

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

The Beacon

AUGUST 2021



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facebook.com/HighlineElectric

Our mission is to provide our members with reliable, high-quality electricity and other needed services, which will improve their economic and social well-being and provide significant long-range benefits for our communities, our state and our nation.



HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER



Touchstone Energy®

CAPITAL CREDIT UPDATE

BY DENNIS HERMAN GENERAL MANAGER

You will receive your capital credit allocation notice within a few days of this article. This year's notice is slightly different than those in the past and the difference deserves a bit of explanation. The notice you will receive includes the allocation of margins earned in both 2019 and 2020.

In a typical year, Highline Electric Association performs two capital credit allocations to our consumer-members: The first is Highline-sourced margins earned that year and the second is a pass-through of the allocation Highline receives from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

Due mainly to weather conditions in 2019, Highline had operating and nonoperating losses, excluding the capital credit allocation received from Tri-State, of minus \$1.7 million. We did not allocate the Highline-sourced loss, as we never allocate negative margins to our membership. We received a \$1.35 million allocation from Tri-State for 2019, but also made the decision not to allocate the Tri-State equity to our membership as we were contemplating using those margins to help offset the Highline-generated losses.

Highline-sourced operating and nonoperating margins were much better in 2020, ending the year with just over \$2 million in margins. We received a capital credit allocation from Tri-State of over \$800,000. Having 2020's financial results changed our thinking with respect to our 2019 margins. With the strong financial performance in 2020, we used the Highline-sourced margins from 2020 to offset the Highline-sourced losses from 2019, with the balance being allocated to



DENNIS HERMAN

our membership as 2020 capital credits.

The use of Highline-sourced margins from 2020 to offset the Highline-sourced losses from 2019 eliminated the need to consider the use of Tri-State margins to offset those losses. The result is what amounts to three capital credit allocations to our membership: (1) The Tri-State margins of \$1.35 million for 2019 were passed through and allocated to Highline's membership as a 2019 Tri-State allocation. (2) The Tri-State margins of \$800,000 for 2020 were passed through and allocated to our membership as a 2020 Tri-State allocation. (3) The resulting \$300,000 positive Highline-sourced margin for the two years was allocated to our membership as a 2020 Highline allocation.

What amounts to these three allocations are detailed on the allocation notices that you will soon receive. The notices detail your Highline and Tri-State allocation, by account, for 2019 and 2020. They also include your running balance for Highline and Tri-State capital credits.

While I hope the combination of this explanation and the allocation notices are clear, you can always contact Elise or Jim in the Holyoke office a 970-854-2236 to discuss any questions or concerns you have regarding your equity ownership in Highline.

Offices Closed
September 6
FOR LABOR DAY

Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

There were 55 carbon monoxide deaths in Colorado in 2018, according to the Colorado Environmental Public Health tracking program. To prevent this from happening to you, avoid using equipment such as generators, charcoal grills and camp stoves that can cause CO to build up in your home.



- Never use a generator or gasoline-powered or coal-burning equipment inside your home, basement or garage. Keep such items outside and at least 20 feet from any window, door or vent.
- Never heat your home with a gas oven.
- Never run a vehicle inside an attached garage, even with the garage door up.
- Never go without CO detectors in your home and be aware of the symptoms of CO poisoning — there are many, but they include headaches, difficulty breathing

and feeling lightheaded or drowsy. Detectors that feature battery backup are a good idea for times when the power goes out.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you from injury and expense.**

Call 811 or visit call811.com for more information.

Common Ground Alliance

Employee anniversary

Congratulations to the following employee who observed an employment anniversary in August:

Jim Jackson..... 2 years



FCC | CONSUMER CONNECTIONS

Avoid Spoofing Scams

Phone scammers often disguise their identity by using illegal spoofing techniques to send false information to your caller ID display. To trick you into answering, spoofers may use local area codes and numbers that look familiar. Or they may impersonate a company you do business with, such as a local utility, or even a government agency.

