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Form 990

Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public

Information about Form 990 and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](#)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

2016

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2016 calendar year, or tax year beginning 01-01-2016 , and ending 12-31-2016

B Check if applicable

☐ Address change

☐ Name change

☐ Initial return

☐ Final

☒ Return/terminated

☐ Amended return

☐ Application pending

C Name of organization

HIGH WEST ENERGY INC

Doing business as

Number and street (or P O box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite

PO BOX 519

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code

PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082

F Name and address of principal officer

BRIAN HEITHOFF

PO BOX 519

PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates?

☐ Yes ☒ No

H(b) Are all subordinates included?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If "No," attach a list (see instructions)

H(c) Group exemption number ▶

I Tax-exempt status

☐ 501(c)(3) ☒ 501(c) ( 12 ) ◀(insert no ) ☐ 4947(a)(1) or ☐ 527

J Website: ▶ WWW.HIGHWESTENERGY.COM

K Form of organization

☒ Corporation ☐ Trust ☐ Association ☐ Other ▶

L Year of formation 1936

M State of legal domicile WY

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance

1 Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities

TO PROVIDE QUALITY AND RELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE TO MEMBERS AT COST ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS

2 Check this box ☐ if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets

3 Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a) . . . . .

4 Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b) . . . . .

5 Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2016 (Part V, line 2a) . . . . .

6 Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary) . . . . .

7a Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12 . . . . .

7b Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, line 34 . . . . .

Revenue

8 Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h) . . . . .

9 Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g) . . . . .

10 Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d ) . . . . .

11 Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)

12 Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)

Expenses

13 Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3 ) . . . . .

14 Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4) . . . . .

15 Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)

16a Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e) . . . . .

b Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25) ▶0

17 Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e) . . . . .

18 Total expenses Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)

19 Revenue less expenses Subtract line 18 from line 12 . . . . .

Net Assets or Fund Balances

20 Total assets (Part X, line 16) . . . . .

21 Total liabilities (Part X, line 26) . . . . .

22 Net assets or fund balances Subtract line 21 from line 20 . . . . .

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

Sign Here

\*\*\*\*\*

Signature of officer

2017-10-23

Date

BRIAN HEITHOFF CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name

WILLIAM M MILLER

Preparer's signature

WILLIAM M MILLER

Date

2017-10-23

Check ☒ if self-employed

PTIN

P00439459

Firm's name ▶ BOLINGER SEGARS GILBERT AND MOSS LLP

Firm's EIN ▶ 75-0882037

Firm's address ▶ 8215 NASHVILLE AVENUE

Phone no (806) 747-3806

LUBBOCK, TX 79423

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? (see instructions) . . . . .

☒ Yes ☐ No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat No 11282Y

Form 990 (2016)

**Part III Statement of Program Service Accomplishments**

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part III ☐

**1** Briefly describe the organization's mission

THE MISSION OF HIGH WEST ENERGY, A MEMBER-OWNED, NOT-FOR-PROFIT COOPERATIVE, IS TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS BY PROVIDING SAFE, RELIABLE, AND COMPETITIVELY PRICED ENERGY AND SERVICES FOCUSING ON THE NEEDS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

**2** Did the organization undertake any significant program services during the year which were not listed on the prior Form 990 or 990-EZ? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these new services on Schedule O

**3** Did the organization cease conducting, or make significant changes in how it conducts, any program services? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If "Yes," describe these changes on Schedule O

**4** Describe the organization's program service accomplishments for each of its three largest program services, as measured by expenses. Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations are required to report the amount of grants and allocations to others, the total expenses, and revenue, if any, for each program service reported

**4a** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )  
See Additional Data














**4b** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4c** (Code ) (Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4d** Other program services (Describe in Schedule O )  
(Expenses \$ including grants of \$ ) (Revenue \$ )

