



2023 ENERGY EXPO & Annual Report

Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative



RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Where Service Matters

May/June 2023

Investing in the Future

2023 Annual Report to the Members

As an owner of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, the board of directors and staff know we are accountable to you for our stewardship of this great Cooperative. This annual report illustrates the dedication, hard work, innovation, and vision Fall River has in continually striving for excellence to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, our owner-members.

Keeping Power Rates Low

Many electric customers around this great nation are facing increased costs of electricity. Your elected board and the Co-op's management team and staff, however, have focused their efforts on controlling costs and increasing efficiencies toward the goal of maintaining the Co-op's exceptional financial position and low power rates. Those efforts have resulted in these benefits for you, our owner-members:

- **Decrease in Retail Rates** – Your board of directors approved a 1.9% general retail rate decrease for Cooperative members, which went into effect in January 2022. Our Cooperative has not had a general rate increase for the past eight years, and this is the first rate *decrease* since 1997, some 26 years ago.
- **Accelerated Patronage Capital Payout** – Your Cooperative paid out \$2.6M, a record amount for patronage capital retirement. This patronage capital money was paid back to the owners of the Cooperative in December of 2022.
- **Instant Owner Rebate** – Your Cooperative also issued an instant owner rebate of \$1.5M to members that was returned to you as a credit on your February 2023 power bill.
- **Strong Financial Position** – Being strong financially positions the Cooperative to continue to provide affordable power and gives us the ability to invest in the future of the Cooperative infrastructure and technology required to embrace an ever-changing future.
- **Named a Top 100 Business in Idaho** – Our strong financial performance resulted in your Cooperative being named a Top 100 privately-owned business in Idaho.
- **Fall River Propane** – A company that you also own through being a member in the Cooperative, Fall River Propane achieved several new milestones, including a record number of new customers. Additionally, Fall River Propane delivered nearly five million gallons of propane, another record year. The expansion of propane into Wyoming also reported a positive net margin that contributed to a record high of total net profits in 2022.

Investing for Our Future

Fall River Electric continued its history of investing in technology and infrastructure, especially where those improvements can increase our efficiencies and reduce the Cooperative's costs. Over the past decade we have strategically added foundational smart grid technologies to continue to prepare the Cooperative investment for the future. Investments in smart meters, fiber optics, and most recently a Supervisory Controls and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system are examples of these technology improvements. The Cooperative's in building a fiber optics network that is primarily used for Cooperative communications and is also made available through leases to third party internet providers, improving high-speed internet service into West Yellowstone, Island Park, and other rural areas within our service territory.

Here are some other technology investments made in 2022:

- **Major Transmission Upgrade & Infrastructure improvements** – Fall River invested more than \$6.8M in the Cooperative's infrastructure in 2022 and started construction on a significant transmission upgrade project that will take approximately five years to complete. This project will result in a \$23M total investment to help meet an increasing demand for energy as the Cooperative continues to grow and more people move into our service area.
- **New Teton Valley Substation** – The Cooperative purchased a ten-acre parcel of land for a future substation in Teton Valley to meet the growth we are experiencing in the region.
- **Electric Vehicle Fast Chargers** – Fall River was awarded a grant to install five high-speed EV chargers in three locations. We are scheduled to start construction in the summer of 2023 and will have EV chargers in Driggs, Ashton, and Island Park. The grants and fees for using these chargers will pay for all costs related to their purchase and installation.
- **Scholarships** – Fall River is dedicated to investing in our youth and provides thirty-three scholarships for graduating high school seniors and individuals looking to participate in college or trade school learning. This amounts to nearly \$80,000 in scholarship funds. The Cooperative also provides up to five additional scholarships for high school sophomores and juniors when they participate in a weeklong youth rally leadership conference.

- **Youth Electric Safety Demonstration** – In 2022, the Cooperative provided several electrical safety demonstrations for our membership, Fall River families, first responders, and nearly 1,000 local elementary school youth.
- **Electric Vehicle Member Lease Program** – In 2022, the Cooperative started a program for members to lease the Cooperative's Tesla for free for up to three days. This year, we are continuing this program for members to lease our Tesla to determine whether an EV will meet their personal needs. Please watch for an opportunity to sign up when the Fall River Tesla is in your area. Visit Fall River's website to sign up.

We faced some challenges in 2022, including getting the materials we needed to respond to robust new service requests. Inflation raised its ugly head, which has added upward pressure on all our costs, especially the price of material. Despite these hurdles, Fall River's staff persevered and made noteworthy progress for our members, the communities we serve, and the Cooperative as a whole. Much was accomplished on your behalf as the Cooperative continues to work toward a bright future.

This list of accomplishments and advancements is only a sampling of the many things the Cooperative has completed in the past year. Additional accomplishments are noted throughout the Energy Expo and Annual Meeting report. Fall River Electric continues to be your "Trusted Energy Partner" and we are passionate about serving our owner-members by investing in the future for you, your family, and the businesses within our service area.

