

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

February 22, 2007

MECA hosts rubber gloving training schools

MECA's Safety & Loss Control program will hold two Rubber Gloving Schools. One class will be held at Mission Valley Power in Pablo on March 13-14 and the other will be held at Fergus Electric Cooperative in Lewistown on March 14-15. For more information, please contact **Lea Upshaw** at the MECA office at 406-761-8333.

Substation maintenance workshop set

MECA's Training and Education Committee will sponsor NWPPA's Substation & LTC Breaker Maintenance Workshop on March 27-28, 2007 in Missoula.

The workshop is a combination of classroom and hands-on training and will be taught by **Dave Ireland** of NWPPA. The classroom portion of the course will be held at The Broadway Inn directly across the street from Missoula Electric Cooperative where the hands-on instruction will take place.

This course is designed for utilities looking to introduce employees to substation transformer, and regulator maintenance. This course is also intended to help utilities not engaged in substation maintenance to establish maintenance programs. The training provides employees with knowledge of all aspects of maintenance, including the use of equipment and tools of the trade. This is an intense course with hands-on training as well as the basic theory conducted over a two-day period. Topics include: substation inspection; substation safety; transformer, regulator inspection; transformer, breaker testing; DGA (dissolved gas analysis); interpretation of test results; oil and transformer drying; oil preservation systems, and preventative maintenance.

Everyone participating in the workshop is required to bring personal protecting equipment, including a hard hat, and wear appropriate work clothes during the training.

The fee for this 2-day course is \$225 per person with a minimum of 20 participants registered by the early registration date of March 9 or the course may be cancelled. Currently, twelve (12) participants have registered. Due to capacity restraints at Missoula Electric Cooperative, the course will be limited to 25 participants. For more information, please contact **Sharon McDonald** at the MECA office at 406-761-8333.

Job Market

Valley Electric –

Billing and customer service representative

Valley Electric Cooperative is recruiting for a billing and customer service representative at its headquarters located in Glasgow, Mont. This is a regular, non-exempt, non-bargaining position, to be filled as soon as possible after the closing date of March 23, 2007. Valley Electric is an RUS borrower in northeast Montana serving approximately 1,900 meters over 1000 miles of line. The person in this position coordinates and conducts the billing procedure to ensure that the cooperative receives payments from customers in a timely manner. Proficient computer skills and prior experience in utility billing preferred and knowledge of NISC billing and accounting software are a plus. A full job description is available at the Glasgow Job Service or at the cooperative offices located at 1130 Highway 2 West Glasgow, Montana. Resumes and completed employment applications should be forwarded to the Montana Job Service, 74 4th St No., Glasgow, Montana 59230. Applications available on line at <http://wsd.dli.mt.gov>, or can be obtained by calling (406) 228-9369. March 23 is the deadline for application.

Hill County Electric –

Engineering/Operations Manager

Hill County Electric Cooperative (HCE) has an opening for an engineering and operations manager. A bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or related field or a minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in all aspects of electric line construction and maintenance is required. A four-year college degree is preferred and applicants must have supervisory experience. An excellent benefits package is offered. An application and resume with three (3) references should be submitted to: Job Search, P.O. Box 2330, Havre, MT 59501-2330. Interested persons may call 406-394-7804 or 877-394-7804 to obtain an application and complete job description. The review of applications will begin Jan. 3 and will continue until the position is filled.

McCone Electric –

Journeyman Lineman

McCone Electric Co-op., Inc., is currently seeking a qualified applicant for a journeyman lineman position. The reporting position is in Jordan, Mont. Jordan is an area rich in hunting and fishing opportunities with access to public lands. Jordan is within easy driving distance to Fort Peck Lake, Hell Creek Marina and the famous Missouri Breaks. Mountains and great skiing are only a three-hour drive from this location. The successful applicant must possess a valid Montana commercial driver's Class A license (or be able to obtain one within 90 days of the hiring date) and join the local IBEW union. Successful candidates must pass a pre-employment drug test and physical. The successful applicants must also be able to deal with co-workers and consumers in a courteous and professional manner. McCone Electric has an excellent benefits program. A McCone Electric Co-op., Inc., job application is required and may be obtained from McCone Electric at PO Box 368, Circle, MT 59215. This position will remain open until filled. Call for applications at (406) 485-3430 or e-mail Larry Schmidt: <mailto:lschmidt@mcconeelectric.coop>.

For Hire

Apprentice Lineman

Morgan Klindworth graduated from Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, ID in December 2006. His resume includes a letter of recommendation from Jeanne Barnard, manager, Big Flat Electric. He can be reached at (406)379-2542.

CALENDAR

March

2	Upper Missouri G & T Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
2	Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Dillon, MT
2	Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative	Great Falls, MT
10	Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Kalispell, MT
13	Mid-Yellowstone Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Hysham, MT
13	Yellowstone Valley Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Huntley, MT
13-14	MECA Rubber Gloving School	Pablo, MT
14-15	MECA Rubber Gloving School	Lewistown, MT
17	Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT
20-22	NRECA Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, NV
24	Lincoln Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Eureka, MT
27-28	Substation & LTC Breaker Maintenance Workshop	Missoula, MT
30	Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Fairfield, MT

April

4	MECA Spring Board Meeting	Great Falls, MT
5	New Employee & Director Workshop	Great Falls, MT
11	Worker's Compensation 101 Workshop	Miles City, MT
14	Glacier Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Cut Bank, MT
24	Worker's Compensation 101 Workshop	Missoula, MT
27	Marias River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Shelby, MT

May

6-9	NRECA Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.
9-10	Accounting for Non-Accountants Workshop	Great Falls, MT
12	Northern Lights Annual Meeting	Sagle, ID
16	Western Montana Electric G & T Annual Meeting	Missoula, MT