**4e** Total program service expenses ▶

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules**

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Is the organization described in section 501(c)(3) or 4947(a)(1) (other than a private foundation)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule A</i> . . . . .	<b>1</b>	No
<b>2</b> Is the organization required to complete <i>Schedule B, Schedule of Contributors</i> (see instructions)? . . . . .	<b>2</b>	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization engage in direct or indirect political campaign activities on behalf of or in opposition to candidates for public office? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part I</i> . . . . .	<b>3</b>	No
<b>4 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in lobbying activities, or have a section 501(h) election in effect during the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part II</i> . . . . .	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Is the organization a section 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), or 501(c)(6) organization that receives membership dues, assessments, or similar amounts as defined in Revenue Procedure 98-19? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule C, Part III</i> . . . . .	<b>5</b>	No
<b>6</b> Did the organization maintain any donor advised funds or any similar funds or accounts for which donors have the right to provide advice on the distribution or investment of amounts in such funds or accounts? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part I</i>  . . . . .	<b>6</b>	No
<b>7</b> Did the organization receive or hold a conservation easement, including easements to preserve open space, the environment, historic land areas, or historic structures? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part II</i>  . . . . .	<b>7</b>	No
<b>8</b> Did the organization maintain collections of works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part III</i>  . . . . .	<b>8</b>	No
<b>9</b> Did the organization report an amount in Part X, line 21 for escrow or custodial account liability, serve as a custodian for amounts not listed in Part X, or provide credit counseling, debt management, credit repair, or debt negotiation services? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IV</i>  . . . . .	<b>9</b>	No
<b>10</b> Did the organization, directly or through a related organization, hold assets in temporarily restricted endowments, permanent endowments, or quasi-endowments? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part V</i>  . . . . .	<b>10</b>	No
<b>11</b> If the organization's answer to any of the following questions is "Yes," then complete Schedule D, Parts VI, VII, VIII, IX, or X as applicable		
<b>a</b> Did the organization report an amount for land, buildings, and equipment in Part X, line 10? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VI</i>  . . . . .	<b>11a</b> Yes	
<b>b</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—other securities in Part X, line 12 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VII</i>  . . . . .	<b>11b</b>	No
<b>c</b> Did the organization report an amount for investments—program related in Part X, line 13 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part VIII</i>  . . . . .	<b>11c</b> Yes	
<b>d</b> Did the organization report an amount for other assets in Part X, line 15 that is 5% or more of its total assets reported in Part X, line 16? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part IX</i>  . . . . .	<b>11d</b>	No
<b>e</b> Did the organization report an amount for other liabilities in Part X, line 25? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>  . . . . .	<b>11e</b> Yes	
<b>f</b> Did the organization's separate or consolidated financial statements for the tax year include a footnote that addresses the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Part X</i>  . . . . .	<b>11f</b> Yes	
<b>12a</b> Did the organization obtain separate, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule D, Parts XI and XII</i>  . . . . .	<b>12a</b>	No
<b>b</b> Was the organization included in consolidated, independent audited financial statements for the tax year? <i>If "Yes," and if the organization answered "No" to line 12a, then completing Schedule D, Parts XI and XII is optional</i>  . . . . .	<b>12b</b> Yes	
<b>13</b> Is the organization a school described in section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule E</i> . . . . .	<b>13</b>	No
<b>14a</b> Did the organization maintain an office, employees, or agents outside of the United States? . . . . .	<b>14a</b>	No
<b>b</b> Did the organization have aggregate revenues or expenses of more than \$10,000 from grantmaking, fundraising, business, investment, and program service activities outside the United States, or aggregate foreign investments valued at \$100,000 or more? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts I and IV</i> . . . . .	<b>14b</b>	No
<b>15</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for any foreign organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts II and IV</i> . . . . .	<b>15</b>	No
<b>16</b> Did the organization report on Part IX, column (A), line 3, more than \$5,000 of aggregate grants or other assistance to or for foreign individuals? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule F, Parts III and IV</i> . . . . .	<b>16</b>	No
<b>17</b> Did the organization report a total of more than \$15,000 of expenses for professional fundraising services on Part IX, column (A), lines 6 and 11e? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part I</i> (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>17</b>	No
<b>18</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 total of fundraising event gross income and contributions on Part VIII, lines 1c and 8a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part II</i> . . . . .	<b>18</b>	No
<b>19</b> Did the organization report more than \$15,000 of gross income from gaming activities on Part VIII, line 9a? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule G, Part III</i> . . . . .	<b>19</b>	No

