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PREMA



Peterson Goes on Honor Flight

Former PREMA Operations Manager, Dusty Peterson went on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. June 20-24, 2019.

Dusty joined the U.S. Army in September 1969, he was deployed to Vietnam on March 9, 1970 and was honorably discharged in April 1971.

The following 11 veterans from Western Nebraska attended the Honor Flight: Dusty Peterson, LeRoy Fry, Larry Edwards, Charles Jensen, Michael Pascale, Charles Iodence, Ray Suchor, Michael Cooke, Larry Blunt, Gerald Oleson, and Gary Peters. Jerry and Barb Reed from Chadron were sponsors.



The group had a wonderful send off in Chadron with each Veteran receiving a Quilt of Valor from Panhandle Blocks Quilts of Valor. They were police escorted from Chadron to Denver with people welcoming them in towns the whole way. A helicopter and two airplanes flew with them from Brush, CO to Ft. Morgan, CO. Once they got to the Denver Airport they were escorted by Colorado police around security, were served lunch from the USO and received the royal treatment during the whole trip.

After arriving in Washington, D.C. it was a fast-paced visit. They again were escorted by police and two secret service agents. They visited the WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War and Iwo Jima Memorials along with the Washington Monument and Arlington Cemetery. They watched the Changing of the Guard and two members of their group had the opportunity to replace the wreath. Next on the agenda was the 9/11 Memorial located at the Pentagon. The evening activities included a reception that allowed them to visit with other Honor Flight groups. Dusty said "This trip was beyond belief and I thank PREMA for sponsoring my wife and I."



Make Time for Safety This Harvest Season

Harvest season often means putting in long hours, which can make it difficult to stay alert and on the lookout for potential hazards. Safe Electricity provides safety tips to help farmers make this harvest season a safe one.

Be prepared for potential emergencies before the rush of harvest season begins. Be sure that you can see well in work areas. Consider adding extra lighting around grain bins and augers.

Take the time to look up and look out for electrical lines. Always be aware of where they are in relation to your equipment. Keep a minimum of 10 feet away from all electrical equipment, and lower extensions before moving equipment. If you see a power line that is sagging or low, contact your utility. Also keep an eye out for guy wires. While these wires are not energized, they can bring down live lines.

In equipment with auto-guidance systems, less focus is needed on steering, which may lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. Yet, even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farm workers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings. Recognize when you need to take breaks so that you can be active and engaged in the farm work.



Additional electrical safety tips include:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.

If the machinery you are operating does make contact with a power line, stay on the equipment. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for PREMA to cut the power.

Only on the rare occasion that the machinery catches fire should you leave the vehicle after contact is made. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area. Never touch anything that is in contact with a power line.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).

Tri-State Board of Directors to place cooperative under FERC rate regulation

July 9, 2019 – Westminster, Colorado. The board of directors of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a wholesale power supply cooperative serving wholesale power to member electric cooperatives and public power districts in four states, took action at its July meeting that will place the cooperative under wholesale rate regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

“Tri-State is rapidly changing to increase flexibility for our members and develop an ever cleaner and greener resource portfolio,” said Tri-State Chairman Rick Gordon. “As we transition, our cooperative will benefit from lower costs and greater efficiency by having a single, consistent rate regulator across all the states in which we operate.”

Public utilities subject to FERC regulation must charge rates that are “just and reasonable” and “not unduly discriminatory or preferential.” FERC regulation of Tri-State would eliminate inconsistent rate treatment across the states. Historically, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Wyoming did not exercise rate-regulation over Tri-State. In recent years both Colorado and New Mexico have exercised rate jurisdiction, which resulted in increased costs, unrecovered revenue and inconsistent rates to its members.

FERC regulates all wholesale electric service and transmission providers with few exceptions

Under the Federal Power Act, FERC regulates the rates of almost all wholesale electric service and transmission providers. The board’s action aligns the regulation of Tri-State’s wholesale rates with the rate regulation of other wholesale power suppliers.

Regionally, the FERC regulates the wholesale rates of Xcel Energy/Public Service Company of Colorado, Public Service of New Mexico, PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power, Black Hills Energy, Southwestern Public Service and El Paso Energy. Across the nation, other generation and transmission cooperatives that are subject to active regulation in multiple states are also FERC regulated.

Under the Federal Power Act, Tri-State had been exempt from FERC rate regulation of its wholesale rates because it was previously a Rural Utilities Service (RUS) borrower or because it was wholly-owned by small electric cooperatives. In 2014, Tri-State repaid its RUS debt. At its July 2019 board meeting, Tri-State’s board voted to add new members to the wholesale cooperative, which eliminates the Federal Power Act exception.

Tri-State will become fully rate regulated for the first time

Following the board’s action, Tri-State will file a wholesale rate tariff with the FERC. The rate is expected to become effective sixty days after filing.

For the first time, Tri-State will be fully rate regulated. Tri-State would be required to file proposed rates with FERC, and FERC would establish just and reasonable rates through its regular rate setting process.

Any Tri-State member would have the right to participate in that process, including any hearings. In addition, any single member or customer would have the right to file a complaint at FERC over any Tri-State rate or proposed rate.

Tri-State will continue to work constructively with state leaders on resource planning, renewable energy and environmental issues

FERC regulation will not affect resource planning, carbon reduction or renewable energy regulation in the states in which Tri-State operates.

“We look forward to continued engagement with the Governors, legislative leadership, commissions and stakeholders to achieve our shared goals,” said Tri-State CEO Duane Highley. “Tri-State is committed to reducing emissions, expanding renewables, lowering costs to our members and creating opportunities in all the states we serve.”

Tri-State has long considered federal rate regulation

The board has discussed potential FERC jurisdiction for years, prompted by the assertion of rate regulation in New Mexico and Colorado. In 2012, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission suspended Tri-State’s rates from going into effect, resulting in New Mexico members paying different rates than members in other states. In 2013, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission also asserted jurisdiction regarding a rate complaint from three members.

Tri-State is a not-for-profit cooperative wholesale power supplier to 43 electric cooperatives and public power districts that collectively serve 1.3 million consumers across four states and nearly 200,000 square miles of the west. Tri-State is owned and governed by its members.



Notes From Load Management

With the abundant moisture, we were not in active control for the month of May. We were in active control four days in June. The following is what is expected for the next two months:

- Active control the first twenty days of August
- Active control the first fifteen days of September

Load Management participants can check to see if PREMA is controlling by going to PREMA’s web page, www.prema.coop. Participants can also check load control status by calling the office at 308-762-1311, during our regular and after hours.



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