



VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 1049, Dillon, MT 59725-1049

(406) 683-2327 or (800) 221-8271

Web site: www.vec.coop

E-mail: contact@vec.coop

OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE

Vigilante Electric Awards First Safety Roundup Grant

For more than two years, we have been promoting our Safety Roundup program as a way our members can donate collectively to the organizations in our communities that keep us safe. Started as an “opt-in” voluntary program, it has taken some time to accumulate the funding needed to provide worthwhile awards. Now, we are proud to announce that we have awarded our first grant.

In January of this year, we asked for proposals for the first grant offering. At its April meeting, the board of trustees decided that our first grant would go to the Beaverhead Ski Patrol.

For those not familiar with the Beaverhead Ski Patrol, it is part of the national ski patrol, and is responsible for on-mountain safety at Maverick Mountain Ski Area. In March, we were contacted by ski patrol representative Rich Norquist. In his proposal, Rich outlined some of the equipment needs of the ski patrol, specifically its need for a new medical-grade digital-pulse oximeter and a rescue toboggan.

At Vigilante Electric Cooperative, we could not be more delighted to contribute to an organization whose creed is “Service and Safety.” We also would like to thank Rich for



his efforts on behalf of the Beaverhead Ski Patrol, and all of the members who actively participate in this program. Without you, this program and this grant would not be possible.

For those of you who may be wondering why we are doing this at all, the answer is simple — we’re a cooperative. Electric cooperatives adhere to seven core principles; Principle Seven is concern for community.

Members who choose to participate in the program allow us to round their bill up to the next whole dollar, or they add a few extra dollars each month or they make a one-time donation. Regardless of how the donations are made, 100 percent of the money will be presented to worthy organizations through grants. The average roundup donation is about 50 cents per month.

Individually, these donations don’t go far, but when members come together, we can make a difference. If you would like to participate or learn more about this program, you can visit our website at vec.coop, or contact our office for more details at 683-2327 or (800) 221-8271.

Another Look at SmartHub



Since introducing SmartHub, we have seen a steady growth of members using this service. To date, we have more than 1,400 registered members. For those new to our membership, SmartHub is a secure, innovative tool that makes managing your electric account(s) easier.

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to interact with us. SmartHub allows you access to a wealth of information from your computer, smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS). You can pay your bill, view your electricity use, stay in contact with us and much more. You’ll be notified when your bill is due, and you can pay securely with just a few clicks through stored payment information.

SmartHub helps you manage your account. You can store credit-card information and set up automatic payments that are secure and simple. With this, you also assume the responsibility for keeping this information up to date — especially your credit card information.

SmartHub allows you to stay on top of your usage and takes the guesswork out of your bill. Through detailed

graphs, you’ll be able to monitor your use and potentially find ways to reduce and save. Engaged users may also discover issues that lead to high bills. They can then use this information to modify their habits and reduce their energy costs.

If you still would like to pay online, but do not want to register or have information stored online, we offer SmartHub Pay Now. Unlike the full SmartHub site, you cannot view your usage or update information; it only allows you to pay your bill. Just use your billing account number and your last name, or the name of your business, to pay your bill quickly and easily.

SmartHub and SmartHub Pay Now can be accessed by using the green tabs in the upper right corner of our webpage or by downloading the free mobile app available through the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. Once it’s downloaded, search for and select Vigilante Electric Cooperative as your service provider, then follow the cues to register.

Information on all of your payment options is available on our website at www.vec.coop. You will also find instructions on how to download the mobile app to your tablet or smart phone. If you have any issues setting this up, please give us a call; we are always happy to assist you.

VIGILANTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Reliable Energy 101

The Importance and Beauty of Hydroelectricity

Just as a tightrope walker must maintain balance to guarantee a successful and safe high-wire crossing, so too must power grid operators maintain a delicate balance, accurately matching supply with demand and carefully preparing for their next move. Hydropower's many positive attributes, coupled with careful planning and precise management, make this power resource one of the most reliable. Here are a few reasons why.



controls the amount of water flowing to the turbines, which determines the amount of electricity the dam is generating.

You can save it for later. One of the greatest challenges of electrical systems is that energy has to be consumed as soon as it's produced — it can't be stored and saved for later. But hydropower offers the next best thing. Storage reservoirs behind dams in the Columbia River Basin can store up to 30 percent of an

average year's runoff. These reservoirs act like batteries by storing energy (or in this case, water) when it's not needed, and releasing it later when there's more power demand. Hydropower operators can also plan ahead for seasonal changes. Generally, operators in the Columbia Basin will fill reservoirs during the wetter months in preparation for drier conditions.