Georg Behrens – *Bryan Case*

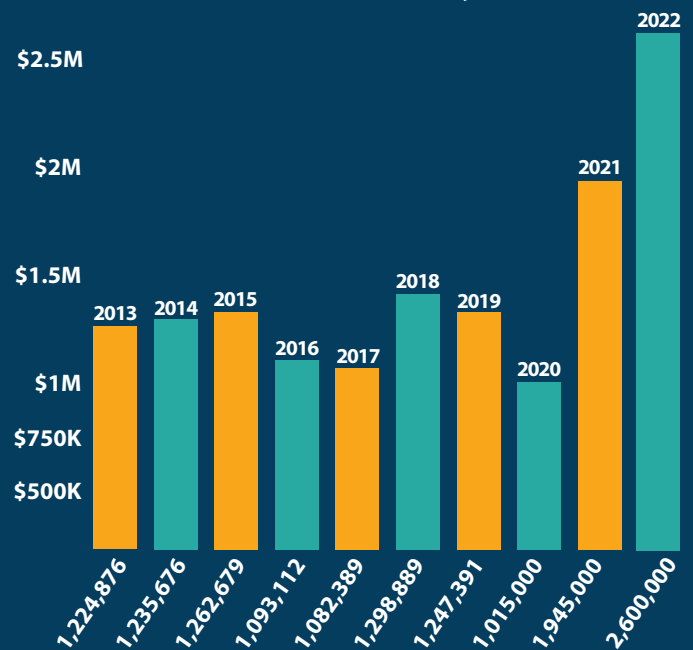


Georg Behrens
Board President

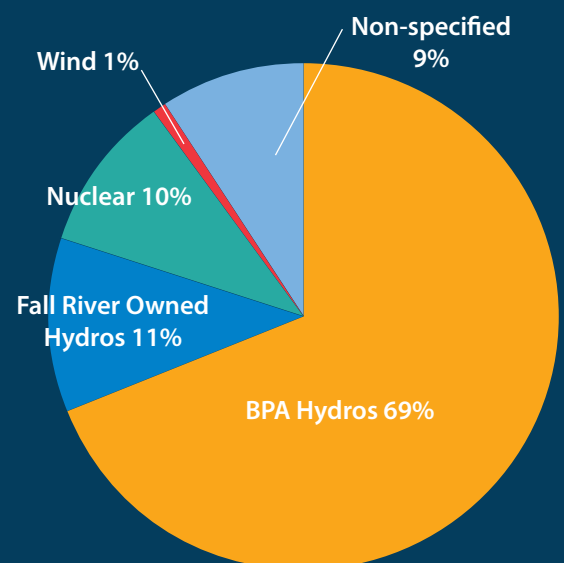


Bryan Case
CEO/General Manager

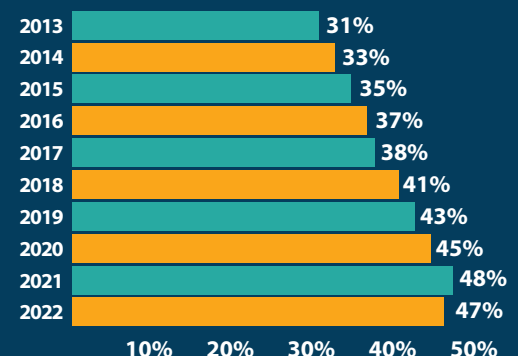
Patronage Capital Member Payback 10 Year History



Delivering 91% Carbon-Free Power to Fall River Electric Members!



Equity Ratio 10 Year History



Fall River Electric Cooperative Energy Expo

Saturday, June 17, 2023

North Fremont High School in Ashton



• Doors open at 8 a.m.

- **FREE breakfast**—pancakes, eggs, bacon, hash browns, choice of drink.



- **FREE portable water bottle** with handy 3-level solar powered light & flexible handle given to the first 350 members.* Great for finding your water bottle at night or in dim light. *One per membership, not per person.

- **Visit nearly two dozen vendor booths**, including several Fall River Electric booths like engineering. Plus, find information on energy conservation rebates to save you money on your summer remodeling project.

- **First 350 members* will receive a FREE energy conservation kit**, including

an energy saving surge protector that even shuts off the power to devices not in use and EIGHT 75 watt LED bulbs.



FREE high-voltage electrical safety demonstrations conducted by Fall River Electric linemen at 8:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 9:30 a.m. located outdoors on the west side of the high school—enter to win a FREE Husqvarna professional-grade chainsaw!

BRING THE KIDS!

- Free bucket truck rides, bounce houses, climbing wall, and a variety of STEM activities, featuring science, technology, engineering, but not much math. 😊

Business Meeting for Members held at 10 a.m. in the High School Auditorium

- Scholarship winners announced.
- Financial report and more: Learn what has been accomplished and what is ahead in Fall River Electric's future.

