner, Joe & Leah - Three Forks
 Van Woert, Josh - Dillon
 Vanek, Donald - Lewistown
 Walter, Trevor - Whitefish
 Wetmore, Keith - Denver, CO
 Wilcox, Tammy - Salmon, ID
 Williams, Jean - Irvine, CA
 Williams, Kimber - Helena
 Wilson, Margaret - Urbana, IL
 Wilson, Ron & Audrey - Niles, OR
 Winslow, Trudy - Clancy
 Wood, Barbi - Silver Star

Mitchell completes director certification

N**NATIONAL** Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Director Certificate Programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities. This includes staying up to date on the key issues and trends in the industry and preparing to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives, now and in the future.

The Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) curriculum is designed to provide the essential knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The Board Leadership (BLC) curriculum is designed to be the next step in advancing the knowledge and experience directors need to govern their boards effectively. The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who have earned their CCD and BLC credentials, and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the board.

Vigilante Electric Cooperative would like to recognize Tom Mitchell for completing the Credentialed Cooperative Director program. At our May board meeting, Tom was presented with his CCD certificate. Tom is the trustee for District #8, covering the Dillon South and Grant areas. Tom is currently the board vice president. He has also served as the secretary/treasurer.

"The NRECA board of trustees training program is very good, and I recommend any of the courses as they become available. Tom joins others on the board in achieving NRECA training milestones, and should be commended for taking the additional time and for putting in the additional effort to further educate himself on cooperative governance issues. Thank you for the extra effort and for being a part of making VEC a great cooperative," said General Manager Rollie Miller. RM



Vigilante Board Vice President Tom Mitchell received his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate at the May board meeting. | **VIGILANTE PHOTO**

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC'S

BRATS & KILOWATTS

Whitehall Member Appreciation Barbeque

JULY 19, 2023

11 AM - 1 PM

Legion Park Pavilion · Whitehall

Join us for a free bratwurst lunch and a chance to win a \$50 bill credit!



AUGUST 23RD · DILLON MEMBER APPRECIATION BBQ

AROUND VIGILANTE ELECTRIC CO-OP



Lineman Tyler Arnio is preparing to lift a power line to create enough clearance for a house that was being relocated. | PHOTO TAKEN BY PAIGE GARRISON



The first Roundup for Safety Grant was awarded in 2019 to the Beaverhead Ski Patrol. Pictured is General Manager Rollie Miller and Rich Norquist. | VEC PHOTO

VEC Safety RoundUp: Member Driven/Community Focused

VIGILANTE Electric is dedicated to helping the people in southwestern Montana live better lives, not only with reliable and affordable electric power, but through our involvement in our communities. Safety is our number-one priority, and raising community awareness about safety issues and supporting safety-related projects is our quest. As a member, you can help us accomplish both aspects of this quest.

Vigilante Electric's Safety Roundup program is a member-driven fundraising effort. This voluntary program provides members with the opportunity to have their bill rounded up to the next highest dollar each month. While a few cents each month doesn't seem like much, when members band together, the cumulative effect is substantial.

Since the inception of this program, we have awarded eight grants to organizations that needed funding for safety-related projects. As a member, if you know of or work with an organization that could benefit from this type of program, please let us know. We can guide you through the application process, and if an award is made, we will use our communication channels to promote the project, raise awareness and hopefully encourage others to apply. RM



**24 Hour
Emergency
Service**

**Bulk Propane Delivery • Gas Stoves • Wood Stoves
Gas Room Heaters • Gas Fireplaces • Much More!**

406-683-9500 406-388-5353
300 Cleverley Dr 515 W Madison
Dillon, MT Belgrade, MT

www.meapropane.com



**Vigilante Electric
Cooperative**
 A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Vigilante Safety Roundup Tracker

Participating members: 808
 Total Contributions: \$20,398.91

To apply, contact our office at
 (800) 221-8271 or 683-2327
 An online application is available at www.vec.coop.