**Part IV Checklist of Required Schedules** (continued)

	Yes	No
<b>20a</b> Did the organization operate one or more hospital facilities? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule H . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 20a, did the organization attach a copy of its audited financial statements to this return?		
<b>21</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to any domestic organization or domestic government on Part IX, column (A), line 1? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>22</b> Did the organization report more than \$5,000 of grants or other assistance to or for domestic individuals on Part IX, column (A), line 2? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule I, Parts I and III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>23</b> Did the organization answer "Yes" to Part VII, Section A, line 3, 4, or 5 about compensation of the organization's current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule J . . . . .</i>	Yes	
<b>24a</b> Did the organization have a tax-exempt bond issue with an outstanding principal amount of more than \$100,000 as of the last day of the year, that was issued after December 31, 2002? <i>If "Yes," answer lines 24b through 24d and complete Schedule K. If "No," go to line 25a . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> Did the organization invest any proceeds of tax-exempt bonds beyond a temporary period exception? . . . .		
<b>c</b> Did the organization maintain an escrow account other than a refunding escrow at any time during the year to defease any tax-exempt bonds? . . . . .		
<b>d</b> Did the organization act as an "on behalf of" issuer for bonds outstanding at any time during the year? . . . .		
<b>25a Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations.</b> Did the organization engage in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person during the year? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		
<b>b</b> Is the organization aware that it engaged in an excess benefit transaction with a disqualified person in a prior year, and that the transaction has not been reported on any of the organization's prior Forms 990 or 990-EZ? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part I . . . . .</i>		
<b>26</b> Did the organization report any amount on Part X, line 5, 6, or 22 for receivables from or payables to any current or former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, or disqualified persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>27</b> Did the organization provide a grant or other assistance to an officer, director, trustee, key employee, substantial contributor or employee thereof, a grant selection committee member, or to a 35% controlled entity or family member of any of these persons? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part III . . . . .</i>		No
<b>28</b> Was the organization a party to a business transaction with one of the following parties (see Schedule L, Part IV instructions for applicable filing thresholds, conditions, and exceptions)		
<b>a</b> A current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>b</b> A family member of a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>c</b> An entity of which a current or former officer, director, trustee, or key employee (or a family member thereof) was an officer, director, trustee, or direct or indirect owner? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule L, Part IV . . . . .</i>		No
<b>29</b> Did the organization receive more than \$25,000 in non-cash contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>30</b> Did the organization receive contributions of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets, or qualified conservation contributions? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule M . . . . .</i>		No
<b>31</b> Did the organization liquidate, terminate, or dissolve and cease operations? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>32</b> Did the organization sell, exchange, dispose of, or transfer more than 25% of its net assets? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule N, Part II . . . . .</i>		No
<b>33</b> Did the organization own 100% of an entity disregarded as separate from the organization under Regulations sections 301.7701-2 and 301.7701-3? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part I . . . . .</i>		No
<b>34</b> Was the organization related to any tax-exempt or taxable entity? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part II, III, or IV, and Part V, line 1 . . . . .</i>	Yes	
<b>35a</b> Did the organization have a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)?	Yes	
<b>b</b> If "Yes" to line 35a, did the organization receive any payment from or engage in any transaction with a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>	Yes	
<b>36 Section 501(c)(3) organizations.</b> Did the organization make any transfers to an exempt non-charitable related organization? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part V, line 2 . . . . .</i>		
<b>37</b> Did the organization conduct more than 5% of its activities through an entity that is not a related organization and that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes? <i>If "Yes," complete Schedule R, Part VI . . . . .</i>		No
<b>38</b> Did the organization complete Schedule O and provide explanations in Schedule O for Part VI, lines 11b and 19? <b>Note.</b> All Form 990 filers are required to complete Schedule O . . . . .	Yes	