Can't attend the business meeting in-person?

No problem! It will be streamed online LIVE. Visit the Cooperative's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FallRiverREC/ starting at 10 a.m. MDT on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

FREE PRIZES!

Register for more FREE prizes to be given away at the annual business meeting at 10 a.m. in the NFHS auditorium.

Prizes include:

- \$1,000 energy credit on your bill
- A big screen television
- Dozens of other prizes & gift cards



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 CANDIDATES

One of the seven cooperative principles that guides Fall River Electric is “Democratic Member Control,” which means the Cooperative is controlled by its owner-members, or in other words, by you, the Co-op’s customers. You elect representatives that serve on a nine-member Board of Directors who actively set the policies and make the decisions that guide the Co-op forward.

Each year, members elect three of the nine directors on the board. This year’s board election covers districts two, three, and eight. Every member is eligible to vote, no matter which district you reside in, and members vote for ALL candidates in all districts.

2023 CANDIDATE SELECTION

Extensive efforts were made by the owner-members of Fall River Electric Cooperative’s Nominating Committee to find willing and qualified candidates for the three board positions up for election this year, however, your enclosed ballot only contains one for each of the districts slated for election. Although several candidates were chosen by the committee, work schedules and previous commitments by those candidates caused them to withdraw. The candidates remaining are of the highest caliber ensuring all Fall River Electric members will be effectively represented.

Additionally, as authorized by the Co-op’s bylaws, any member can nominate themselves or another member by petition as long as the nominee maintains fulltime residence within the boundaries of one of the districts with an open position up for election. This year, however, Fall River did not receive any candidate petitions by the required deadline of April 21, 2023.

We wish to express our appreciation to the members of the nominating committee for their exhaustive efforts in identifying candidates for this year’s election.

FOUR WAYS TO VOTE:

1. VOTE ONLINE: Save a stamp and vote online by going to directvote.net/FRREC. Use the member number and election passcode found on your enclosed ballot to log in, then just follow the simple directions to vote. Voting online **STARTS** Thursday, May 18 at 2 p.m. MDT and **ENDS** at 2 p.m. MDT on June 14.

If you vote online, you do NOT need to mail in a ballot.

2. VOTE BY MAIL: Use the ballot and return envelope that are enclosed with this mailing to vote. Your ballot must be **RECEIVED** by Wednesday, June 14, at the address on the ballot envelope. **Do not mail your ballot to Fall River Electric!**

3. VOTE IN PERSON: If you want to vote in-person, please do so **BEFORE** 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 17.

NO VOTING OR BALLOT COLLECTION WILL OCCUR DURING THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, WHICH STARTS AT 10 A.M.

4. VOTE BY PROXY: If you are unable to attend our annual meeting and do not vote online or by mail for Co-op directors, you can vote by proxy. Call a friendly Member Services representative to obtain a proxy ballot. Once you complete your proxy ballot, give it to your designated representative to deliver in-person to the Co-op’s annual meeting. **ALL PROXY BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 10 A.M. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023 AT NORTH FREMONT HIGH SCHOOL IN ASHTON.**

If you vote online or mail in a ballot, you DO NOT NEED to vote in-person.

Beginning on the following pages, please review the candidates for each district up for election this year, along with their statements, and cast your vote for all three districts.

Candidate for District 2, West Victor



**Travis
Markegard**

My name is Travis Markegard. I am writing to you today to introduce myself and express my interests in being on the Board of Directors for Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative.

I have lived in Teton Valley—Victor specifically—for the last 35 years. My wife, Megan, and I have five wonderful children. Our family has owned and operated Teton Valley Auto Repair since founded in 1993 by my father, Dan Markegard. As an automotive technician for the previous 20 years at our multi-generational family business, I have been integral with the success of this business focusing on providing affordable, quality service and top-notch customer relations.

I strive to be active in our community. I volunteer my time in many of my children's activities, including coaching soccer and T-ball, but also providing leadership to local youth by membership on the 4-H shoot-

ing sports committee and co-leading 4-H rifle shooting. 2022 was the first time this 4-H club was offered in many years. We developed the club goals and curriculum and taught a group of youth shooting skills, as well as appropriate safety precautions. I am excited to continue to develop this course as we offer it again this year to promote youth leadership.

I have been nominated by Fall River Electric Cooperative to run for the District 2 position on the Board of Directors, which represents West Victor. If elected, my primary goals would include representing the members within my district, focusing on keeping rates reasonable, maintaining our current electrical system, and looking forward to future upgrades that will be necessary to support increased demand due to population increases and influx of electric vehicles with minimal disruption to current members.

