

Shock Talk

www.carea.ca • February 2012 - Issue 136

CAREA gives presentation to transmission committee

On Thursday, Jan. 12, CAREA's Board Chairman, Jim Towle, along with the association's consultant, Sheldon Fulton, traveled to Calgary to make a presentation to the Critical Transmission Review Committee.

On Dec. 6, 2011, the Government of Alberta announced the establishment of the CTRC. The committee is mandated to review the process and information used by the Alberta Electric System Operator in considering and developing the north-south transmission reinforcement plan.

As an initial step in this review, the

committee has contacted key stakeholders in order to give them an opportunity to provide information to the committee. CAREA took the opportunity to make a presentation to the committee.

For CAREA, "we're concerned about the rising [electricity] costs being contributed by transmission rates," Jim explained. "We, as distributors, are going to lose our competitive advantage with these rising costs and we have no ability to control those costs."

"The costs affect our members directly," reads the presentation handout CAREA

gave to the CTRC. "The major component of the transmission charge is driven by the revenue requirement for the transmission providers. Indirectly, the increasing transmission costs will impact industry across Alberta, affecting jobs and growth opportunities."

Jim said CAREA does not disagree with the need for transmission, but that the association questions how much, meaning how many lines are really needed, and what kind of lines – AC versus DC.

"We are opposed to the extra cost for DC, for no demonstrated advantage," Jim said.

In its presentation, CAREA outlined a number of projects going on in Alberta, with particular attention to generation projects in southern Alberta and the deferral of generation projects in northern Alberta.

The presentation also pointed out that there has been a decrease in transmission line use from northern Alberta to southern Alberta.

"It is difficult to comprehend why even one high voltage DC line is required at this time, let alone two with a cost of \$3.4 billion," CAREA stated in the presentation

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Pictured, transmission lines east of Innisfail.

The AGM is coming up!

CAREA's Annual General Meeting will be held on March 27 this year, at the Royal Canadian Legion in Innisfail. The roast beef dinner will begin at 6 p.m., with the AGM to begin at 7 p.m.

The annual Member Information Session will be held on March 29, at the Onoway Community Hall, for all those that aren't able to make it to the AGM. The roast beef dinner will begin at 6 p.m., and the MIS will follow at 7 p.m.

Tickets for either the AGM or the MIS are \$8 and must be reserved in advance by calling the CAREA office at 403-227-4011 or 1-888-211-4011.



More referrals could mean lower bills

You may remember the saying, "the more the merrier." Well, that is especially true in a co-operative. The stronger CAREA's membership base, the larger the economies of scale become. This helps to save costs for all members.

CAREA needs your support to identify prospective members.

CAREA encourages you to promote the association whenever possible – whether it's a new neighbour wondering what service he or she

should use, a developer who has purchased a large amount of land or a driller accessing your property. But you don't have to be a member to refer!

There are two ways to make a referral to CAREA:

First, you could call the CAREA office at 1-888-211-4011 with the prospective member's name, contact information and any other details you may have.

Or, you could provide the prospective member with a business card you may have received from a CAREA staff member. All staff business cards have a referral portion on the back. Simply fill that out and have the prospective member come into the nearest CAREA office.

For every referral you submit to CAREA where the prospect has become a member, your name and the name of the person you referred will be entered into a draw for \$500, to be drawn in December each year.

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document. "The AESO should consider use of existing right of ways and upgrading existing lines as an alternative to greenfield construction through prime farmland."

In conclusion, the association stated, "CAREA understands that transmission planning is complex and must be dynamic, that it must adapt to changing load and generation conditions and that it must stand the test of public interest in a public forum. We would prefer

that the AESO transmission plan be reviewed by the Alberta Utilities Commission, that it be updated every two years and that only those elements that meet stringent public interest and benefit/cost criteria should be allowed to proceed.

"As such, we would request that the Electric Statutes Amendment Act be further amended to rescind the Cabinet powers to declare lines as 'critical' and that the necessary legislation and regulations be put

into place to ensure a public scrutiny of the AESO's plans."

"I think the presentation was well received," said Jim. "They got our message, and it seemed like our message was a common one."

Once the committee has gathered all of the information, it will make its findings available to the Minister of Energy, by Feb. 10, 2012.

For more information, visit www.ctrc-ab.ca

First quarter tariff announced

Effective on your service to Jan. 15, 2012, billing, your transmission rate is increasing. The Fortis/AUC approved farm rate for 2012 is 3.0873 cents/kWh, which is a 64.28 per cent increase from the fourth quarter 2011 rate.

Included in the calculation of this rate is a 2012 Balancing Pool Allocation Rider (BPAR), which is a credit, and a Transmission Adjustment Rider (TAR), which is a charge. The TAR will be adjusted each quarter throughout the 2012 year.

Your REA Farm rate for transmission for the fourth quarter of 2011 was 2.8809 cents/kWh. The 2012 rate, effective Jan. 1, 2012, results in a 7.16 per cent increase in the transmission rate for the first quarter of 2012.

Lamp standards for sale

CAREA has four street light standards for sale. These are made of steel, measure 35 to 40 feet in height and there is one double davit (for two lights) and three single davits. The bases are not included.

Offers can be made on as many poles as you would like, and will be accepted until March 15, 2012.

Please contact Brad Thompson to make your offer: 403-227-3542, ext. 126. Brad can also tell you where you can purchase a base for these poles.



Check out CAREA's expanded website

CAREA recently made some changes to its website, www.carea.ca, to better serve its members, potential members and the public.

