

LANE-SCOTT CONNECTIONS

P.O. Box 758, 410 S. High St., Dighton, KS 67839
Phone 620-397-5327

Lane-Scott REC Starts New Business in Dighton

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the starting of a new business in Dighton, Kansas. According to Earl Steffens, General Manager of the local cooperative, it will be a wholly owned subsidiary called HIGH LINE SERVICES, LLC. High Line Services, LLC will offer services including pole testing and replacement, global information systems recording, an infrared testing program, electric power line construction and tree trimming.

High Line Services, LLC is the vision of Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. It will be a new business based on the core values of the cooperative. The services we are offering are concepts that Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. routinely deals with in its operation and maintenance activities.

High Line Services, LLC, over the next year, plans to employ between 10-14 people. High Line Services employees will train in each area of service to be offered by working on Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative's overhead power lines and substations until we are confident that the service we have to offer others will be of the quality and expertise we would expect from others. High Line Services, LLC anticipates hiring a Manager of Power Line Construction, Pole Testing Inspector and an Infrared Manager by the first of December of this year.

High Line Services, LLC future facilities site will be on the city block adjacent to our existing facility, according to our current plan this will be within the next year or so. Lane-Scott Electric Coop, Inc. would like to thank the Lane County Commissioners for their foresight in letting us purchase this real estate.

High Line Services, LLC has a great opportunity to bring ten to fourteen jobs to a community that is searching for business activity and in need of economic development. These jobs will be quality jobs that will allow people to raise a family, build a home, promote quality education and become a vital part of the community. Starting a new business that will be profitable in the first year with the help of state and community support is what working together is all about to make rural Kansas and rural America stronger.

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative Newsletter

Telephone 397-5327
Owned & Published by
The Lane-Scott Electric
Co-op, Inc.
P.O. Box 758
410 S. High St.
Dighton, KS 67839

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In Case of Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call Dighton, 1-800-407-2217. Office hours 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. After hours calls will be answered by the dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

**After Hours & Weekends Call:
1-800-407-2217**

24-Hour Electrician Emergency Service

If you are without electricity, or have an electrical emergency on your side of the meter, we have a master electrician on staff available 24 hours a day. To request after-hours electrician service, call the following number:

1-800-407-2217

Lane-Scott Trustee Receives Credential in Today's Electric Utility Competencies

Richard Jennison from Lane-Scott Electric Co-op recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Jennison was recognized at NRECA's Region VII meeting in Denver, Colorado for his commitment to education and attainment of the CCD certificate before an audience of more than 500 electric cooperative officials from four states, including Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles. Electric co-ops in Kansas have a commitment to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses: Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Roles and Relationships, Business Planning, and Understanding Financial Planning.

The NRECA Region VII meeting is the sixth in a series of seven 2002 Regional Meetings convened by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The Regionals continue the association's grassroots policymaking process, which begins at the local co-op level and culminates at NRECA's Annual Meeting, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, March 2-5, 2003.

NRECA represents the nation's more than 950 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to 35 million people in 46 states.



Glenn English, center, general manager of NRECA presented Credentialed Cooperative Director certificates to several Kansas cooperative trustees, including Lane-Scott's Richard Jennison, second from right.

What That TV Show Costs...

If you've ever wondered how much it costs to watch TV, here's an example for a month.



"An average solid-state, color television may be rated at 300 watts per hour of operation," said Bruce Snead, extension specialist in residential energy at Kansas State University.

If the average family watches four hours of television a day, this amounts to 1.2 kilowatt-hours per day. A 30-day total would be 36 kilowatt-hours.

"At eight cents per kilowatt-hour, the cost would be about \$2.88 a month," Snead said.

Saving \$\$ With Your Dishwasher

About 80 percent of the energy used by a dishwasher is for hot water, not for electricity to run the motor. So, the Department of Energy recommends doing the following to make your dishwasher more efficient and save money:

Check the owner's manual for recommended water temperature. Many have internal heating elements that will allow you to lower the temperature if it is set too high.

Scrape, don't rinse, off large pieces of food and bones from dishes. Soak or prewash only when there is burned-on or dried-on food.

Fill your dishwasher before each use – but don't overload.

Don't use the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. This setting uses three to seven gallons of hot water.

Let your dishes air dry instead of using the heat-drying method.

Relax and enjoy the convenience of having a dishwasher because dishwashers use less water than hand washing – about six gallons less per load. Dishwashers also do a better job of killing germs because they use hotter water than you would use with hand washing.



**In Observance of the
Holiday Season,
We Will Be Closed
December 25th,
and January 1st.**

\$162,098.49 RETURNED TO LANE-SCOTT MEMBER IN CAPITAL CREDITS

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. is returning capital credits to its members in the amount of \$162,098.49. These are the capital credits from the years 1973 through 1978. As you may recall, the Board of Trustees set in place last year a plan to get our capital

credits on a twenty-year cycle. This is the second step of that plan and by 2004, payment of capital credits from Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., should be on a twenty-year cycle.

