

# Missoula Electric Cooperative Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Putting the *You* in Utility

MISSOULA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### Trustees:

**Ray Cebulski,**  
*President*

677-2280, District #5,  
Seeley Lake

**Tom Alsaker,**  
*Vice President*

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**Sharon Jacobsen,**  
793-5686  
District #6, Ovando

**Harry LaFriniere,**  
777-3307  
District #3, Florence

### Bill Payment:

#### Online:

[www.missoulaelectric.com](http://www.missoulaelectric.com)  
[info@meccoop.com](mailto:info@meccoop.com)

#### Mail:

1700 W. Broadway  
Missoula, MT 59808

### Offices:

#### Office Locations:

Missoula — 1700 W.  
Broadway

#### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Report Outages:

406-541-4433 or  
1-800-352-5200

#### General Manager

Mark Hayden

#### Editor

Vickie Sutton

## Manager's Report — *By Mark Hayden*

### Facts about The Big Move

In early December, the Missoulian newspaper reported on the movement of some specialized equipment through Missoula County scheduled to begin next year. I have received a number of inquiries from members regarding the article, and thought I would share what I know about the project that we at MEC have nicknamed "The Big Move."

Imperial Oil, a Canadian corporation, which is an affiliate of ExxonMobile, has

contracted with a company in Korea for the construction of pre-assembled processing units for use in the oil industry. These units will be shipped from Korea to the Port of Vancouver, and on to Lewiston, Idaho, via the Columbia and Snake Rivers. All of these payloads will pass through Missoula County as they make their way from Lewiston en route to the Kearn Oil project in northern Alberta. A copy of the proposed route map is



included below.

What makes these loads so special is their size. Here are some interesting facts regarding the largest of the anticipated loads:

- Some of the units, including tractor and trailer, will measure 162 feet long, 24

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# Frenchtown Senior Center luncheon

Missoula Electric Cooperative sponsored a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 18, 2009 for the Frenchtown Senior Center. MEC General Manager Mark Hayden presented a short talk on climate change and energy efficiency issues.

Marie Banyai was the winner of the collapsible ice cooler filled with compact fluorescent bulbs and various other items donated by MEC.



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## Be sure to check into these energy help resources

### LIEAP – Low Income Energy Assistance Program

Human Resource Council  
1801 S. Higgins Avenue,  
Missoula, 728-3710

LIEAP is a government funded program based on income, number of people, and number of bedrooms in a household. This program is for your main heating source for the winter months.

### Energy Shares

Human Resource Council  
1801 S. Higgins Avenue,  
Missoula, 728-3710

Energy Shares is a privately funded program for households facing a heating emergency. You must have received a disconnection notice to apply. Energy Shares can be used for all heating types – electricity, wood, gas, propane, diesel

fuel. Your application is reviewed by a panel which decides on eligibility and amount of benefit.

### First Call For Help

549-5555

First Call for Help is a program that suggests where you may apply for help with your power bill, housing needs, etc. Phones are manned in the afternoon only.

### Salvation Army

728-0710

Salvation Army is another resource for many areas. When help is given for your power bill, they will usually pay the last \$25 - \$50 that is owed and you must show proof that all other balances have been paid.

## Portable electric generator safety

Portable electric generators are a good source of power for heat, light, refrigeration and cooking during electrical outages. But, if improperly installed or operated, they can become deadly, notes the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

- Never operate a portable electric generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces, including homes, garages and basements. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide (a colorless, odorless, deadly gas) very quickly.
- Keep generators dry. To protect from moisture, operate on a dry surface under an open structure.
- Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy-duty outdoor rated extension cord that is rated in watts or amps at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads.
- Don't connect your generator directly to your household wiring, as this can back feed along the power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with it, including line workers making repairs.
- Make sure the generator is properly grounded.
- Don't overload generators.
- Use only when necessary,



- and only to power essential equipment.
- Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely away from living areas, in properly labeled containers and away from fuel-burning appliances.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation and maintenance

### Energy Tip – Stop Leaks!

Stop air leaks and save money. If you can see light around your exterior doors when they are closed you are wasting energy.

If there are gaps between your window frames and the siding on your house you are wasting energy.

Plug the leaks with caulk or weather-stripping. It is simple and cheap and saves money.

# District of record and trustee candidate information

The Missoula Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held on March 20, 2010.

The voting this year will be for Trustee Districts 2, 4 and 6.

