





HILL COUNTY ELECTRIC NEWS & VIEWS

October 2024

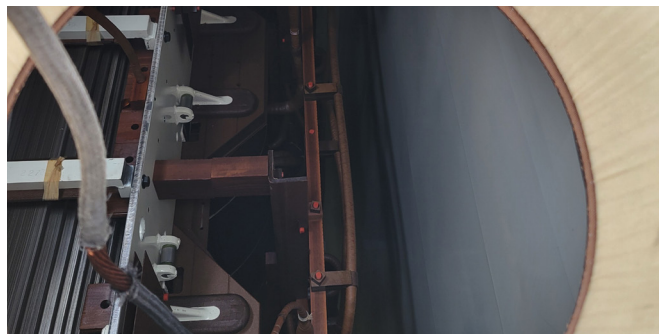


1.877.394.7804  
hillcountyelectric.coop



Vernona Substation

The Verona Substation was built in 1997. It provides power to the Virgelle, Colony Bay, Big Sandy and Hopp-Illiad areas which powers approximately 687 meters. This substation is fed with a 161kV transmission line operated by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).



Hill County Electric Faced a 30-Hour Outage

In April, Hill County Electric experienced a significant 30-hour outage in the Verona Substation that highlighted both the challenges of energy distribution and the remarkable resilience of the community it serves. The cause? A 161kV bushing failure on the transformer, which is critical to power delivery.

Understanding Bushings: The Unsung Heroes of Transformers

For those unfamiliar with the intricacies of electrical transformers, bushings play a crucial role. These components, insulators, allow electricity to enter or exit a transformer—essentially acting as the gateway for high-voltage lines. When a bushing fails, it can result in hazardous conditions, necessitating immediate action to prevent further damage or prolonged service outages.

Upon discovering the bushing failure, Hill County Electric crews worked to determine the severity of the damage, temporarily made repairs, and replaced the damaged bushing. WAPA had to bring in equipment to test the transformer before HCE was able to re-energize the transformer. This was a temporary fix and HCE needed to coordinate a specialized team to come in and permanently repair and test the transformer.



Further Testing

Immediately following the April outage, HCE employees worked on a plan to keep power on during the four-day outage for the repair that was required on the temporary fix for the Verona Substation transformer. HCE explored two options to keep power on for Members. The first was to power the Distribution Substations using a public utility company in Montana. The second was through a series of generators. HCE was forced to go with option 2.

During the four days of intense work, Hill County Electric ran four substations off diesel generators, which were brought in to help maintain service. This solution allowed the team to keep essential services running while addressing the transformer repair.

The cooperation from community members played a critical role during this outage. Hill County Electric expressed heartfelt gratitude to its members who reduced their electric loads during the outage. This collective effort made a significant difference, ensuring that power remained on in homes despite the substation being down.

The community's commitment extended beyond just load reduction. Numerous members came forward to assist during the substation outage, demonstrating the spirit of teamwork and cooperation that defines Hill County Electric Cooperative.



The Logistics of Generators

Over the course of the four-day repair operation, Hill County Electric utilized approximately 13,000 gallons of diesel to fuel the generators that kept the substations operational. Over 1,000 feet of cable was deployed to wire the generators. Substations are not designed to work off diesel generators. This logistical effort was no small feat and required meticulous planning and execution from the Hill County Electric team and contractors ensuring minimal disruption to services throughout the region.





Kudos

Kudos must go to the dedicated team at Hill County Electric, whose expertise and quick thinking were vital in engineering and implementing the generator setups. Their ability to adapt to unforeseen challenges is a testament to their commitment to providing reliable electricity to their members. For HCE employees, the 4-day outage took weeks of planning and preparation.

Hill County Electric extends its gratitude to all members and employees for their cooperation and commitment during this outage.

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC!

Tour Dates: June 14-21, 2025

Apply by Dec 1, 2024

Visit hcelectric.com/youthtour for more info.

Open to HCE Member Dependents who are currently a Sophomore or Junior.



Your Electric Cooperative needs YOUR HELP

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

You may receive a short End-Use survey from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. HCE is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Thank you for your participation in this survey!



Swap and Shop

Welcome to our Swap and Shop! Feel free to post and find classifieds from other members! Ads submitted online are usually added within 2 to 3 business days.

Due to print deadlines and space available, some ads may appear in the next month's magazine.

**Denotes photo available on website*

Wanted 1955-1959 GMC or Chevy Parts

1955-1959 GMC or Chevy parts. Pickup parts or whole pickup. Call 406.326.2287.

Early 1970's Disassembled Triumph Spitfire*

Early 1970's Disassembled Triumph Spitfire. Call 406.372.3161, Asking \$2,500 OBO.

Wheat Straw Bales

Small square wheat bales, out of conventional combine. \$5.00 per bale, located just a few miles north of Havre, MT. Limited quantities available. Please call or text 406.230.2281, email: noneckfarms@gmail.com or on Facebook at Twyla Knudson.

Trailer Needed

Trailer needed for hired men. Call 406.930.2276.

2005 Cadillac Deville For Sale

2005 Cadillac Deville for sale, call 406.301.4035 for price.

Flatbed Trailer*

48' by 102" flatbed trailer, 2013 East, asking \$23,500, CALL 406.980.0789.

Big Foot Camper

Big Foot Camper for sale, Call 406.301.4035.

Male Welch Corgi Missing

Black/White 3-year-old male, last seen on Stockyard Road in Chinook. Call 406.357.3288 or 406.357.2279.

Town and Country Van Parts Car

1997 model, \$500, you tow it. Call 1.406.355.4123 for more information.

2015 GMC Sierra 3500HD Crew Cab

Engine will need to be replaced, has 230,705 miles. Asking \$5,000. Call 406.394.2879.

Free to Established Aquarium

Free to a well-established aquarium: Corydora catfish, 6 albinos and many gold lazars. Call 406.547.2266.

2016 Ford F350 Super Duty Crew Cab

Has 161,136 miles. Asking \$20,000. Call Brian at 406.394.2879 for more information.

1985 MacGreror Jetboat*

1985 MacGreror Jetboat, call 406.326.2211.

2005 Cadillac Deville For Sale

2005 Cadillac Deville for sale, call 406.301.4035 for price.

Sanger Speed Boat w/trailer and more

Sanger Speed Boat with a 440 Chrysler engine, includes trailer, water skis, life jackets, innertube, and almost new paddle board. Asking \$4,000 for everything, call 406.378.2572.

John Deere 54-inch Mower

54-inch John Deere Mower, asking \$500. Call 406.378.3233.

2002 Hallmark 8ft overhead Popup Pickup Camper

2002 Hallmark 8ft overheard popup pickup camper. Electric jacks. Solar nice condition. Asking \$6,000. Call 406.759.5894 (leave message).

Case 446 tractor and more

1980 collectible Case 446 tractor with hydro and 46" mower. Good tires, nice paint, always inside, 16hp, asking \$1,400. 1950's 7up pop refrigerator cooler out of old grocery store, all original. Asking \$550. Firebird snowflake wheels, \$400. Antique 1930's 3 divided gas truck bulk tank. Has rear compartment for barrels and grease buckets. Call 406.374.2458 and ask for Mike.

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