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Press Release

Impressive 15-Year Safety Record for Co-op

Lincoln Electric employees work with one of the most powerful and potentially hazardous forces known to man – electricity. But last lost-time injury was recorded on January 17, 1990.

Eureka, MT March 2, 2005 LEC employees have worked over 600,000 injury-free hours since that cold winter day in 1990 when a lineman injured his back while restoring service to a remote area near Trego.

“Considering line crews work around energized high-voltage power lines on a daily basis, often in adverse conditions at all hours of the day, this is quite an accomplishment,” said operations superintendent Roger Pitman. “Of course there are incidents and near misses. Things happen that should not happen. If there is a hazardous situation that is brought to our attention, it is imperative that we tackle such circumstances in a proper manner,” explains safety compliance officer Brent Holder.

Holder praises the workforce for their achievement. He believes that there are many reasons for the co-op’s excellent safety record, and cites the comprehensive safety training given to employees, the thorough planning of maintenance and repair work, as well as the precise reporting of incidents and near misses. “We are also keen to develop best practice standards for our operations,” said Holder.

The co-op conducts regular monthly safety meetings, and employees are also sent to schools to learn safe work practices such as rubber-gloving and hot line work. In addition, before every job, a tailgate session is held to discuss safe work procedures for the particular job at hand.

“On behalf of the board of trustees, I want to personally thank each employee for their commitment to a safe work environment for themselves and our members. Our employees should be commended for their consistent dedication to safety. Our utility is dedicated to safety – it’s job number one – because it’s the right thing to do,” proclaimed manager Mike Henry.

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