**Part V Statements Regarding Other IRS Filings and Tax Compliance**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part V ☐

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	Enter the number reported in Box 3 of Form 1096. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1a	49
<b>b</b>	Enter the number of Forms W-2G included in line 1a. Enter -0- if not applicable.	1b	0
<b>c</b>	Did the organization comply with backup withholding rules for reportable payments to vendors and reportable gaming (gambling) winnings to prize winners?	1c	
<b>2a</b>	Enter the number of employees reported on Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, filed for the calendar year ending with or within the year covered by this return.	2a	104
<b>b</b>	If at least one is reported on line 2a, did the organization file all required federal employment tax returns? <b>Note.</b> If the sum of lines 1a and 2a is greater than 250, you may be required to e-file (see instructions).	2b	Yes
<b>3a</b>	Did the organization have unrelated business gross income of \$1,000 or more during the year?	3a	No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 990-T for this year? If "No" to line 3b, provide an explanation in Schedule O.	3b	
<b>4a</b>	At any time during the calendar year, did the organization have an interest in, or a signature or other authority over, a financial account in a foreign country (such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account)?	4a	No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country: _____ See instructions for filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR).		
<b>5a</b>	Was the organization a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction at any time during the tax year?	5a	No
<b>b</b>	Did any taxable party notify the organization that it was or is a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction?	5b	No
<b>c</b>	If "Yes," to line 5a or 5b, did the organization file Form 8886-T?	5c	
<b>6a</b>	Does the organization have annual gross receipts that are normally greater than \$100,000, and did the organization solicit any contributions that were not tax deductible as charitable contributions?	6a	No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization include with every solicitation an express statement that such contributions or gifts were not tax deductible?	6b	
<b>7</b>	<b>Organizations that may receive deductible contributions under section 170(c).</b>		
<b>a</b>	Did the organization receive a payment in excess of \$75 made partly as a contribution and partly for goods and services provided to the payor?	7a	
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization notify the donor of the value of the goods or services provided?	7b	
<b>c</b>	Did the organization sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of tangible personal property for which it was required to file Form 8282?	7c	
<b>d</b>	If "Yes," indicate the number of Forms 8282 filed during the year.	7d	
<b>e</b>	Did the organization receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?	7e	
<b>f</b>	Did the organization, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?	7f	
<b>g</b>	If the organization received a contribution of qualified intellectual property, did the organization file Form 8899 as required?	7g	
<b>h</b>	If the organization received a contribution of cars, boats, airplanes, or other vehicles, did the organization file a Form 1098-C?	7h	
<b>8</b>	<b>Sponsoring organizations maintaining donor advised funds.</b> Did a donor advised fund maintained by the sponsoring organization have excess business holdings at any time during the year?	8	
<b>9a</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make any taxable distributions under section 4966?	9a	
<b>b</b>	Did the sponsoring organization make a distribution to a donor, donor advisor, or related person?	9b	
<b>10</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(7) organizations.</b> Enter		
<b>a</b>	Initiation fees and capital contributions included on Part VIII, line 12.	10a	
<b>b</b>	Gross receipts, included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, for public use of club facilities.	10b	
<b>11</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(12) organizations.</b> Enter		
<b>a</b>	Gross income from members or shareholders.	11a	47,636,783
<b>b</b>	Gross income from other sources (Do not net amounts due or paid to other sources against amounts due or received from them).	11b	537,586
<b>12a</b>	<b>Section 4947(a)(1) non-exempt charitable trusts.</b> Is the organization filing Form 990 in lieu of Form 1041?	12a	
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year.	12b	
<b>13</b>	<b>Section 501(c)(29) qualified nonprofit health insurance issuers.</b>		
<b>a</b>	Is the organization licensed to issue qualified health plans in more than one state? <b>Note.</b> See the instructions for additional information the organization must report on Schedule O.	13a	
<b>b</b>	Enter the amount of reserves the organization is required to maintain by the states in which the organization is licensed to issue qualified health plans.	13b	
<b>c</b>	Enter the amount of reserves on hand.	13c	
<b>14a</b>	Did the organization receive any payments for indoor tanning services during the tax year?	14a	No
<b>b</b>	If "Yes," has it filed a Form 720 to report these payments? If "No," provide an explanation in Schedule O.	14b	

**Part VI Governance, Management, and Disclosure** For each "Yes" response to lines 2 through 7b below, and for a "No" response to lines 8a, 8b, or 10b below, describe the circumstances, processes, or changes in Schedule O. See instructions.

