



FALL RIVER FLASHES

December 2023

Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.



Office Closure For The Upcoming Holidays

Fall River Electric offices will close early on Friday, December 22, and will be closed until Tuesday morning, December 26, for the Christmas holiday. Additionally, our offices will close early on December 29 and all-day Monday, New Year's Day, January 1. The offices will observe the federal Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 15, and will be closed.

In case of an unexpected power outage during these holiday times, our crews will be on standby to respond as quickly and safely as possible. Call 1.800.632.5726 to report power outages day or night.

Need Help Paying Your Energy Bill?

December marks the official start of winter in Fall River Electric country and that means colder weather is here, as well as typically higher monthly energy bills. But help is available. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) and Fall River Helping Hands can both be utilized by Fall River Electric members. To inquire about LIHEAP, call the office in your state:

IDAHO 208.522.5391

MONTANA 406.587.4486

WYOMING 800.246.4221

To apply for Helping Hands, visit www.fallriverelectric.com/fall-river-helping-hands for details and an application.

Happy 85th Birthday Fall River Electric!

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative was born in Ashton, Idaho, on December 15, 1938.

How To Save On Your Demand Rate

Managing your demand usage can lower your monthly energy bill. Demand is a measurement of the amount of electricity used at a specific moment of the day. For your electric utility, it is the peak impact on our system to deliver power. The more appliances operating in your home or business at one time, the higher the demand.

You can save on your demand by planning ahead. For example, doing laundry, cooking on an electric stovetop or in an oven, and running the dishwasher all at the same time uses quite a bit more demand. If you were to cook, then start the dishwasher after dinner, and start the laundry before you go to bed, then you have effectively lowered your demand. Staggering the use of major appliances will be the easiest way to manage demand on your electric bill.

Consider these wintertime demand items and manage how and when they are used:

- Electric heat
- Portable space heaters
- Engine block heaters
- Stock water tank heaters
- Electric gutter tape heaters
- Christmas lighting
- Holiday cooking
- Electric fireplaces



The easiest way to reduce your demand is to spread out your electric usage throughout the day. For more information about demand and how to better manage it, visit www.fallriverelectric.com/demand-resources.

Light Up The Holidays Safely & Save

This year is rapidly coming to a close and that means the holiday lighting season is back. If your home needs a decorative refresh for the holidays, here are some tips to take your artistic styling to the next level—there are two areas to cover.

Safety is up first! If your lights are ground mounted or can be installed standing on the floor or ground, you can skip ahead. Since most decorations involve some installation at height, however, you need to do the following:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decorations, an invaluable part of safety and for keeping you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners, and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric wires.
3. Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate it.
4. Don't overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.

5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends.



6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.

Most of these tips apply to outside decorating activities but several to inside, too.

Light selection is key to your holiday success. LED lights provide longevity, brilliant color, and cost savings. A reasonable estimate of power consumption is 7 watts per 100 lights. Old incandescent bulbs use 12 watts. A string of 100 can devour 1200 watts. Want to invest even greater savings when operating holiday lights? Invest in timers to turn the lights on and off automatically. Enjoy the holiday and the lights, while also saving electricity and money!



800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON
1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS
1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE
436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

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Want your Fall River **FLASHES** faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

Is There A Secret Plan To Breach The Lower Snake River Dams?

Idaho Congressman Russ Fulcher along with Representatives McMorris Rodgers and Newhouse of Washington and Cliff Bentz of Oregon are demanding in a letter sent to President Biden's White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in November that they grant immediate access to the "package of actions and commitments" recently negotiated in the mediation concerning the potential breaching of the four Lower Snake River Dams in eastern Washington State.

CEQ became publicly involved in issues over salmon recovery when a blog post in March

commitments, we find it necessary to remind you Congress alone has the authority not only to order the breach of the Lower Snake River Dams, but also exclusive authority to direct the study of breaching or to authorize replacement resources. This is a statutory fact, and we warn the administration not to attempt to circumvent that fact through clever wordsmithing."

This letter is supported by stakeholders directly affected by the results of the mediation, including the Public Power Council, of which Fall River Electric Cooperative is a member.



of 2022 stated that CEQ hired mediators and hosted listening sessions with stakeholders to find a way to ensure a clean-energy future, while honoring longstanding commitments to Native tribes. The agency is also a key player in a President Biden administration memo last September that announced plans to honor tribal treaty rights and directed federal agencies to initiate steps to advance salmon recovery.

On October 31, the legal stay in the long-running court litigation related to the Columbia River System Operations (CRSO) expired. A 45-day extension was approved to allow federal mediation to continue. Shortly thereafter, federal defendants and plaintiffs filed a report to the court stating they had developed a package of actions and commitments. That package, however, has not been made public.

In the letter to Brenda Mallory, chair of the CEQ, the lawmakers wrote: "In addition to expecting the immediate transmittal of the proposed

"The people of the Pacific Northwest have really been let down by the so-called process being run by the CEQ," said Scott Simms, CEO/Executive Director of the Public Power Council. "Our nonprofit, community-owned utilities, and their customers were never given a real chance from the get-go, as we just recently learned a few parties in the litigation were working secretly with the federal government for six months on a package of action and commitments."

Simms added that he can't wait to see the "prospective new costs that are being proposed for Northwest customers as a result of these secret dealings."

The Fall River Electric Board of Directors passed a resolution earlier this year stating the Cooperative's support for "...the continued operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System in general and the Lower Snake River Dams in particular."

Patronage Capital Checks To Arrive In December

If you were an owner-member of Fall River Electric in 2005 and/or 2006, you are one of several thousand members who will receive a portion of \$2.1 million in cash back payments in December. One of the most valuable benefits of being a member of your cooperative is Patronage Capital. The amount of patronage capital you receive is based on how much electricity you used in the years mentioned.



Please be sure to carefully review the letter included with your check and always provide Fall River with a current address should you move, so your future patronage capital checks arrive each year!



Fall River Electric linemen Jace, Taggart, and Kade assisted the Downtown Driggs Association installing holiday lights. This is another example of how Fall River Electric cares for the communities we serve.