Here are some good ways to avoid being spoofed:

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers.
- If you answer and it's not who you expected, don't hang on, hang up.
- If a caller asks you to hit a button to stop getting calls, just hang up.
- Never assume an unexpected call is legitimate. Hang up and call back using a number you can verify on a bill, a statement, or an official website.
- Be suspicious. Con artists can be very convincing: They may ask innocuous questions, or sound threatening, or sometimes seem too good to be true.
- Don't give out personal information – account numbers, Social Security numbers or passwords – or answer security questions.
- Use extreme caution if you are being pressured for immediate payment.
- Ask your phone company about call blocking tools for landlines or apps for mobile devices.
- Report spoofing scams to law enforcement, the FCC and the FTC.



Learn more at fcc.gov/spoofing



HEA Wins Statewide Magazine Awards

In May, CREA recognized HEA's *Colorado Country Life* content with four statewide magazine awards. Left to right: Tadius Huser, manager of member services, won first place for Best Newsletter Photo. Dennis Herman, general manager, won first place for Best Response to COVID-19 and second place for Best Story on a Community Program. Elise Pocock, accounting clerk, won second place for Best Explanation of an Industry Situation.



August 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for new lightbulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: energy.gov

Pesticide Safety

Please protect our employees

Our employees face serious health risks when they unknowingly enter a field that was sprayed or chemigated with any chemical. Just as you would not subject your family or employees to risk, we do not want to subject our employees to risk. Please consider the following:

- If you used any chemicals on a field, please notify Highline. You may call the office or you can place a flag at the entrance to the field. Please note the day when it is safe to enter the field and what chemical was used.
- Notification signs or flags are available free of charge at any Highline office.
- If calling during in an outage, please notify Highline if the field was sprayed.

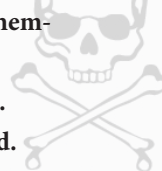
The initial and long-term effects of absorbing chemicals in the body are extremely hazardous to one's health. Please don't subject our employees to these dangers.

SPRAYING



Call Highline
1-800-
816-2236

SPRAYING



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Energy Savings for Your Business

Locally-owned businesses are the backbone of our community. With summer in full swing, now is the perfect time to make sure your building is equipped for maximum energy savings.

- LED lighting for your business allows you to maintain your preferred brightness levels while keeping energy costs low. And don't forget about your outdoor lighting options, as well as timers for automatic, overnight shutoff.
- Check any refrigeration to ensure it is running optimally and keeping items cool without setting the thermostat lower than necessary. Keep up with regular maintenance and refrigerant refills to ensure safe and longer-lasting inventory.
- Electric motor-driven systems account for about 25% of all commercial energy use. For larger operations, variable speed drives may be necessary to optimize your energy consumption.
- Unplug all unnecessary or unused appliances and electronic equipment. Many of these devices continue to draw power even when they are turned off. Advanced power strips are a smart, low-cost upgrade.
- Make sure your heating and cooling system is sized correctly for your business space. If it is not, this could lead to inefficient operation or insufficient cooling. Highline Electric Association's energy advisors can help you evaluate your existing system.

These tips can help you lower your energy use while keeping your operations humming. Highline Electric Association knows that your bottom line is important when making these business operations decisions. If these or other energy-saving adjustments require purchases, be sure to check co-op rebates for ways to save.

As your local electric cooperative, we would be happy to come to your office, warehouse or storefront to conduct a comprehensive energy audit to make sure you're maximizing every dollar. **Contact us at Highline Electric Association to set up your energy audit today.**

New Employee

Elliot Jones joined us on June 7, 2021, as a system engineer, working out of the Holyoke office.

Elliot grew up with his parents, Bryan and Cheryl, in Great Falls, Montana, until the age of 12 when his family moved to Sidney, Nebraska. He attended high school in Sidney, later attending college at the University of Wyoming.



Elliot Jones

Elliot currently lives in Holyoke and his hobbies include golf, ice hockey and playing a variety of instruments.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to join Highline and start getting hands-on experience related to my degree," Elliot said.

Each year, the U.S. faces an average of:

10,000 severe thunderstorms



1,000 tornadoes



2 deadly hurricanes



5,000 floods



100,000 thunderstorms



research collected from the National Weather Service

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 6

Your life. **YOUR ENERGY**



ENTER TO WIN!

EGO POWER+ 21" Select Cut™ XP Self-Propelled Electric Mower!



Visit NPA'S SUSTAINABILITY BOOTH at the NEBRASKA STATE FAIR!

Learn about PUBLIC POWER, SUSTAINABILITY, and get an up close look at NPPD's electric MUSTANG MACH-E!

