

Big Skylights



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

A report from your Chief Executive Officer Dave Wheelihan

February 8, 2007

MCDC head takes job with Sen. Tester

Cheryl MacArthur, executive director of the Montana Cooperative Development Center, has been named Great Falls field director for Senator **Jon Tester**. He previously served as executive director of the Montana Cooperative Development Center based in Great Falls. She has more than a decade of experience in working with start-up and existing businesses. MacArthur also served on the board of the Montana Economic Development Association and formerly worked for the Great Falls Development Authority. MacArthur, a 30-year resident of Great Falls, is also a member of Governor Brian Schweitzer's American Indian Business Focus Group.

Job Market

East River Electric –

East River Electric, based in Madison, S.D., is expanding its engineering workforce with the following positions:

Electrical Engineer (Transmission)

Primary responsibilities will be electric transmission system planning and the design of transmission lines and substations.

System Operations/Protection Engineer

Primary responsibilities will be engineering and technical assistance with substation equipment, protective relaying circuits and control integration, substation metering, and performing system operations analysis.

Construction/Civil Engineering Supervisor

Primary responsibility will be the supervision of the engineering support functions in planning, design and oversight of the Cooperative's construction activity.

Engineering Assistant/Drafting

Primary responsibilities will include the creation and revision of electric and telecommunication system profiles, specifications, wire schematics and diagrams using AutoCAD. This position will also assist other Engineering Department staff in areas of project management and completion. Education and background minimum requirements are a technical school degree with AutoCAD training or three years experience using AutoCAD. An electronics/mechanical background is preferred, but not required. Training in ARC/INFO or Auto Desk MAP, and other related software, would be a plus.

To be considered for these positions, an East River application form must be completed. To request an application, contact East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 227, Madison, South Dakota 57042. Or, call 605-256-4536, email to hr@eastriver.coop or download from www.eastriver.coop.

Applications must be received by Feb. 23, 2007. To review detailed information about these positions and to access application information, go to East River's web site, www.eastriver.coop/careers.

West River Electric –

Due to retirements, West River Electric Association, based in Wall, S.D., will have two staff positions opening this spring and summer.

Manager of operations

This position will be available at West River Electric's Branch Office location in Rapid City, S.D. The successful candidate will direct the engineering, construction, operations and maintenance functions of the distribution system and be responsible for the Operations budget. A minimum of six years of related experience is required, along with good verbal, written, computer and interpersonal skills.

Staff assistant

This position will be available at West River Electric's headquarters office located in Wall, S. D. In addition to a college degree, and or related experience, this position requires excellent verbal, written, computer, interpersonal and organizational skills.

Qualified applicants may review additional information and application requirements, as well as download an employment application from West River's web site at www.westriver.com. The deadline for applications for both positions is Feb. 28, 2007. For more information contact Dennis Schone for the manager of operations position or Dick Johnson for the staff assistant position at West River Electric Assoc. Inc. P.O Box 412 Wall, SD 57790 or call (888)279-2135.

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 (lschmidt@mcconeelectric.coop).

**Vigilante Electric-
Journeyman Lineman**

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is currently seeking a qualified applicant for a journeyman lineman position. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and completion of an approved apprenticeship program. Must have a Journeyman Lineman Certificate and have or be able to obtain a Montana Class A driver=s license. Trade related schooling and knowledge of RUS construction standards is a plus. Vigilante Electric serves 9,000 meters in a large geographic area comprising numerous river valleys. This position will be in Dillon which is a community of approximately 5,000 people located in the heart of southwest Montana. Dillon has an outstanding K-12 education system and is home to the University of Montana - Western. Our surrounding area has unlimited outdoor recreation opportunities including boating, skiing, world class hunting and blue ribbon trout streams. Mail resume! and cover letter to Dave Alberi, General Manager, Vigilante Electric Cooperative, PO Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725 or call 1-800-221-8271 and speak with Dave or Dan Snellman, Line Superintendent. SALARY: \$30.07/Hr. (5/1/07)
Open until filled.

CALENDAR

February

20-22	MECA Lineman Basics Training School	Great Falls, MT
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March

2	Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative Annual Meeting	Great Falls, MT
2	Upper Missouri G & T Annual Meeting	Sidney, MT
2	Vigilante Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Dillon, MT
10	Flathead Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Columbia Falls, 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	NWPPA's Substation & LTC Breaker Maintenance	Missoula, MT
30	Sun River Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting	Fairfield, MT

April

4	MECA Spring Board Meeting	Great Falls, MT
5	New Director and Employee Seminar	Great Falls, MT
11	Worker's Compensation 101	Miles City, MT
24	Worker's Compensation 101	Missoula, MT