

# The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

June 2016

## Holiday Office Closing

In observance of Independence Day, the Ark Valley office will be closed on Monday, July 4th. If you experience an outage, please call 888-297-9212.



## Happy Father's Day!

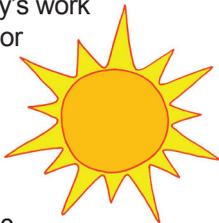
Happy Father's Day from everyone at Ark Valley Electric. We hope your day is filled with many special blessings!



## Summer Line Crew Hours

Ark Valley's line crews will begin working summer hours when we experience extreme heat.

Each year, during this period, the line department will begin work at 7 a.m., continuing until 3:30 p.m. We change the schedule in an effort to complete most of the day's work before the major heat of the day arrives. The office will remain open and operating on the normal 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday schedule.



The after-hour emergency telephone numbers are not affected by this in any way. If you need assistance, please give us a call at 620-662-6661 or 888-297-9212.

## Electric Co-ops Break Ground on Carbon Research Test Center

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) joined with members of a public-private partnership on April 27, 2016, in Gillette, Wyo., to break ground on an industrial-scale laboratory that will test innovative methods for removing and utilizing carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants. The center's projected completion date is the summer of 2017.

The Wyoming Integrated Test Center (ITC) will allow researchers to test the capture, utilization and sequestration of carbon. The center will use flue gas from the Dry Fork Station, a 422-megawatt generation facility owned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. NRECA contributed \$1 million to the project.

"The Integrated Test Center is a shining example of how America's electric cooperatives are pushing the boundaries of innovation," said Jim Spiers, NRECA's vice president of Business and Technology Strategies. "From distributed generation and renewable energy to cyber security and carbon capture, co-ops are collaborating with public and private interests to meet the needs of their member-consumers and increase economic prosperity in their communities."

Paul Sukut, Basin Electric's CEO, said the project seeks to "reduce carbon dioxide emissions without adversely impacting our local economies. This project is one step in that direction."

Joining NRECA and Basin Electric in the ITC partnership are Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE and the state of Wyoming, which contributed \$15 million to the project. Tri-State contributed \$5 million to the ITC.

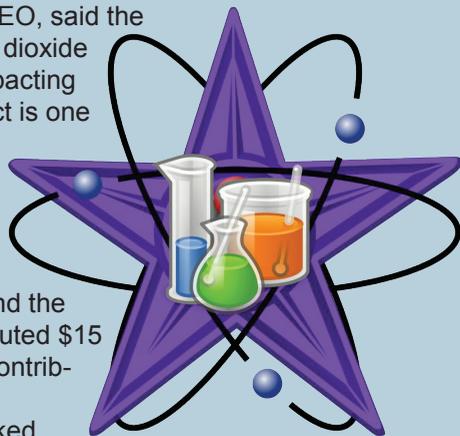
"With our partners, we've worked tirelessly to spur a new path for entrepreneurship and innovation in carbon management," said Mike McInnes, Tri-State's CEO.

XPRIZE will use the facility for the final phase of its \$10 million carbon competition. It will award prize money to the developer of the most successful new technology for transforming coal based flue gas into a commercial product.

Transforming carbon dioxide emissions into revenue-producing products could offset the high cost of carbon removal and go a long way toward solving the carbon challenge, while potentially keeping energy plants in operation, saving jobs and sparing local communities from economic hardship. Products made from waste carbon dioxide could include chemicals, fuels, building materials and graphene, an exotic allotrope of carbon that has extraordinary properties, such as being 100 times stronger than steel.

The XPRIZE competition will conclude in 2020.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative  
10 East 10th Avenue, South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661  
www.arkvalley.com

# Bill Payment Options

Ark Valley Electric offers multiple ways for you to pay your monthly bill. Along with the standard mailing of a check with your bill stub, there are many electronic options available as well. Some of these options may not be available for all commercial accounts.

Our website, arkvalley.com, utilizes SmartHub technology to pay via bank account or credit/debit card. You can access our mobile phone app for payments through our website under Services, SmartHub Online Billing, or by searching for SmartHub on your app store.

If you prefer making payments over the phone, we have an automated phone system at 844-262-2443 that accepts bank accounts and credit/debit cards. Please see the quick reference guide below for menu options. We highly recommend that you choose to save your payment information for faster service. PIN numbers are required for bank account payments only and must be set up first (option 4).

Don't want to worry about your bill every month? How about setting your account up on automatic monthly payments from your bank account or card? This option automatically pays your bill on the last business day of every month, taking the hassle away from you. Get your account set up for recurring payments through SmartHub or our automated phone system. If you prefer filling out a form for bank account debits, contact our office at 10 E. 10th Ave. in South Hutch or call 620-662-6661.

If you prefer to drop your cash or check payment off at our office, that's ok too! We are here Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00 with an after hours drop box located on the front of our building.

## Ark Valley's Pay-By-Phone Quick Reference Guide

**(844) 262-2443**

### MAIN MENU

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - Make a Payment      | 4 - Create or Update PIN        |
| 2 - Inquire on Account  | 5 - Edit Recurring Payment Info |
| 3 - Update Phone Number | 6 - Edit Stored Payment Info    |

## Want to win a bill credit?

We are exploring the possibility of providing Ark Valley members broadband internet services.

To gauge the level of interest, we will be conducting a short survey of our members. Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for two \$50 billing credits. The surveys will arrive as a separate mailing to our residential members only, so be on the lookout.

You may complete and return the survey with your bill payment or it can be completed online at our website, [www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com), under the News & Events tab.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your input!



## Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of May on May 23, 2016.

The Board agreed to have the staff conduct a mail-in survey of the Cooperative's members to gauge their interest in having broadband internet service. The survey will try to measure the current availability of internet service within the Cooperative's service territory and how competitive the price of the internet service is.

This being an election year, Ark Valley, in conjunction with the Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC), will hold a meet-and-greet for area legislators, Trustees and Cooperative staff on June 29th. It will be an opportunity for KEC and the Cooperative to educate policy makers on issues facing its members and the electric industry. Hopefully, such interaction will help build a grassroots efforts aimed at addressing rural electrification needs before the Kansas Legislature.

## Summer Rate in Effect

Just a reminder...summer rates begin with your **June usage**, which will show on the bill you receive next month.



## Drawing Winner

**ANDREW YODER** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Andrew, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by June 30, 2016 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).