Any qualified Member desiring to become a candidate from his/her district shall be required to obtain a petition for the election of Trustees, containing not less than 10 signatures of other Members from his/her district and submit such petition to the Executive Secretary of

the cooperative not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Membership. Information packets will be available Jan. 4, 2010 at Missoula Electric Cooperative, 1700 W. Broadway, Missoula, Mont. 59808.

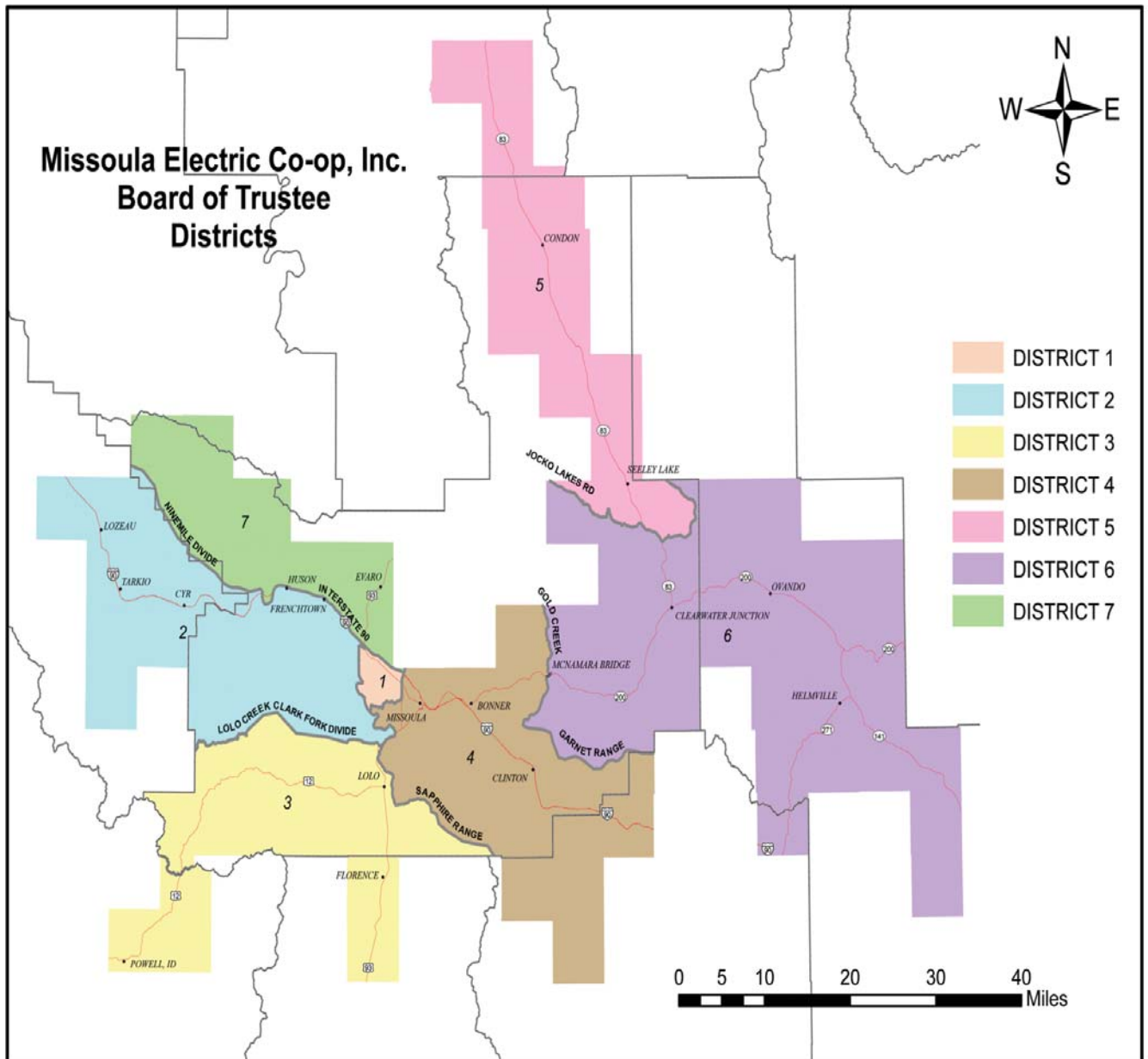
Each candidate shall furnish the Executive Secretary of the Cooperative a candidate profile and platform statement (150 words or less), with picture if desired, along with a completed nomination petition.

The profile furnished by the candidate shall be reproduced as submitted and furnished to each Cooperative Member from his/her district with the ballot packet.

The due date and time for candidates desiring to participate in this year's Trustee election process is Feb. 3, 2010 by 5 p.m.

