

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OTHER CO-OPS



The headlines for the Cut Bank-based co-op read: “McCormick Ranch Wind Farm construction slated to begin in June. “Project to boost local economy with construction and \$500,000 in power revenue.”

The story, by Virginia Harman, tells that the wind farm will be located between Cut Bank and Shelby, south of Etheridge. The 69 turbines at the McCormick Ranch Wind Farm will have a peaking generation of 103.5 megawatts of energy, with an average of about 35 megawatts (which is equivalent to one year of Glacier Electric Cooperative’s total usage). Glacier Electric will use existing facilities for this

project; therefore no new funds will be needed for building costs.

Jasen Bronec, General Manager of Glacier Electric, sees this project as an opportunity for the cooperative to begin working with NaturEner to possibly provide power for other wind generation projects in the future, Harman writes.

The co-op is to provide both the electricity used for the operation of the site and transmission line use (wheeling) for the electricity produced by the wind turbines.

The anticipated revenue for wheeling is approximately \$450,000 annually while the revenue for providing electricity to the site is expected to be near \$50,000 annually.

Tongue River Electric

Tongue River Electric Co-op seeks an office manager/accounting supervisor with office management experience preferably in utilities management while having knowledge of working with the Rural Utilities Service. A bachelor’s degree in finance or accounting is preferred.

You will supervise office employees and oversee payroll, financial planning and analysis, budgeting, general accounting and electric

billing. You must also know capital credit disbursement, IVUE and Horizon Software, Excel and Word. You will work closely with the general manager, line crew and board members.

Salary is based on qualifications and experience.

Send cover letter, resume and references to Len Stanton, Box 81087, Billings MT 59108-1087, 406-248-6178. You may also email information to en@aehr.org. The job closes April 11, 2008.

Southeast Electric



Southeast Electric

“While enjoying a cup of coffee with our member, Nicole Wheeler, she shared pictures of her trip to Fergus Falls where she competed in the reined cowhorse competition. Immediately I knew I wanted to write an article about her and her horses,” Marlene Waterland reveals in the Eureka-based co-op’s newsletter.

So she did write. About reining, riding and herding with horses. An excerpt:

“First is herd work, in which you have two and one half minutes to sort a cow out of the herd and keep it

out. Second is dry work, which is a reining pattern in which the horses must change leads, run, do sliding stops and spin around. Finally, the fence work requires the rider to hold a single cow at the end of the arena long enough to prove your horse has the ability to keep it there; then move the cow full-speed down the fence and turn it at least once each direction. Having completed the fence turns, you move the cow to the center of the arena and circle it each direction.”

All of which takes the idea of multi-tasking to new levels.

Flathead Electric

Kalispell-based Flathead Electric asked its members to play a part in co-op business in its monthly newsletter.

FEC offered members three ways to help on the climate change front.

Option one is to conserve energy by choosing energy efficient appliance rebates, compact fluorescent and LED lighting in homes and

home winterization.

Option two is to invest in alternative energy solutions by signing up for the co-op’s Renewable Energy Program for an extra \$5 a month. The \$5 helps with the cost of green tags that FEC purchases from green sources.

Option three is to join the Grassroots Advocacy Team and contact legislators when asked to support the co-op.