Candidate for District 3, East Victor



**Georg
Behrens**

My family and I are residents of Victor. I have served the members of Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative since 2017. I earned a master's degree in energy management and renewable energies and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

As a current board member, I use my engineering experience to maintain our competitive rates, protect our system's reliability, and look for opportunities to provide clean and sustainable energy in the years to come. I serve on Fall River's Administration Committee, which awards scholarships to our hard-working and talented high school students. I also represent Fall River's members on the board of the Idaho Consumer Owned Utility Association, on state and regional issues. I earned the "Gold Director Leadership"—recognition of the National Rural Electrical Cooperative

Association and use the gained knowledge and network for our community's benefit by communicating with our local, state, and national legislators.

I own a facility management and energy management business in Victor and in my spare time, I help develop youth soccer as the Teton Soccer Referee instructor. I also enjoy hiking in our beautiful mountains.

Working for Fall River and our community is a joy for me. I hope that you continue to trust me as your representative and allow me to serve you, together with my valued board colleagues, for another successful term. Keeping the rates low, highest reliability, staff safety, environmental awareness, and adding value for our members is my mission.

Candidate for District 8, Northern Island Park



**Jeff
Keay**

I've been serving on the Fall River Electric Board of Directors since August 2018. I'm recognized as a Certified Cooperative Director by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. I've also earned their Board Leadership and Director Gold Certificates, the highest recognitions they offer. I chair the Administrative Committee, that, among other things, reviews and recommends scholarship awards to the entire board for approval. I also serve on the Finance and Policy Committees, and as an alternate member of the Fall River Propane Board.

Your cooperative is currently on sound financial footing, returning more funds to members than ever before. Yet we face some great challenges in the near future, including a new long-term contract with BPA. Distributed solar power and electric vehicles promise to change the way we do business and where we

build infrastructure. Our member demographics are changing as tourists, part-time residents, and home-based employees become an increasing part of our communities.

We currently have a fairly diverse board with expertise from many backgrounds. I believe my life's experiences as a research scientist and research supervisor compliment the current board extremely well. My training and background challenge me to think comprehensively and look at issues from all sides. I'm anxious to see data support and impacts for various alternatives. I'm willing to play the devil's advocate and ask difficult questions that stimulate discussion. I enjoy being of service to our community and would appreciate your vote so I may continue that service.

Significant Growth Occuring For Fall River Electric

The past twelve months have been record-setting in several areas for Fall River Electric. Power consumption in January 2023 reached its highest level in Co-op history at 92,821 MW or 38.4 % above the five-year average for the month of January. A megawatt is equal to one million watts. Obviously, cold weather played a factor, but typically high MW months come during the summer when ag irrigation season is in full swing.

Last year saw Fall River Electric install 710 new

electrical services, boosting the number of meters to nearly 20,000. The total for 2022 was only eclipsed by the building boom of 2007 when 923 new services were installed.

Fall River Electric has also purchased ten acres of land in Teton Valley for a new substation to be built in the future to address continued strong growth in services in that portion of our service territory. All in all, Fall River Electric's growth is moving forward at an accelerated pace!

SUBMIT A QUESTION

If you have a question you would like to ask the Fall River Electric board or management team, cards will be provided at our meeting on June 17 at North Fremont High School for you to write and submit a question.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can submit your question(s) via email to member.services@fallriverelectric.com.

Answers to all questions will be provided in upcoming editions of the *FLASHES* newsletter, starting with the August 2023 edition.

Fall River Electric's Top 25

- **Record Setting Patronage Capital Payout** – Fall River retired \$2.6M in patronage capital in 2022, setting a new record.
- **\$1.5M Instant Owner Rebate** – For only the fourth time in the history of the Cooperative, the board approved an Instant Owner Rebate.
- **Rate Decrease of 1.9%** – Rates were decreased in January 2022 plus NO general rate increase for the past 8 years.
- **Strong Financials** – Fall River ended 2022 with an equity ratio of 47% and was recognized for the third time as a Top 100 Idaho privately-owned business.
- **EV Free Lease Trial** – In 2022, the Cooperative provided members with the opportunity to lease the Cooperative's EV for free for up to three days. We also provided two member test drive events, one at the Energy Expo in Driggs and a second at our West Yellowstone Member Appreciation Day last fall.
- **No Lost Time Accidents** – We are always pleased to report when we can complete a year with no lost time accidents by staff.
- **New Services Connected** – Your Cooperative added 710 new electrical services.
- **Robust Construction** – Thanks to the board's allowance to order material early, the Cooperative was able to complete all of the Cooperative's projects without delays or material shortages.
- **Transmission Upgrade Progress** – Significant transmission upgrade work was completed in 2022. Contractors were able to complete more work than planned and for less than anticipated. Five miles of easement widening was completed last year.
- **Employee Housing Secured** – Several parcels of property to accommodate future employee housing in Teton Valley were acquired.
- **New Teton Valley Substation Site** – A ten-acre parcel of land was acquired near Victor for a potential future substation.
- **Grant Funds Secured** – Fall River has secured five grants, two for installing EV fast chargers (\$882,799 ID State and \$20,000 BEF) and three additional grants totaling \$141k related to grid resiliency and wildfire mitigation. Additional grant applications have been submitted.
- **Electrical Safety Demonstrations** – In 2022, your Cooperative provided several electrical safety demonstrations for our members, first responders, and nearly 1,000 local youth.
- **Wildfire Mitigation Plan** – The Cooperative's wildfire mitigation plan was overhauled and updated. This plan was also reviewed by our insurance carrier Federated and approved by the U.S. Forest Service through a NEPA process.
- **Old Felt Hydro Upgraded** – The older portion of our Felt hydropower plant was returned to operational status with testing completed in the fall of 2022 in preparation of producing even more clean non-carbon energy.

