

# Western United Electric Supply Corporation

## The Supplier

*Volume 6, Issue 1*

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### *The Supplier*

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### **WESTERN UNITED MISSION STATEMENT**

**To be the distributor of  
choice for all electric utilities  
in the Rocky Mountain  
Region**

**Serving CO, WY, NM, NE, UT,  
AZ & KS**

### **HDPE Line Post Insulators From Hendrix**

Hendrix has been the long-time industry preferred manufacturer of pin type HDPE insulators that keep on operating even though they have been shot by outdoor hunters or have been bounced around in the back of a line truck. Their performance and life expectancy are unmatched. NOW Hendrix has developed a HDPE F neck line post design with one unit capable of being used on both 25KV and 35KV systems. The unit exceeds all of the ANSI electrical requirements for both porcelain and for composite type insulators and has a reduced height of only 14". Additionally the cantilever strength exceeds all of the ANSI requirements. This insulator will NOT chip, crack or break. It is lighter than both porcelain and metal topped composite insulator designs.

Manufactured in the USA.

Ask for P/N HPI-LP-14 when specing your next job. Your WUE account manager can provide additional information/test reports etc.

**Order a sample today!**



## WUE UPDATE

**Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative** in Portales, NM has joined WUE as our 56th member. All WUE members enjoy the benefits of competitive pricing, required construction materials stocked in WUE warehouses, fast delivery, superior service and annual patronage capital credits.

**Ermco** has redeemed a portion of their outstanding capital credits with WUE. In turn, WUE has recently (early February) redeemed a portion of their outstanding 2007 capital credits by sending appropriate checks to members holding those certificates. Only from cooperatively member owned companies like Ermco and WUE can you receive capital credits and then have them redeemed for cash!

WUE continues to carry an inventory in excess of \$10M in order to support the current demand from members for construction materials as well as combating current manufacturer lead times. Manufacturers have announced price increases for 2013 ranging from 0-4%. **WUE continues to aggressively negotiate and leverage manufacturers for low material prices.**

Just a reminder that continuous poly duct (HDPE) manufactured by **Dura-line, Southwire and Petroflex**; and used by our member/customers tends to deteriorate over time when exposed to sunlight and the outside heating and cooling cycles. Product that has been stored outside too long (2-5 years) can develop stress cracks. The product can become brittle and break during deployment. To extend the life of your conduit or CIC inventory, store the material indoors or cover all exposed surfaces. Always rotate your stock to insure first in first out. The duct is guaranteed from the manufacturer for one year.

WUE is now an exclusive distributor for the **Matech/Sylvania** brand of LED security lighting fixtures (43W and 70W). Dark sky compliance option, eligible for a rebate from Tri State, upgraded arrester surge protection, high-est life expectancy (over 100,000 hours), superior light coverage, lowest operating cost with the shortest install time. The Matech brand fixture is sure to provide your utility with a very quick positive payback. Made in the USA. Your WUE account manager can calculate your payback. This is an ideal replacement for old mercury vapor security lights due to it's white emitting light.

WUE, is also a distributor for **EcoMAX** lighting. EcoMax produces a line of Induction lighting products that compete with LED in providing energy savings. Your WUE account manager can assist you with an introduction to induction lighting.

WUE has been approved as a distributor for **Earth Contact**—a US manufacturer of anchors and accessories which are RUS approved.

WUE has also been approved as a distributor for **Smart Grid Solutions**—a manufacturer of fault indicators.

WUE has access to a full line of ADSS and OPGW fiber optic cable with **AFL and Prysmium (Draka)**

## NEW PRODUCTS

**S&C** now offers an updated cost effective single phase cutout-mounted recloser. The new S&C recloser called the **Tripsaver II** fits in an S&C/MaClean cutout and uses line voltage to run the device (no backup batteries are needed). It employs a vacuum fault interrupter with an electronic control and is available in either 15KV or 25KV, is very lightweight (25 lbs), with continuous current ratings of 100A and with a mechanical life of over 2000 operations. Since 90% of temporary faults on overhead distribution circuits occur on laterals, this device eliminates the permanent outages resulting from lateral fuses operating on the temporary faults. Thus the utility has an improvement in their SAIFI scores with no change in their MAIFI scores. The recloser will drop into an open position when a permanent fault is detected. It is reset by closing the device back into the cutout holder (similar to a fuse holder).