Although the website contains a wide variety of information, the most major changes are listed below:

Under the ABOUT US tab, Service Area now includes detailed maps of each of the 16 counties CAREA serves, and the association's service area within those counties. These maps are available in PDF format to download.

Under the SERVICES tab, Rural Commercial/Industrial is a good resource for commercial or industrial developers, as well as oil and gas companies looking to drill in CAREA's service area. Under this section, CAREA has also included a comprehensive information package for builders, developers, land owners and companies to download.

Rate Schedules is now included under SERVICES and here visitors can find CAREA's rates, information on the association's Co-operative Energy Rate and the government's Regulated Rate Option for 2012 and the last few years.

Development Information is for members looking to subdivide or developers that wish to create a multi-parcel development. There is an information package available for download, and interested parties can also click on the YouTube video link

to hear Alvin Clark, a developer from west of Edmonton, talk about his Trestle Creek development and his experiences with CAREA.

The CAREA OPERATIONS tab has seen the most changes:

Power Outages shows pre-planned and unplanned power outage information for Innisfail and Onoway areas.

The Pole Replacement Areas, Line Patrol, Pole Testing and Vegetation Management sections all show the areas where CAREA employees will be performing those jobs over the year.

Under Pole Replacement Areas, there is information for members which details how planning your service move during a scheduled pole replacement can save money.

Under Vegetation Management, there is a link to a YouTube video, which talks about CAREA's vegetation management program and shows the kind of work these crews do every day. There is also a PDF available for download which lists trees and shrubs that can be planted under a powerline.

Through the SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY TAB, there is an overview of CAREA's scholarship and leadership camp initiatives. There is also a link to a YouTube video where you can hear a CAREA member and a member of the Board talk about those special programs.

On the left side of the homepage, you will see a box with many other tabs you can click on. The GREEN ENERGY TAB will help you learn about micro-generation and CAREA's Renewable Energy Credits. There is also a link there for a YouTube video, which shows CAREA's General Manager, Pat Bourne, and a CAREA member that generates his own power talking about green energy and its benefits.

Under the members-only section of the website, down the left side once you log in, there are also some new additions:

SUBMIT METER READINGS is a section where you can submit your meter readings electronically.

NEW MEMBERS' INFORMATION contains a downloadable copy of CAREA's Member Information Booklet, as well as information sheets about the Co-op Energy Rate, a guide to subdividing and a list of trees and shrubs that can be planted under powerlines.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES will take you to information, and a link to a video, about the yard light, generator and Generlink options.

PREFERRED SUPPLIER PROGRAM will take you to an area regarding a new program CAREA will be implementing in 2012.

Please check out the website and scroll through all of the valuable information!

Great ideas are meant to be shared!

Be part of CAREA's referral program!

If you know someone that is going to buy a rural acreage or farm, wants to establish a business in a rural area, is thinking about subdividing land or has been approached by an oil/gas or telecommunications company about leasing land, call us today and let us know that person's name and contact information. We can handle the rest!

If that person does become a CAREA member, your name and the name of the person you referred will be entered into a draw for \$500!



International Year of Co-operatives

Jan. 12, 2012, was Canada's launch of the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives! Prime Minister Stephen Harper sent a special greeting to kick off the launch:

"I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone marking the launch of the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives.

The existence of co-operatives across all sectors of the economy speaks to the influence and relevance of the co-operative movement. Over 18 million Canadians can count themselves as members of co-operatives—an impressive statistic with an impact on the nation's socio-economic strength.

By proclaiming the International Year of Co-operatives,

the UN General Assembly has placed a global importance on the co-operative business model. This year offers opportunities for organizations in Canada and throughout the world to share the benefits of co-operatives, to promote the founding principles common to co-operatives worldwide, and to highlight the vital roles that members play in the success of these organizations.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to offer my best wishes for a memorable and successful year."

CAREA is proud to be part of this celebration, which falls in conjunction with our 20th anniversary this year!

Join us in celebrating a business model that changed the world.

Pole testers wanted

CAREA is looking for two post-secondary students to carry out pole testing in the Beiseker/ Irricana area and Isle Lake/Darwell area from May 1 until the end of August.

Interested individuals must be self-motivated, conscientious, precise, thorough, industrious, physically fit, enjoy working outdoors and able to work alone. Candidates must be able to pass a physical and drug tests.

Applications are currently being accepted for this position.

Job descriptions are available upon request by calling Rick Maclise at 403-227-7533. Please e-mail your resume to Jennifer Isotti at Jennifer.Isotti@cenera.ca.

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching! Don't forget to cherish your sweetheart this year. Or, if there's no sweetheart in your life for this Feb. 14, do something special just for yourself.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Mailing address: Box 6199, 5803 42 St., Innisfail AB T4G 1S8

To report a power outage in your area, or for other services such as construction or vegetation management, please call your local Area Office. But for meter reads and billing questions, please call the Main Office.

Innisfail Area Office	Main Office	Oneway Area Office	E-mail: general@care.ca
Phone: 403-227-7535	Phone: 403-227-4011	Phone: 780-967-3340	Web: www.care.ca
Toll free: 1-877-527-4011	Toll free: 1-888-211-4011	Toll free: 1-888-627-4011	Meter reads:
Fax: 403-227-7540	Fax: 403-227-1007	Fax: 780-967-3018	reads@care.ca

It is very important to note that your distribution system provider will always be CAREA, regardless of who supplies your energy. Members who choose to obtain electricity (retail electricity services) from a party other than CAREA will not be disadvantaged or in any way be treated differently by CAREA. For a list of energy retailers, visit www.ucahelps.gov.ab.ca.