Accomplishments of 2022

- **Felt Relicensing** – Relicensing our Felt hydropower facility made great progress with a final application submitted in 2022 to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for comment. The process is expected to continue for at least another year before completion.
- **Fall River Leadership Development Series** – Another session of our leadership development series, which helps to prepare the next generation of leaders within the Cooperative, was completed allowing all employees the opportunity to participate in this leadership development series. Evaluations provided by participants have been very positive and have offered ideas to enhance the series for the future.
- **Key Ratio Trend Analysis and Touchstone Member Survey** – Industry benchmarks like Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC's) Key Ratio Trend Analysis and Touchstone's member survey show Fall River Electric's steady improvement and high performance compared to other electric cooperatives nationwide.
- **Energy Expo & Annual Meeting** – The Energy Expo and annual member meeting was held at Teton High school in Driggs in a hybrid format allowing members to attend in-person or remotely. Fall River booths, youth stem activities, bucket truck rides, electrical safety demos, and Tesla test drives all contributed to its success.
- **Fall River Informational Videos** – Our staff created six outstanding short-form videos that were used on our social media platforms and the Co-op's website.
- **Crew Safety Reinforced** – Fall River field crews started an effort to hold safety "tailboard reviews" for all after hour calls. While not achieving 100%, staff made significant improvements in conducting safety briefings with greater efforts planned for 2023.
- **Initiated Take Safety Home** – This program, now in its second year, is administered under the direction of the safety compliance committee. Monthly home safety topics are discussed at safety meetings and materials were provided for staff and board to take home. The monthly employee newsletter highlights the safety topic and the member newsletter *FLASHES* shares home safety tips for our members. We tracked how many of our staff took time to have safety conversations at home.
- **SCADA Installed** – A new Supervisory Controls & Data Acquisition (SCADA) system was installed and will become a vital technology asset for the Cooperative.
- **High Standards in Reliability** – Efforts were made to add line spacers in critical locations reducing snow load power outages, completed a Power Requirement Study, Sectionalizing Study, a Four-Year Construction Work Plan, a new control building in the Daw substation, and installed new regulator control panels in 24 substation regulators.
- **Propane Growth** – Fall River Propane had a record year with \$1.4M in net profit while delivering nearly five million gallons of propane.



2022 By the Numbers

Over 15,055
owner-members

19,648
meters connected

2,662
miles of power lines

41,841,381
kilowatt hours
generated by Fall River
hydros in 2022

Over \$80,000
awarded in
scholarships to
children of members

4,196
members contributed
to nonprofit Helping
Hands to assist
members in need

710 new electrical
services installed

\$247,320 in energy
conservation funds
paid to members

Revenues, Expenses, & Patronage Capital

years ended 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
OPERATING REVENUE		
Electricity sales	\$36,160,572	\$34,155,102
Propane sales	10,902,093	7,415,309
Other operating revenue	1,718,874	1,403,658
Total operating revenue	\$48,781,539	\$42,974,069
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Power production expense	956,811	878,570
Cost of purchased power	15,041,549	13,070,995
Cost of propane	6,732,328	4,609,851
Cost of propane installation and delivery	2,183,647	1,899,370
Transmission expense	47,557	38,569
Distribution - operations	3,812,910	3,255,652
Distribution - maintenance	1,504,211	1,270,942
Member accounts	1,220,505	1,176,574
Member service and information	154,816	172,657
Sales expense	358,968	318,661
Administration and general expense	4,437,465	4,031,406
Depreciation and amortization expense	4,608,414	4,555,341
Taxes	835,905	825,233
Interest on long-term debt	2,300,912	2,160,188
Other interest charges	361	11,192
Total operating expenses	\$44,196,359	\$38,275,201
Net Operating Margins	4,585,180	4,698,868
NON-OPERATING MARGINS		
Interest income	267,193	45,672
Generator lease Income	-	20,592
Gain or (loss) on disposal of general plant	(9,000)	51,075
Other non-operating income (expense), net	201,202	355,975
Total non-operating margins	\$459,395	\$473,314
Capital credits from associated organizations	305,875	356,654
Net margins	5,350,450	5,528,836
Patronage capital, beginning of year	57,611,120	54,027,782
Retirement of capital credits	(2,896,633)	(1,945,498)
Patronage capital, end of year	\$60,064,937	\$57,611,120

