

News FOR YOU...

April 2008

“Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.”

Board of Directors Approve Temporary Surcharge

Barron Electric Cooperative’s Board of Directors approved implementing a temporary surcharge at the February 29, 2008 board meeting. The temporary rate surcharge was included on electric bills for all Barron Electric members starting March 1, and will continue on the April and May bill statements. Barron Electric’s January and February wholesale power bills from Dairyland Power Cooperative included a \$.0045 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) increase on all kWhs sold. The cooperative anticipates a similar power cost adjustment on the March wholesale power bill.

The wholesale power bill makes up over 60% of Barron Electric’s expenses. Factors contributing to the increase on the wholesale power bill include colder than normal weather, increased wholesale market pressure due to the lack of transmission and generation capacity; and unexpected outages at generating plants. Dairyland Power

was forced to purchase power in the marketplace at much exorbitant prices.

Barron Electric is not-for-profit, and rates are set to break even. Barron Electric’s Board of Directors, management, and employees strive to be good financial stewards of the cooperative’s resources.

Statewide Licensing of Electricians, Electric Heat, Copper Theft Bills Signed

Wisconsin’s Governor Doyle recently signed a statewide licensing of electricians bill into law.

The Department of Commerce will now have one year to develop administrative rules and standards for licensing electricians and electrical contractors, for electrical inspections, and for a state wiring code. An existing state wiring code applies to places

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Arrowhead-Weston Transmission Line Energized

The 220-mile, 345-kV Arrowhead-Weston transmission line linking Wausau with Duluth, MN was energized in early February. This is one of the nation's largest recently-built transmission lines, completed safely, ahead of schedule and at a total cost of \$439 million and within budget. The line has a carrying capacity of up to 800 MW, enough to power more than 250,000 homes.

Energy Cent\$

Receive a Free Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb with Your Energy Cent\$ Idea!



Send in your energy cent\$ idea, and if we publish your idea, we will send you a compact fluorescent light bulb.

Twice a year, vacuum the dust off your refrigerator and freezer coils. This will help your appliances to run less and operate more efficiently.

-Member Ken Hafstad

Barron Electric reserves the right to reject or edit any ideas submitted. E-mail ideas to cbaribeau@barronelectric.com or mail with your electric payment.

Planting Trees

When deciding where to plant trees or shrubs, look up first. Do not plant anything directly under power lines. A minimum of 10 feet of clearance is required around



the top wire and 20 feet on each side of the pole line at ground level. Before planting a tree, consider the mature height of the tree.

Please keep shrubs at least three feet away from the sides and back of padmount transformers. The transformer's access door should remain completely unobstructed, so crews can quickly access the transformer and avoid delaying any work.

Beware of Space Heater Ads that Promise Big Savings

There are several radio, newspaper, and magazine ads for space heaters that claim they will cut heating bills by up to 50%. However, ads also tell consumers to turn the temperature down as low as 50 degrees. The truth is the savings are not in the heater, but are a result of turning the temperature to 50 degrees. A 1500-watt space heater running 24 hours per day for 30 days will cost approximately \$97.20 for one month.

Bills Signed *continued from cover*

of employment and farms; the new code will apply regardless of building type.

People currently performing electrical work must pass a licensing examination within five years. After that, all but beginning electricians will need to be licensed before commencing work. Beginners will be required to register but needn't submit to an exam until they seek advancement to a higher level. After five years, no electrical work can be performed unless a licensed master electrician is ultimately responsible for it.

Governor Doyle also signed bills repealing the "superinsulation" requirement for electrically heated buildings and toughening the state's response to the growing crime of copper theft.

Dairyland Power Cooperative to Distribute 290,000 CFLs



Dairyland Power will be distributing 290,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) to participating distribution cooperatives, including Barron Electric to encourage energy-efficient lighting. Each year-round Barron Electric residential member will receive three 19-watt CFLs in the mail by Earth Day, which is April 22. (Members with minimum bills are not included.)

Each bulb saves about \$30 or more in energy costs over its lifetime. CFLs use up to 75% less energy than standard lighting to produce

the same amount of light, and last up to 10 times longer. They are available in different sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture, indoors and outdoors.

Benefits to the Dairyland System

The environmental benefits of Dairyland Power Cooperative distributing 290,000 CFLs to participating distribution

cooperatives include*:

- ▲ Reducing carbon dioxide by over 250 million pounds, the equivalent of removing more than 21,800 cars from the road for a year or

planting more than 31,000 acres of forest.

- ▲ Saving the Dairyland Power Cooperative system members more than \$20 million in energy costs over the life cycle of the bulbs and reducing demand by almost 8 megawatts.

The 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act mandates that light bulbs be 25-30% more efficient by 2014 and 70% more efficient by 2020.



**Assumptions: replacing a 75-watt bulb with a 19-watt CFL; 3 hrs/day 365 days per year; 9.7¢ kWh rate*

Steps for Cleaning-up Broken CFLs

Fluorescent light bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. EPA recommends the following clean-up and disposal guidelines:

Before Clean-up:

Vent the Room

- ▶ Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- ▶ Turn off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces

- ▶ Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place in a sealed plastic bag.