The WUE sales team is currently promoting the device and will have all required literature. It will also be shown at the upcoming CREA Engineering and Operations meeting.

## **NEW PRODUCTS**

### **Internal Fault Detection in Distribution Transformers**

Utilities are constantly looking for ways to increase safety, reliability, and line crew productivity when working on their electric distribution system. One area capable of meeting these goals is the rapid detection of internal faults in pole-top and pad-mounted distribution transformers. IFD has developed and marketed a device that is installed in transformers that minimizes the risk to linemen when a transformer has an internal fault. The device also insures more rapid fault detection.



Personnel from IFD will be presenting the product at the upcoming CO operations and engineering conference in Cortez on April 8-9. Please bring your questions or see a WUE account manager for more information.

### **Copper Wire Theft Deterrent Products**

Theft of Copper wire at both utility substations and at pole locations remains an industry epidemic due to the price of copper remaining very high. Many manufacturers have begun to offer very creative products to try to reduce the problem. Commscope and Copperweld offer copper coated steel ground wire that offers very little financial reward for thieves because the product cannot be recycled or melted down. Southwire offers ground wire that can have the name of the utility engraved on the conductor thus making it easily identified by copper dealers. AFL has introduced a PVC-jacketed copperweld pole ground wire product. The PVC jacket makes the wire look like galvanized steel rather than copper. It is available in 25 lb spools (12" diameter). Another company, Cresatech offers a product (CuTS) that when installed in a substation, actually monitors any changes in the inductance level of the complete ground system. Any changes in the system sounds an alarm or communicates to another device at the utility. A trial application is being tested by Mountain View Electric Coop.

If your utility continues to be targeted by copper thieves and you would like to look at possible deterrent options, please see your WUE account manager. He can provide a full explanation and cost for these products.

### **EYE Lighting Introduces New Bulbs**

In response to growing demand, EYE Lighting has introduced their Brutus line of metal halide bulbs. The new bulb has been designed for applications where traditional metal halide bulbs have a shortened life due to excessive vibration, wind-whipping etc. Due to the design, a Brutus brand bulb will withstand severe applications.



Additionally EYE has also introduced a line of ceramic metal halide pure white light lamp system. The bulb when combined with a special ballast will convert traditional metal halide, HPS or MV fixtures to one with white lighting, improved efficacy, double the life rating and 40% energy savings.

See your WUE rep for more information and a presentation.

### **PUPI H-Frame Cross Arms & X-Braces**

Pupi, an industry recognized supplier of long lasting fiberglass deadend and tangent arms is now offering the pultruded technology for H-frame cross arms and X-braces. They recently supplied the City of Gillette, WY with cross arms and braces to rebuild an existing H-frame line with a larger conductor. The new cross arms and X-braces are half the weight of treated wood, are stronger (with proven testing) and more consistent, providing easy field drilling and lasting longer than wood. Pupi offers arms up to 32' long in two sizes (3 5/8" x 4 5/8" or 4" x 6"). Their X-Braces are available in lengths to fit any pole spacing and are supplied in pairs with industry-standard end-fittings.



See your WUE account manager for more information. Compare PUPI's pricing and ROI against wood for your next construction job — whether new or for a rebuild!

### Ground Rod Update by Erico

Recent changes to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) standard regarding the thickness of copper coating on ground rods has sparked some well-deserved discussion. Per the US Code of Federal Regulations, RUS requires borrowers to design grounding systems to minimum national standards. In this case, that means meeting the National Electrical Code (NEC) and having a copper-bonded ground rod with a minimum 10 mil copper coating. However RUS continues to recommend a 13 mil copper-bonded ground rod as the benefits of the thicker coating cannot be disputed. The thicker coating extends the expected life of the 13 mil ground rod by 5 years over the 10 mil rod (from 40 years to 45 years). Thus the integrity of the electric utility's distribution system is extended. The cost difference between a 10 mil and 13 mill rod and the extended life of the 13 mil rod clearly makes the 13 mil rod cost effective.

The **Ertech** brand of copper-bonded ground rods from Erico have an electrolytic coating of copper deposited over a layer of nickel. The process ensures a long-lasting molecular bond between the copper layer and steel core. Erico is WUE's preferred vendor of ground rods. All ground rods stocked by WUE at their warehouses remain the 13 mil variety.



**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



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