Consolidated Balance Sheets

as of December 31, 2022 and 2021

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Noncurrent Assets		
Electric Utility plant, net	\$91,842,169	\$91,770,953
Propane plant, net	7,054,474	6,098,140
Leases receivable, due after one year	285,824	-
Investments in associated organizations	5,673,227	5,515,943
Total noncurrent assets	\$104,855,694	\$103,385,036
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,313,900	9,866,808
Temporary investments	7,000,000	-
Accounts receivable, net	6,463,945	4,818,435
Leases receivable, due within one year	23,110	-
Materials and supplies inventory	3,224,354	2,183,470
Other current assets	535,868	144,807
Total current assets	25,561,177	17,013,520
Deferred charges	2,118,818	2,044,999
Total assets	\$132,535,689	\$122,443,555
MEMBERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
Members' Equity		
Patronage capital	60,064,937	57,611,120
Other equities	1,737,430	1,394,180
Total members' equity	\$61,802,367	\$59,005,300
NONCURRENT Liabilities		
Long-term debt, due after one year	57,694,458	51,932,725
Total noncurrent liabilities	\$57,694,458	\$51,932,725
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Long-term debt, due within one year	3,226,485	3,235,526
Accounts payable	2,897,009	1,969,746
Line of credit	-	100,000
Consumer deposits	431,979	387,104
Deferred revenue	440,392	364,370
Other current liabilities	3,582,032	3,439,128
Total current liabilities	10,577,897	9,495,874
Deferred credits	2,460,967	2,009,656
Total members' equity and liabilities	\$132,535,689	\$122,443,555

2022 Highlights

- **Paid members \$2.6M** in Patronage Capital—the highest single year payout in Fall River Electric's history
- **\$1.5M paid to** Cooperative members in an Instant Owner Rebate
- **Invested over \$6.8M for improvements & repairs** to the power grid thus increasing system reliability
- **Secured over \$1M in grants** for EV fast chargers & grid enhancements
- **Decreased long-term debt by \$3.1M**
- **Rate DECREASE** of 1.9%
- **Zero loss time accidents**, a testament to the Co-op's "safety culture"

FALL RIVER FLASHES

MAY & JUNE 2023

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Energy Expo
Efficiency
Electrical Safety
EV Rentals



See You At The Energy Expo On June 17

Each June, we invite you to join us for our Energy Expo followed by our annual business meeting where we finalize the election of three owner-members to the Cooperative's board of directors, share important financial information, and give away hundreds of dollars in free prizes. This year our expo will be held on Saturday, June 17, at North Fremont High School in Ashton. A free breakfast will be served beginning at 8 a.m. This is the perfect time for you to join your neighbors or meet new neighbors and come together as a community of owners of this Cooperative.

Our nation and the communities we serve are faced with many challenges. Overcoming our challenges will only happen if we come together. At this meeting, we will gather to learn what is most important for your co-op to be doing and provid-

ing to those it serves. While providing safe, reliable, and affordable power is at the center of our mission, improving the quality of life for all owner-members is at the heart of what we do every day. We are not your ordinary electric company; we are a co-op with a business model to serve both you and the communities we service.

If you have never attended, or if it has been a while since you did, we invite you to visit with us! In addition to a free breakfast, we are serving up fun for the kids, including rides in our bucket trucks and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities, too. We will have informative vendor booths, high voltage electrical safety demonstrations, and tons of prizes. Do not miss it...Saturday, June 17, at North Fremont High School in Ashton. Bring the family!



Fall River Electric Operates One Of The Regions Most Reliable Electric Grids

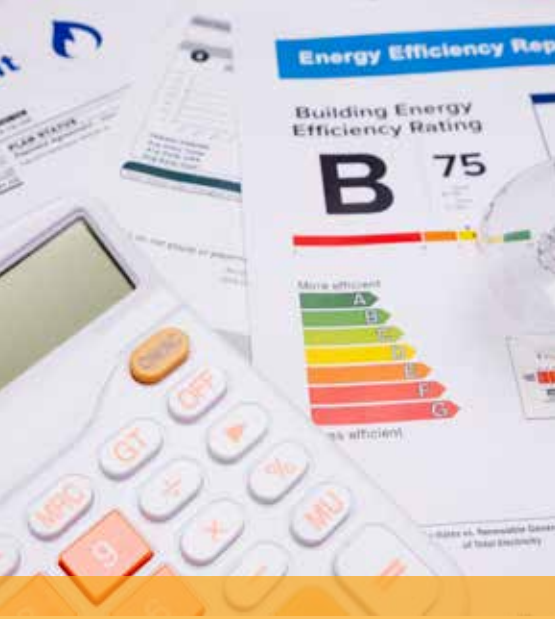
Your electric cooperative consistently upgrades and maintains an extremely reliable power grid and we track our results through a program called System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI).