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VI ☒

**Section A. Governing Body and Management**

		Yes	No
<b>1a</b>	Enter the number of voting members of the governing body at the end of the tax year		
	If there are material differences in voting rights among members of the governing body, or if the governing body delegated broad authority to an executive committee or similar committee, explain in Schedule O		
<b>1b</b>	Enter the number of voting members included in line 1a, above, who are independent		
<b>2</b>	Did any officer, director, trustee, or key employee have a family relationship or a business relationship with any other officer, director, trustee, or key employee?		No
<b>3</b>	Did the organization delegate control over management duties customarily performed by or under the direct supervision of officers, directors or trustees, or key employees to a management company or other person?		No
<b>4</b>	Did the organization make any significant changes to its governing documents since the prior Form 990 was filed?	Yes	
<b>5</b>	Did the organization become aware during the year of a significant diversion of the organization's assets?		No
<b>6</b>	Did the organization have members or stockholders?	Yes	
<b>7a</b>	Did the organization have members, stockholders, or other persons who had the power to elect or appoint one or more members of the governing body?	Yes	
<b>7b</b>	Are any governance decisions of the organization reserved to (or subject to approval by) members, stockholders, or persons other than the governing body?	Yes	
<b>8</b>	Did the organization contemporaneously document the meetings held or written actions undertaken during the year by the following:		
<b>8a</b>	The governing body?	Yes	
<b>8b</b>	Each committee with authority to act on behalf of the governing body?		No
<b>9</b>	Is there any officer, director, trustee, or key employee listed in Part VII, Section A, who cannot be reached at the organization's mailing address? If "Yes," provide the names and addresses in Schedule O.		No

**Section B. Policies** (This Section B requests information about policies not required by the Internal Revenue Code.)

		Yes	No
<b>10a</b>	Did the organization have local chapters, branches, or affiliates?		No
<b>10b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization have written policies and procedures governing the activities of such chapters, affiliates, and branches to ensure their operations are consistent with the organization's exempt purposes?		
<b>11a</b>	Has the organization provided a complete copy of this Form 990 to all members of its governing body before filing the form?	Yes	
<b>11b</b>	Describe in Schedule O the process, if any, used by the organization to review this Form 990.		
<b>12a</b>	Did the organization have a written conflict of interest policy? If "No," go to line 13.	Yes	
<b>12b</b>	Were officers, directors, or trustees, and key employees required to disclose annually interests that could give rise to conflicts?	Yes	
<b>12c</b>	Did the organization regularly and consistently monitor and enforce compliance with the policy? If "Yes," describe in Schedule O how this was done.	Yes	
<b>13</b>	Did the organization have a written whistleblower policy?	Yes	
<b>14</b>	Did the organization have a written document retention and destruction policy?	Yes	
<b>15</b>	Did the process for determining compensation of the following persons include a review and approval by independent persons, comparability data, and contemporaneous substantiation of the deliberation and decision?		
<b>15a</b>	The organization's CEO, Executive Director, or top management official	Yes	
<b>15b</b>	Other officers or key employees of the organization	Yes	
	If "Yes" to line 15a or 15b, describe the process in Schedule O (see instructions)		
<b>16a</b>	Did the organization invest in, contribute assets to, or participate in a joint venture or similar arrangement with a taxable entity during the year?		No
<b>16b</b>	If "Yes," did the organization follow a written policy or procedure requiring the organization to evaluate its participation in joint venture arrangements under applicable federal tax law, and take steps to safeguard the organization's exempt status with respect to such arrangements?		