It's always on. Renewable resources aren't often associated with reliability because their generation depends on Mother Nature. But unlike many other renewables, Northwest hydropower is dependable and predictable. The cycle constantly replenishes the fuel source of the Columbia River Basin, which receives significant runoff from mountain snowmelt. With such a plentiful fuel source, hydropower serves most of the region's power needs year-round, 24/7. Hydropower is the only renewable resource that excels at producing such a high and continuous electrical output.

It can quickly change output. Hydropower plants are nimble enough to ramp up and down within minutes, or even seconds. This means they are ideal resources for meeting one of the requirements of electrical systems: The amount of power entering the transmission grid must equal the amount being consumed at all times. An imbalance can cause generating units to react by increasing or decreasing their rotational speed, or frequency, which should always be at 60 hertz. If not corrected, the generator could fall offline or even trigger a cascading outage. Hydropower can respond to imbalances from moment to moment, always keeping the system in balance.

It follows demand. Hydro is a "load-following" resource. That is, it can throttle up or down to match the daily peaks and valleys of our energy use — increasing in the morning when people start the day, and decreasing in the evening as people wind down. Operators control the electrical output by choosing how much water to allow through the water intakes in the dam. Opening and closing the intakes directly

It's a self-starter.

In the event of a system-wide blackout, utilities need access to black-start capability — the ability to start a generator in the absence of an outside power source. Just as a car needs a jump-start when it has a dead battery, most types of generators need an external power supply to return to operation. Hydropower plants are the only large-scale generators that can dispatch power to the grid immediately when all other sources are inaccessible.

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:



- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

Capital Credit Refunds

Vigilante Electric Cooperative is currently trying to locate the following individuals for payment of capital credits. If you have any information regarding names on this list, please contact us at 800-221-8271 or 683-2327, or by email at contact@vec.coop.

Allen, Charles East Helena, MT	Carlson, Molly Helena, MT	Fleeger, Donald & Donna Dillon, MT	Horton, Jason & Rikki Big Sandy, MT
Anderson, Dale & Gladys Rexburg, ID	Carr, Rebecca Chadron, NE	Fleming, Renee Fall River Mills, CA	Humphrey, Lynne Dillon, MT
Anderson, Dustin & Jamie c/o Cody Anderson Dillon, MT	Collison, Chris & Aimee Helena, MT	Fligge, Joshua Townsend, MT	Huth, Shari Townsend, MT
Arnold, Dewey Plains, MT	Cox, John Dillon, MT	Flowers, Bobbie Whitehall, MT	Ihly, Lynn Miles City, MT
ATT Broadband Denver, CO	Curran, Teresa Chehalis, WA	Frantum, Joel Bozeman, MT	Jablonski, Scott & Jacqueline Helena, MT
Avila, Tony Dillon, MT	Denicola, Jeffrey & Val Boise, ID	Fuller, Wayne & Lea Ennis, MT	Jerset, Melissa Dillon, MT
Barcomb-Oberg, Deb Dillon, MT	Dillon Hotel LLC c/o Matthew King Jr Coeur d' Alene, ID	Garcia, Anthony & Michelle Wilton, CT	Jessen, Jason Colstrip, MT
Bartos, Paul & Carrie Poplar, MT	Diorio, Rocky Dillon, MT	Gasowski, Nick Dillon, MT	Johnson, Sharon Yorba Linda, CA
Begin, Angie c/o Greg Miller Alder, MT	Dowden, Don & Rebecca Chinook, MT	George, Shellie & Patrick, Linda Townsend, MT	Juneau, Dennis Browning, MT
Bickford, Eran Boulder City, NV	Dunn, Leslie & Jane Fairbanks, AK	Glade, Don & Wall, Donna Dillon, MT	Kauffman, Lonnie Dillon, MT
Black, William Melrose, MT	Edsall, Sharon Avon, MT	Green, Glenda Townsend, MT	Keele, Michelle Townsend, MT
Blatt, Bryan Belgrade, MT	Edwards Lopez, Sara Dillon, MT	Grey, Robin Helena, MT	Keenan, Eileen Glenwood Springs, CO
Botte, Dawn Heyburn, ID	Eichinger, Chuck Edwards, CA	Hammond, Mystel Dillon, MT	Kessler, Kevin Butte, MT
Braach, Brian & Keely Dillon, MT	Elliott, Neal Townsend, MT	Hardyman, Julie Twin Bridges, MT	Kinder, Lee & Tiffany Lewistown, MT
Brown, Dan Marbleton, WY	Eubank, Donald Daytona Beach, FL	Harrod, Bonita c/o Garry Barnett Mankato, MN	Larsen, Kurt & Becky Whitehall, MT
Brown, Drew Springdale, MT	Fenton, James & Phillips, Stacey Lewistown, MT	Hartle, Donna Dillon, MT	Larson, Wade & Twila Red Lodge, MT
Bushman, Tara Dillon, MT	Figgins, Brian & Judi Townsend, MT	Henson, Sam & Gayle Dillon, MT	Lewis, Deb Harrison, MT
Campbell, John & Anna Dillon, MT	Fisher, Tim Ketchikan, AK	Hollinger, Kendra Dillon, MT	Lockmyer, Donna Helena, MT

