



NorVal

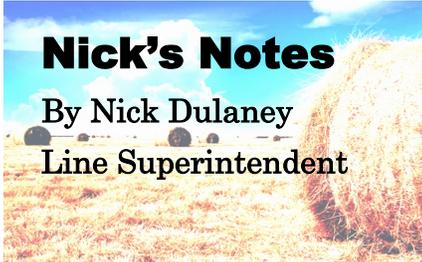
NEWS



July 2020

Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney
Line Superintendent



The NorVal line crew answered the call to action following a fast-moving storm in May. The storm featured an EF-0 tornado near Whatley (about 7 miles East of Glasgow). An EF-0 is considered the weakest

of the Enhanced Fujita Scale, with winds ranging from 65-85 mph, but it still packed a bunch of damage in a short amount of time!

In the Whatley area, the high winds damaged barn doors and lifted the roof of a barn, throwing it about 100 yards. Trees were also snapped, shearing off or uprooting. Closer to Glasgow, the National Weather Service also reported the metal roof of a house was peeled back and the carport next to the house had the roof completely ripped off and thrown north. A boat near the house was also moved about 100 feet!

For our NorVal Crews, the storm-related outage calls began about 9:30 p.m. that night.

The Lustre and Frazer area damage included multiple trees falling into the lines, and over 6 poles were broken along the BIA highway. In addition, there were poles struck by lightning in the Lustre area.

Near the river, the winds caused a shed to blow into the power line and break it. The tricky terrain where the damage occurred created a longer than normal response time.

For large-scale outages, the first priority is for the crews to restore power to the substations. Next, they focus on transmission lines and finally, they work on distribution lines. Once daylight revealed the extent of the damage to be assessed and repaired, we relied heavily on the calls from our members to help us create an action plan. We are grateful to all who called the office to report broken poles, snapped wires and missing hardware. Your assistance is always appreciated, especially after a weather related event!

The crew spent the following week mopping up from the storm damage. In June, the focus was on rebuilding the Hinsdale East Circuit 3 phase line. The line starts at the Hinsdale Sub, heading East about 5 miles. The focus is to change out the poles

and to upgrade the wire. If you've been through the town of Hinsdale, you may have noticed the poles and wires staged in the center of town for the project. Because of the numerous projects we complete every year, we must order the materials needed far in advance. Every pole, foot of wire, and necessary hardware for the pole must be in the warehouse when the crew is ready to start construction. Then, to save time on the jobs, the material is set aside for each job. For large jobs, like the Hinsdale line, the reels and poles are moved to that location, and there is a trailer with supplies to expedite the process. This is why I strongly urge members who are contemplating new projects to contact the office as soon as possible, so that we can have the necessary supplies available for your job.

In the upcoming months, we will have our contractors Electro-Test here to do annual substation maintenance and inspection as well as oil circuit recloser maintenance and change outs. Their in-depth inspections are required by our insurance carrier, but also are a wonderful tool to ensure that the equipment in the substation is working properly for reliability purposes, and is also inspected for safety for our crews. 



Above: Mother Nature has a sense of humor. This line was rebuilt brand new last summer. In May's storm the trees in the area fell through the line, breaking one pole, splitting another, and broke wires causing another rebuild.



Left: An irrigation pivot is toppled because of the extreme wind.



Recipe of the Month



Land of the Free Lemonade

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 c. fresh lemon juice (about 8 large lemons), 4 squeezed lemons reserved
- 4 c. chopped watermelon

Directions

Bring 6 c. water, sugar and salt to a boil in a medium saucepan over high heat, stirring occasionally. Remove saucepan from heat, add reserved lemons, cover, and let stand for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, puree chopped watermelon in a blender or food processor with 1 c. water. Pour syrup and watermelon puree through a strainer into a pitcher. Stir in lemon juice. Lemonade can be made up to 1 day ahead. Serve over ice. 



And it begins!

Last month in Nick's Notes, Nick mentioned we are beginning to install power to TC Energy Pump Station 11. Staking Engineer, Mitch Griebel took the pictures below of the action as NorVal's contractors TCH, Inc. plow the line through some rugged terrain near Fort Peck. 



Wishing you and yours a safe 4th of July!

The NorVal Office will be closed Friday, July 3rd.

If you need immediate assistance please call 406-228-9351



Connect With Us

-  54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow
 -  PO Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230
 -  406-228-9351
 -  www.norval.coop
 -  facebook.com/norvalelectric
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1	Lee Risa	762-3247
District 2	Sam Gundermann	724-3405
District 3	Rick Molvig Vice Pres.	367-5328
District 4	Chris Christensen	364-2367
District 5	Kurt Breigenzer S/T	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig President	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they are able to detect when a device is in standby mode.

Source: energy.gov