The SAIDI system tracks the average minutes per member that power is out due to all types of outages from those caused by our power suppliers to major storms, planned outages for repairs and upgrades, and all other causes. In 2022, the average number of minutes power was out per member

was only 165 minutes or two hours and 45 minutes out of more than 525,000 minutes per year. The figure for 2022 was the second-best average over the past ten-plus years.

Fall River Electric invested \$6.8M in power grid upgrades and repairs in the calendar year 2022 in our on-going efforts to deliver reliable power to our owner-members. These investments continue to pay off in reliability!





There are a variety of efficiency upgrades that can make a substantial impact on energy usage.



MANAGEMENT STAFF

Bryan Case
Chief Executive Officer / General Manager

Linden Barney
Chief Financial Officer

Shannon Hill
Manager of Information Technology

Clint Washburn
Manager of Member Services

Dave Peterson
Manager of Engineering

Brent Gamett
Manager of Operations



Fall River's **FLASHES** newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

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.

Efficiency Upgrades To Help You Save This Summer

Early summer is an opportune time for home energy efficiency upgrades and DIY projects. Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money—and increase the comfort of your home.

1. Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy usage and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs.



2. Speaking of smart, additional devices like **smart LED bulbs** also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors, and brightness levels—and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use.

3. While it is not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, **sealing air leaks around your home** is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs, and sinks.



4. If your home feels too warm during summer (and too cold during winter) even after you have sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need **additional insulation**. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a significant impact on reducing energy usage and costs. Fall River offers rebates for insulation improvements.

5. There are a variety of additional efficiency upgrades that can make a substantial impact on energy usage, like **replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models** or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. Once again, Fall River offers rebates for new windows, exterior doors, and some appliances.



If you are wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you are not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs. Fall River Electric also offers rebates on energy audits. Visit www.fallriverelectric.com for more information.

Protect Yourself from High Winter Propane Bills

Sign up for Fall River Propane's CAP price protection plan

- Fall River Propane will CAP your price per gallon for propane all winter long, plus Auto Delivery will protect you from running out of propane when the temperatures fall below zero and the snow is falling. If you ever run out of propane, the next fill is FREE*!
- Call a friendly customer service representative at 800.632.5726 for details.

Visit our booth at Fall River Electric's Energy Expo at North Fremont High School in Ashton and register to win 1 of 5 CAP enrollments FREE.

No purchase necessary. Drawing will be held June 20, 2023, and winners will be notified by phone.



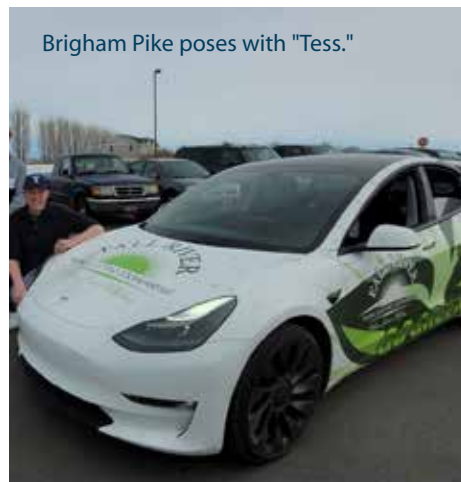
**Propane tanks are filled to 80% of capacity.*

Test Drive An Electric Vehicle For Free

Dozens and dozens of Fall River Electric owner-members have had an opportunity to test drive our Tesla 3 electric vehicle for free. Now it is your turn! Our Tesla will be available in June for members in Island Park*, July in West Yellowstone, and back in Ashton for Upper Valley members in August.

You can test drive the vehicle for up to three days by reserving it at fallriverelectric.com. Look for the link "Tesla Take Home Sign Up" to reserve your dates and see whether an electric vehicle is in your future!

**Excludes the dates of June 16-19 when our Tesla will be at our Energy Expo.*



May Is Electrical Safety Month

May is Electrical Safety Month and Fall River Electric's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our owner-members, and this month, we encourage you to plug into safety. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical fires, accidents, and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we conduct free electrical safety demonstrations at elementary schools throughout our service area during the school year. We also host several electric safety demonstrations for members at our Energy Expo each June. We constantly encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation and we advertise on area radio stations, newspapers, and in social media about ways to avoid electrical hazards. We strive to provide our communities with

safe, reliable, and affordable electricity and to also serve as your trusted energy partner, now and well into the future.