- ▶ Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any small glass fragments and powder.
- ▶ Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes and place them in the plastic bag.
- ▶ **DO NOT USE A VACUUM** or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug

- ▶ Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a sealed plastic bag.
- ▶ Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any small

- glass fragments and powder.
- ▶ If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- ▶ Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

Recycling CFLs

Barron Electric has a RECYCLEPAK pail available at the Barron office. If your bulb was mailed to you and it was broken, contact the cooperative for a replacement.

Director's Notes



Mike Baker serves on Barron Electric's Board of Directors representing District 3.

CONDENSED BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 30, 2008

- ▲ Director Smith gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Petersen. A report of vouchers for the month was printed as part of the board packet as follows: #74134 thru 74330, and #20059338-353 on First National Bank of Barron were in the amount of \$413,307. Director Smith reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,372,559; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$929,006; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,601,704; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$203,349; power bill due 1/30/08 - \$1,605,849, and capital credits - \$7,531. A membership list was reviewed and approved as presented.
- ▲ A Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$176,448.23 was approved as presented, and included new services-\$6,446.91; change jobs-\$14,758.11; miscellaneous-\$155,243.21; and 19 retirements.

Barron Electric Cooperative

Country Comfort, LLC Partner

Kenneth A. Petersen
General Manager

Carrie Baribeau—Editor
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Office Hours
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

1434 State Highway 25 North
PO Box 40 • Barron, WI 54812
(715) 537-3171
Toll Free: 1-800-322-1008
www.barronelectric.com

Published for the members of Barron Electric. If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail cbaribeau@barronelectric.com



Tips for Purchasing CFLs

Look for the ENERGY STAR label which guarantees the CFL bulb has met certain energy-efficiency guidelines. Match the right CFL type to the right kind of fixture to help ensure that it will perform properly and last longer. Replace bulbs where lights typically burn the most hours (hallway, living room, kitchen, porch lights). Some CFL bulbs have trouble operating in enclosed fixtures; therefore CFLs work best in open fixtures that allow air flow. Check the CFL's packaging for any restrictions in use. For example, fixtures that are connected to a dimmer, light sensor or three-way switch require CFLs that are suited to those applications. For recessed fixtures, it is better to use a reflector CFL than a spiral, since the design of the reflector evenly distributes the light down to your task area. To get the bulb with the right amount of light, choose one that offers the same lumen rating as the bulb you are replacing. The higher the lumen rating, the greater the light output.

For Sale

- ▶ Country Mobile Home Park, large wood lots, single or double-wide, Prairie Lake Estates. 715-925-2034.
- ▶ Buy a Heatmaster stainless steel outdoor woodstove from Pineview Woodstoves. Excellent design and reasonable prices. Call Randy Koehn at 357-3298.
- ▶ Markie P. Construction for all your remodeling needs. Senior discounts. Free estimates. Call 715-924-3488 or cell 715-642-0078.
- ▶ Paying too much for insurance? Life-Health-Home-Auto-Business-Medicare Supplements-Long Term Care. Korthof Insurance Services. 715-766-2505 or KorthofInsuranceServices@direcway.com
- ▶ New paddle boats, top-of-the-line, carpeted deck, padded seats (four), sun-top, aluminum floats, 6' x 11' with walk-around deck. New smaller pontoon boats, 6 1/2' x 17' full furniture group, sun-top, perfect for smaller lakes, easy to trailer. Kennedy Pontoons, Inc. Centuria, Wisconsin. 715-640-6000 or visit us at www.kennedypontoons.com
- ▶ Like to travel? Want to save \$\$ when you do? Book your travel/vacations on-line at www.ytbtravel.com/mjacky.
- ▶ Package Deal, 2005 32' Jayco Eagle 5th wheel, 3 slideouts, 2003 Ford superduty diesel truck with hitch, low mileage! Both like new, \$43,500. 715-458-3862.
- ▶ Wanted for 2008 summer. Couple, non-smoking, no pets, to rent completely furnished two bedroom cabin on beautiful Spooner Lake. Private dock, 14 ft. aluminum boat, fish house, and utilities furnished except phone. Deposit required. Call 715-635-6696.
- ▶ Steffes and Stiebel Eltron heat storage repair and install. Water heater repair. Call Handyman Plus at 715-458-2967.
- ▶ Markie P. Construction - for all your kitchen and bathroom remodeling. Save \$\$\$! Free estimates and senior discounts. Call Mark at 715-924-3488 or 715-642-0078.

Please contact Barron Electric Cooperative's Operations Department at 537-3171 or 800-322-1008 for more information on the electric furnaces listed below. Sale is on a first-come, first-served basis.

QUANTITY	MANUFACTURER	SIZE	VOLTAGES	PRICE
1	Ruud	21KW	208/240	\$125
3	Electro Industries	30 KW	240	\$250 each