



FALL RIVER FLASHES

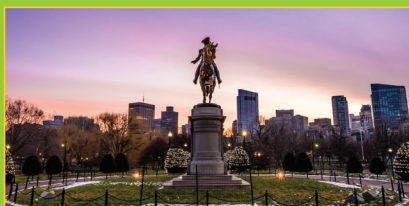
January 2024

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



2024 ENERGY EXPO: JUNE 8 IN DRIGGS

Mark your calendar for Fall River Electric's 85th anniversary annual meeting and Energy Expo to be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at Teton High School in Driggs, Idaho. Don't miss free prizes, dozens of health and energy expo vendors, kids rides and games, and a free breakfast for all who attend.



OFFICES CLOSED FEBRUARY 19TH

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, February 19, in celebration of Presidents' Day. This holiday commemorates George Washington, the first President of the United States. If you experience an outage on a holiday or any time after normal business hours, call 1.800.632.5726.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Colder weather usually arrives in January in Fall River Electric country and that means typically higher monthly energy bills, too. But help is available. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) and Fall River Helping Hands can each 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.



Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors, alongside the Co-op's staff and management, would like to extend a Happy New Year wish to you and your family! [pictured left to right, top row: Doug Schmier, Jeff Keay, Anna Lindstedt, Jodi Stiehl, Dede Draper, and Travis Markegard. Bottom row, seated: Brent Robson, Georg Behrens, Husk Crowther, and Bryan Case.]

White House Reaches Historic Agreement To Restore Salmon

A truce, perhaps temporary, has been signed in the 30-year battle over the Columbia River System Operations and, more specifically, the desire to remove the lower Snake River dams. Federal agencies, the states of Washington and Oregon, and four tribes filed an agreement that would pause litigation for up to 10 years while the region works out plans to replace the energy and services provided by the four dams on the Snake River in eastern Washington.



The agreement, which was negotiated in secret (see *FLASHES* December 2023 article), calls for several studies to see what it will take to replace the services of the dams—including hydroelectric power, barge transportation of nearly 10 percent of all U.S. wheat, farm irrigation, and recreation. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Fall River Electric's primary wholesale power provider, is expected to spend an additional \$300 million over the next ten years to fund some salmon recovery efforts.

U.S. Senator Jim Risch of Idaho doubled down on his opposition to dam breaching and reiterated that it is solely Congress that could remove the federal dams. "This litigation effort was useless: it occurred behind closed doors, between parties who wanted the same end result—to tear out our dams and it completely excluded Idahoans who rely on the river system," Risch said.

District Court Judge Michael Simon gave all parties until December 29 to enter a response to the government's motion to stay. Simon gave the government and plaintiffs until January 12, 2024, to respond to those filings.

Scott Simms, CEO of the Portland Oregon based Public Power Council (PPC), said in a press release that BPA's own analysis puts the cost at \$415 to \$860 million annually to replace the power resources of the LSRDs. "Overall, the uncertainty and potential long-term power cost impacts of a more than 40 percent BPA wholesale power rate hike from this agreement remain unacceptable for nonprofit public power utilities in the Northwest," Simms said.

Protect Yourself From Falling Snow & Ice

As the weather gets colder and the snow deeper, many people are carrying out winterization measures to protect their homes and businesses. Falling snow and ice from roofs poses an entirely different set of risks to residents, neighbors, and business customers.



While slip-and-fall or slip-and-crash accidents may immediately come to mind as common winter hazards, falling ice and snow from roofs can also cause serious injury to the unsuspecting person. Serious head, neck, and back injuries, including severe concussions, can result from a snowpack sliding off a steep roof. Along with the possibility of a concussion and neck injuries, if a person is knocked off their feet, they can also experience the typical injuries associated with a slip-and-fall accident.

If a sliding snowpack is heavy enough, or includes a hefty chunk of ice, it could be considered a "roof avalanche," which could not only damage your roof but may very well knock a person unconscious or cause them to be buried. A good rule to keep in mind is if more than six inches of heavy snow has accumulated on your roof, you should have it removed by a professional. Let us all enjoy a safe winter!



Where Service Matters

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.

Fall River Can Help Your Student With Their College Education

More than \$75,000 in scholarships are being made available to current high school seniors who are planning to attend college or receive vocational training this fall. A total of thirty-two scholarships worth \$2,400 each are available through Fall River Electric's college and continuing education scholarship program. To qualify, all applicants (students) must have parents or guardians who are owner-members (customers) of Fall River Electric.

Students who have previously received a scholarship from Fall River Electric are reminded that they need to re-apply each year to continue to receive scholarship assistance.

Scholarship applications are available at www.fallriverelectric.com/scholarships. Deadline to apply is March 22, 2024, so hurry! Scholarships will be presented at Fall River Electric's annual business meeting in June in Driggs and are funded by unclaimed Patronage Capital.



Fall River Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors is also offering a \$2,400 yearly scholarship to a member or a child of a member that is interested in a utility career as a lineman. This scholarship will be awarded to one person who plans to enroll in a lineman college. The applicant or their parents or guardians must be members of Fall River Electric to qualify. The lineman scholarship information can also be found at the website location listed above.

TAKE SAFETY HOME: Safe Towing

With winter weather here, many owner-members of Fall River Electric will be towing trailers for work and recreation. Here are a few safety tips to best navigate road conditions while utilizing a trailer:



- Match your trailer ball to the right coupler size and make sure it is fully engaged;
- Ensure the electrical plug is firmly inserted with brake lights, turn signals, and running lights are working properly;

- Check that safety chains are hooked up and the breakaway cable is securely attached to your vehicle; and
- Make sure your trailer tires are in good condition and you have a properly fitting spare.

As you head out, remember to drive in the right lane on a 4-lane highway as much as possible. Make wider turns at corners, allow for longer stopping distances, and use a "spotter" when backing up your trailer. Stay safe this winter!

CORRECTION: In our November issue of FLASHES, our car seat tips said, "forward facing car seats are used for children from 2 to 7." The correct instructions are to keep your child in a rear-facing car seat up to age 4 or until he/she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by the manufacturer.

EV Fast Charging Stations Officially Open

The Enel X 175kW EV fast chargers, owned and operated by Fall River Electric Cooperative, officially opened for business in Driggs and Island Park last month. Funding for the chargers were provided by a grant from the State of Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality VW settlement and another grant from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Attending the Island Park ribbon cutting were (pictured left to right) Reeca Marotz, Island Park City Clerk; Collette Rinehart, Island Park Chamber Executive Director; Monika Boyce, Outback Realty; Clint Washburn, Fall River Member Services Manager; Island Park Mayor Michael Bogden; Fremont County Commissioner Blair Dance; and Cooperative

board member Jeff Keay.

The chargers are located at Ponds Lodge in front of the Island Park city office and are available 24/7.

At the Driggs location, Driggs Mayor August Christensen and Fall River Electric's Board President Georg Behrens cut the ribbon, which was held by Co-op Member Services Manager Clint Washburn and board member Travis Markegard. The Driggs chargers are located behind Kaufman Tires.

Special thanks to the Teton Valley Chamber of Commerce for their assistance with the ribbon cutting.