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Refunds

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Lowe, Drew Dillon, MT	Norris, Jamie Dillon, MT	Schaaff, Pat Apple Valley, CA	Taynor, Adriene Langley, WA
Macomber, Richard Hardin, MT	Noyce, Margaret Estate Missoula, MT	Schmith, Howard & Barbara Helena, MT	Thomason, L D Dillon, MT
Mahn, Melissa Dillon, MT	O'Dell-Mattox, Kelly Bozeman, MT	Schwanes, Heather Corvallis, OR	Thompson, Gary & Raylene Salmon, ID
Mahoney, Doug Townsend, MT	Olsen, Mike & Annie Fort Greely, AK	Siewert, John Helena, MT	Van Horne, Tracy Dillon, MT
Marshall, Kelly Helena, MT	O'Reilly, Maureen Helena, MT	Smith, Albert Dillon, MT	Vanhoudt, Francis Dillon, MT
McCarthy, Shane & Mikelyn Butte, MT	Pacheco, Patrick & Laurie Helena, MT	Smith, Gregg Shady Springs, WV	Vasina, Patrick Whitehall, MT
McCormick, Francis Helena, MT	Parks, Steve Bozeman, MT	Smith, Randy & Mary Townsend, MT	Walker, Kay Dillon, MT
McGee, Frank Butte, MT	Petersen, Christine Dillon, MT	Spatzierath, Dustin East Helena, MT	Waltner, Ryan & Danielle Dillon, MT
McKessick, Kip & Kristi Great Falls, MT	Pettijohn, David & Amanda Lincoln, NE	Squires, James Coeur d' Alene, ID	Warmoth Prairie Whitehall, MT
Metge, Debra Dubois, ID	Peuse, Desiree Butte, MT	Stanton, John & Rachel Shepherd, MT	Weise, Dennis Helena, MT
Meyer, Matt Townsend, MT	Plummer, Jeanie Montana City, MT	Stephens, David & Diann Camp Verde, AZ	Welch, Pam Ten Sleep, WY
Mills, Wesley & Megan Dillon, MT	Poe, Royce Townsend, MT	Stone, Clint Anchorage, AK	Wheeler, Laura Douglas City, CA
Moore, John Dillon, MT	Purcell, Gloria Helena, MT	Stroud, Marti Jones, OK	Williams, Paul & Samantha Helena, MT
Mrkich, Theresa Dillon, MT	Redstone, Ashton & Olind, Justin Omaha, NE	Tash, Tim & Robyn Dillon, MT	Zinger, Larry & Doris Bozeman, MT
Murolo, Willow Dillon, MT	Rens, Emily Jackson, MT	Taynor, Michael & Suzanna Melrose, MT	
Nakao, Bruce Los Altos, CA	Revier, Jack Plains, MT		
Nellis, Eric & Lisa Manhattan, MT	Reynolds, Veronica Helena, MT		
Nelson, Richard & Rose Dillon, MT	Roach, Lily Dillon, MT		
Newman, Al Whitehall, MT	Robare, Steve Gully, MN		
Nicholes, Justin & Erin Anaconda, MT	Rogers, Gene & Linda Scotsdale, AZ		
	Rose, Jolene Dillon, MT		



**VIGILANTE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

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Vigilante Safety Roundup Tracker

Participating members: 233

Total Contributions: \$2,487.34

To apply contact our office at
(800) 221-8271 or 683-2327

An online application is available at www.vec.coop.