

Big Skylights



An internal newsletter of the STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION OF MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

August 4, 2006

Performance management workshop set

MECA will hold a Performance Management Workshop on Sept. 6 at the statewide association office in Great Falls. Course instructor will be **Jack Yeager**. The course, which begins at 8 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m., consists of a morning presentation and discussion on development of a performance management system and an afternoon training session on specific applications and techniques customized for supervisory personnel. Anyone who supervises staff is encouraged to attend. The fee for this course is \$125 per person. A minimum of 20 participants must be registered by the early registration date of Aug. 25 or the course may be cancelled. To ask questions about the workshop or to register contact MECA's **Sharon McDonald** at 406-761-8333.

Retirement seminar planned

MECA will host an NRECA Retirement Seminar Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the statewide association building in Great Falls. More details on this seminar, including registration information, will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Job Market

General manager

The Board of Directors of Northern Electric Cooperative headquartered in Opheim is seeking qualified candidates to replace the general manager who will be retiring in December 2006. The board prefers candidates to have at least five years' experience in electric utility management, preferably within the rural electric program. A bachelor's degree in an appropriate field is highly desirable. The board seeks a candidate with broad utility experience including such areas as strategic planning, finance, operations, member communications and board relations. The successful candidate will be a proven community leader with excellent communications skills. The cooperative has 10 fulltime employees serving 1,200 customers over 1,200 miles of distribution and transmission lines. Annual revenue is over \$2 million with total assets of \$16 million. The cooperative is a member of the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association. Northern Electric's wholesale power supplier is Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative, which holds contracts with the Western Area Power Administration, the Bonneville Power Administration and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The cooperative headquarters town of Opheim, Mont., has a population of about 300 and is located on Montana Highway 24, 50 miles north of Glasgow, Mont., and 50 miles west of Scobey, Mont. and 12 miles south of the Canadian border. The area offers the benefits of rural living, solitude, excellent hunting and fishing and low cost of living. It is located near the Missouri River and a recreational lake that provides excellent opportunities.

The cooperative offers an excellent NRECA retirement and benefits package and competitive salary commensurate with qualifications. Please send a resume, three professional references and salary history by Sept 1, 2006 to: Board of Directors, **Robert J. Fouhy**, President, Northern Electric Cooperative, Inc., Box 287, Opheim, MT 59250.

CALENDAR

August 2006

7-9	MECA Office Managers/Accountants Conference	Kalispell, MT
8-9	Superintendents Meeting	Lewistown, MT
31	BPA Public Meeting: Post 2006 Power Allocation	Pablo, MT

September 2006

6	Performance Management Workshop	Great Falls, MT
16	Beartooth Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Roberts, MT
18-19	NWPPA Conference on BPA Power Allocation	Portland, OR
20-22	NRECA Region IX Meeting	Fairbanks, Alaska

October 2006

2-5	MECA Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
14	Big Flat Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Malta, MT
14	Sheridan Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Medicine Lake, MT
26	Goldenwest Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	St. Philips, MT
27	Park Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Livingston, MT
31-Nov 1	NRECA Retirement Seminar	Great Falls, MT