The district boundaries have been reviewed and some have been realigned to maintain geographical compactness of those districts, as stated in By-Law Article IV,

Section 4. This By-Law change was approved by the members at the 2009 annual meeting. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for Trustee, please check your District of Record to see if your district was affected by this realignment. Your district of record can be found at the top of your bill or call one of our customer service representatives at 541-4433 and they will provide that information.



# The Big Move Continued from page 3

feet wide and nearly 30 feet tall.

- Some of the trailers will consist of 12 rows of axles with eight tires per row.
- Approximately 200 loads of varying sizes will travel the route from the fall of 2010 to the fall of 2011. Each load will be escorted with pilot vehicles as well as the Montana Highway Patrol.
- Two lane roads such as Highways 12 and 200 will be closed in both directions with delays of no more than 10 minutes
- Targeted move times in our area include: (Lolo Pass to Lolo - 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.) (Lolo to just north of Bonner - Midnight to 4 a.m.) (Bonner to Bowman's Corner 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Selecting a route that can handle trucks of this magnitude was obviously a challenge. Existing low-clearance overpasses on the interstate system and railway tunnels eliminated most routes from consideration.

Required modifications to the route ultimately selected include the construction of road turnouts to facilitate traffic flow, and raising or burying of more than 700 overhead utility crossings, with Missoula Electric Cooperative having more crossings than any other affected utility.

Imperial Oil has consulted with each of the affected counties, communities and utilities along this proposed transportation route.

During the past few months, your MEC engineering and operations staff has been working to permanently redesign more than 160 utility crossings to accommodate the movement of these large loads through our service territory, with the cost of these modifications being borne by the oil company.

The Montana Department of Transportation is currently

reviewing this project in its entirety, and once approved, our construction crews will get to work installing taller poles and burying underground lines when ground conditions allow next spring.

The goal for the project is to have the route ready for a "test validation module" by mid-summer of 2010.

Fortunately, much of our work can be accomplished without affecting electrical service to our members; however some periods of interruption along the route may be required in order for our crews to perform the work safely.

Whenever possible, the staff of MEC will work to provide advance notice of any pre-planned outages that are necessary as part of this project. As always, be sure to give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy New Year to all!

# MEC Anniversaries

- Sonya McCloney – 20 years
- George Porter – 5 years
- Ralph Rizzo – 5 years
- Caren Lavenger – 5 years



Have you ever wondered what is propane gas anyway? In its natural state propane is a colorless and odorless gas made up of three Carbon atoms and eight Hydrogen atoms (Its chemical formula is C3H8). Since propane is odorless, a chemical is added to it to give it its distinct unpleasant smell. In order to store and transport propane it is held inside a tank or vessel under pressure where it

turns into a liquid. Here are some other interesting facts about propane: Propane is heavier than air but lighter than water. Propane is only a liquid if it is less than -44 degrees F or it is kept under pressure in a sealed tank or vessel. Propane was only discovered about 100 years ago and since then has evolved into a 15 billion gallon per year industry in the US alone!

## Energy Sense

*Together we can...Together we will*

### Make Energy Efficiency your New Year's Resolution for 2010!

If you are making resolutions for the New Year, consider some that can really make a difference for your wallet. Becoming more energy efficient is much easier than your typical New Year's Resolutions. You will gain greater control over your monthly energy use and help to protect the environment as well.

Remember when buying a major new appliance; buy one that has earned the EPA's **ENERGY STAR** label.

#### Residential

CFLs	Up to \$2.50/bulb
Dishwasher	\$25.00
Clothes Washer Incentives	Gas water heat \$25.00 Electric water heat \$70.00
Refrigerator Incentive	\$25.00
Freezer Incentive	\$25.00
Early Retirement Incentive	\$125.00
Water Heater Incentive	\$25.00
Montana Home – New Construction pre-approval required	\$1,500.00
NEEM Homes	\$1,450.00
Ground Source Heat Pump	must be approved installer \$3,000.00
Air Source Heat Pump	must be approved installer \$790.00



#### Commercial

Lighting	Lesser of 70% of cost or incentive amount
Power Save computer management	up to \$10.00/workstation
Energy Smart Grocer	Call for an appointment



MEC Commercial Business accounts could see their return on investment in as little as one year for energy efficient lighting upgrades. Call for an audit.

#### Agriculture

Green Motors	\$1.00/hp
Sprinkler Hardware	Call for details
Replacement Motors	\$11.00/hp



**Please feel free to call an Energy Sense Team Member 541-4433.**