Christmas Tree Safety

The combination of blazing fireplaces and Christmas trees make for great Christmas carols. But they're a bad combination for your family's safety. A dry evergreen is highly flammable. Sometimes, even a minor spark can ignite it. And, of course, fireplaces open to a room are notorious for all kinds of sparks.

So place your tree in a room separated from your fireplace if possible. If it's not possible, be sure there is plenty of distance between them. And never leave an open fire blazing near your Christmas tree when going to bed or leaving home. Your local electric co-op wants you to have a very Merry Christmas. But leave the open fires and Christmas trees to the carols, not your living room.



The Cold And Flue Season?

When the first crisp nights of autumn arrive, it's tempting to build a crackling fire in the fireplace. But when the weather gets really cold, an open fire can actually rob your home of far more heat than it produces. In fact, when you open your fireplace damper, you're creating an escape hatch that lets out as much heated air as a large open window!

So enjoy your fires when the weather is more moderate, and reduce your use of the fireplace during the really cold months. Be sure to keep that flue closed whenever the fireplace isn't in use. If you really love a fire, install glass fireplace doors that let you see those flickering flames, but keeps the heat in the room from going up in smoke.

WATER THAT TREE!

A dry evergreen tree is highly flammable. Place your Christmas tree so it is not located near a fireplace, preferably in a room without a fireplace.

Before installing your Christmas tree in the tree stand, cut off one inch from the bottom of the trunk to enable the tree to take up the amount of moisture it needs each day.

Check all cords and light strings before using them. Destroy any that have insulation nicks or frayed wires. Turn off lights when going to bed or leaving home.

Water your tree each day with the following mixture to preserve the tree.

- ¼ cup chlorine bleach**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 gallon warm water**

MIX A FRESH BATCH EACH TIME YOU ADD WATER TO YOUR TREE.



Free Energy?

What is the one source of energy that's absolutely free? Why, it's the sun, of course! And if you use it to help heat your home this winter, you can save yourself a little money.

On the sunny side of your house, open the drapes when the sun is out. Then, when the sun goes down, close your drapes.

With the cost of heating your home today, you might as well take advantage of all that free heat you can get from the sun.



LANE-SCOTT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. EXITS HIGH PLAINS ENERGY, LLC

Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc., Board of Trustees voted unanimously to exit High Plains Energy, LLC at their October 28, 2002 Board of Trustees meeting. Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. joined High Plains Energy, LLC as an alternative source of income for the members of the cooperative. As High Plains Energy continued to grow, it is clear to Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. that its size is going to put restrictions on our cooperative. Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. wants to make the following statements:

- Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. has found the management and Board of Trustees of High Plains Energy to be good partners in this business venture.

- Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. has very few, if any, members that are using the services of High

Plains Energy.

- High Plains Energy was formed with the purpose of finding alternative fuel sources for the cooperative members in propane sales and with fuel cells on the horizon this seemed like a good fit. Affordable fuel cells for the residential consumer seem to be quite a ways in the future.

- Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. is happy for the opportunity to have worked with the cooperatives of Wheatland Electric, Pioneer Electric, Tri-County Electric and CMS Electric. We have formed many good friendships and enjoyed the fellowship.

- Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Inc. wants to wish High Plains Energy, LLC much success in the future.

Heat Tape Efficiency

By John Krigger

Heat tape is sometimes used in cold climates to protect water systems from freezing during severe weather. It uses electrical energy to power small strip heaters that are fastened to vulnerable pipes, valves, or pumps.

It is always best to install plumbing equipment within the heated portion of the home in the first place. But if you have equipment installed in cold areas you may need to rely on occasional protection from heat tape. A few guidelines can help you reduce the use of this temporary heat source, saving energy and avoiding fire hazards.

- Avoid using the lightweight, plastic, thermostatically controlled types of heat tape. These use a lot of electricity and can be dangerous if not installed properly.
- Use self-regulating heat tape, connected to a separate 110-volt thermostat. The self-regulating heat tape produces more heat as the temperature becomes colder. It is rugged and resists mechanical damage better than the flat, thin-skinned type. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully whatever type you use.

Best yet, avoid using heat tape altogether by understanding where and how pipes may freeze:

- Install water lines away from areas that are close to air

leaks such as foundation vents, windows, or outside doorways.

- Install water lines away from walls with little or no insulation, such as foundation or basement walls.
- Bury water lines within your home's insulation when possible so that waste heat from the living space can protect them during cold weather.
- Insulate vulnerable pipes with foam pipe sleeves or fiberglass pipe wrap.

If you're building a new home, be sure to locate underground pipes below the frost line. Locate your main valve near the center of your house so that the house's warmth keeps the pipes thawed even in the coldest weather. With good design, you can avoid the use of heat tape altogether.

Source: Saturn Resource Management (www.residential-energy.com)

John Krigger is a nationally recognized author of numerous energy efficiency books, including *Your Home Cooling Guide*; *EnergyWise Guide to Home Energy Conservation and Residential Energy*; and *Cost Savings and Comfort for Existing Buildings*. For more info on his publications, please visit his website www.residential-energy.com.