Our Responsibility Extends To Our Staff, Too!

It is no accident that safety is a top priority at Fall River Electric. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, we take time from our regular work schedules to conduct monthly safety training and always provide our linemen with personal protective equipment when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish while also limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building, as well as out in the field.

For more information about electrical safety, you can also visit www.fallriverelectric.com or www.esfi.org.





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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Bryan Case
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Fall River's Hanks Receives Heroism Award

Fall River Electric's Journeyman Lineman Derek Hanks received the NWPPA Safety Heroism Award at the NWPPA's annual Engineering & Operations Conference in Reno, Nevada.

On his way to work in early November 2022, Hanks passed an accident that involved a vehicle that struck a moose crossing the highway. The vehicle left the roadway, struck a power pole, and rolled onto its top, trapping the driver inside. Hanks noticed that police and emergency responders were near the vehicle while the energized power line was nearby. Hanks recruited fellow linemen Braidan Martindale and Trevor Ostberg to move police and emergency workers away from the energized line, which was actually the property of Rocky Mountain Power. Hanks and his fellow linemen stayed onsite until an RMP crew arrived to deenergize the line and begin making repairs.

The Safety Heroism Award recognizes



Derek Hanks, on the left, and Rob Fererra making the presentation.

an NWPPA member utility employee that displayed an act of unselfish and voluntary assistance in a situation where life, significant injury, or significant property loss would have been incurred were it not for the efforts of that individual. The NWPPA E&O Safety Subcommittee selects the winner of this annual award.

The Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) is an international association representing and serving more than 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada.

Fall River Cares For The Communities We Serve

As we have shared with members over the years, one of our Seven Cooperative Principles is "Concern for Community." Anchored by this guiding principle, Fall River continues to support organizations and events in our local communities.

Again in 2023, Fall River Electric is a proud sponsor of Music on Main in Victor, which kicks off on June 22, showcasing local, regional, and national musical acts in a free concert series at Victor City Park. This event is organized by the local nonprofit, Teton Valley Foundation, whose mission is to make the good life in Teton Valley even better with affordable cultural and recreational programming.

Fall River also continues to participate

as one of a select group of businesses that RRR: reduce, reuse, and recycle through the Business Leader Program of the roadtozerowastejrh.org. If you own a business in Teton Valley, we encourage you to participate.

And finally, the Museum of the Henry's Fork on Main Street in Ashton has also received support from the members of Fall River Electric. The museum features insightful displays about agriculture, the former Bear Gulch ski area, how the railroad played a role in Ashton's growth, the dog derby, and much more. The museum is the work of the Fremont County Historical Society that provides free admission to interested residents and visitors alike.



Fall River Speaks In Support Of Snake River Dams



President Joe Biden's White House Council on Environmental Quality hosted two three-hour listening sessions regarding the threatened and endangered Snake River salmon early in April. These sessions followed President Biden's March comments saying he was committed to working with tribal and political leaders in the Pacific Northwest to recover the fish.

Speakers were limited to three minutes for their comments and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service said the speakers were selected in the order in which they registered in February. However, Kurt Miller, executive director

of Northwest RiverPartners, an NWPPA member, claimed lower Snake River dam supporters did not get a fair chance to participate.

"We have engaged in this process with CEQ in good faith, it is unfortunate that this approach is not shared by everyone," Miller said.

"Instead of a well-rounded discussion of critical issues like rate increases, regional grid reliability, and the lower Snake River dams' critical role in meeting Oregon and Washington emissions laws, today's participants were hand-picked activists, while the voices representing millions of ratepayers were boxed out."

Fall River Electric was one of fewer than two dozen speakers that expressed support for the LSRD from nearly one hundred total speakers. The Co-op's statement reiterated the elected Co-op board's recent resolution, stating that Fall River Electric does not support removal of the LSRDs. The statement also reminded those participating in the sessions that the NOAA study in which many referred to in their comments concluded by stating "not all restoration actions will achieve their intended benefit." Additionally Fall River said: "There is no guarantee that removing the lower Snake River dams will restore salmon, and it is therefore a multi-billion-dollar gamble."



MEMORIAL DAY & INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSURES

Fall River Electric offices will be closed on Monday, May 29, in commemoration of Memorial Day and again on Tuesday, July 4, in celebration of Independence Day.

Fall River crews will remain on stand-by to handle any power emergency. If you experience an outage on the weekend or holiday, call 800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately.



TIN CUP EVENT DAY JULY 15

The Community Foundation of Teton Valley will host their 16th annual Tin Cup Event Day on Saturday, July 15, beginning at 9 a.m. at Driggs City Park. There will be competitive and fun runs, a walk, free breakfast, tons of nonprofit booths, and family-friendly activities. Fall River Electric is a proud Business Challenger in support of the valley's many nonprofits.