**Section C. Disclosure**

**17** List the States with which a copy of this Form 990 is required to be filed: \_\_\_\_\_

**18** Section 6104 requires an organization to make its Form 1023 (or 1024 if applicable), 990, and 990-T (501(c)(3)s only) available for public inspection. Indicate how you made these available. Check all that apply.

☐ Own website ☐ Another's website ☒ Upon request ☐ Other (explain in Schedule O)

**19** Describe in Schedule O whether (and if so, how) the organization made its governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements available to the public during the tax year.

**20** State the name, address, and telephone number of the person who possesses the organization's books and records:  
 ▶ LINDSAY FOREPAUGH 6270 CO ROAD 212 PINE BLUFFS, WY 820820519 (307) 245-3261

**Part VII Compensation of Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, Highest Compensated Employees, and Independent Contractors**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VII ☒**Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees****1a** Complete this table for all persons required to be listed. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

- List all of the organization's **current** officers, directors, trustees (whether individuals or organizations), regardless of amount of compensation. Enter -0- in columns (D), (E), and (F) if no compensation was paid.

- List all of the organization's **current** key employees, if any. See instructions for definition of "key employee."

- List the organization's five **current** highest compensated employees (other than an officer, director, trustee or key employee) who received reportable compensation (Box 5 of Form W-2 and/or Box 7 of Form 1099-MISC) of more than \$100,000 from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former** officers, key employees, or highest compensated employees who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

- List all of the organization's **former directors or trustees** that received, in the capacity as a former director or trustee of the organization, more than \$10,000 of reportable compensation from the organization and any related organizations.

List persons in the following order: individual trustees or directors; institutional trustees; officers; key employees; highest compensated employees; and former such persons.

☐ Check this box if neither the organization nor any related organization compensated any current officer, director, or trustee

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
(1) ED PROSSER ..... PRESIDENT	10 00 ..... 1 00	X		X				24,723	0	0
(2) JERRY BURNETT ..... VICE PRESIDENT	9 00 ..... 1 00	X		X				24,000	0	0
(3) GARY SMITH ..... TREASURER	9 00 ..... 1 00	X		X				24,125	0	0
(4) DANIEL ACHESON ..... SECRETARY	15 00 ..... 1 00	X		X				24,000	0	0
(5) MICHAEL LERWICK ..... DIRECTOR	8 00 ..... 1 00	X						24,000	0	0
(6) JAMIE FOWLER ..... DIRECTOR	8 00 ..... 1 00	X						26,851	0	0
(7) KEVIN THOMAS ..... DIRECTOR	4 00 ..... 1 00	X						20,000	0	0
(8) RUSSELL NIELSEN ..... DIRECTOR	19 00 .....	X						8,950	0	0
(9) BRIAN HEITHOFF ..... CEO	47 00 ..... 1 00			X				175,904	0	44,900
(10) LINDSAY FOREPAUGH ..... CFO	44 30 .....			X				93,732	0	26,067
(11) MARVIN POWELL ..... WAFB OPERATIONS MANAGER	56 00 .....					X		124,130	0	36,894
(12) LLOYD SISSON ..... ENGINEERING MANAGER	43 00 .....					X		116,007	0	24,953
(13) JEFF BRUCKNER ..... OPERATING MANAGER	47 00 .....					X		108,867	0	38,033
(14) CRAIG SCHUESSLER ..... LEAD LINEMAN	47 00 .....					X		103,897	0	21,286
(15) KENNETH HAAS ..... LEAD LINEMAN	47 00 .....					X		102,962	0	34,412



**Part VII Section A. Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees** (continued)

(A) Name and Title	(B) Average hours per week (list any hours for related organizations below dotted line)	(C) Position (do not check more than one box, unless person is both an officer and a director/trustee)						(D) Reportable compensation from the organization (W-2/1099-MISC)	(E) Reportable compensation from related organizations (W-2/1099-MISC)	(F) Estimated amount of other compensation from the organization and related organizations
		Individual trustee or director	Institutional Trustee	Officer	Key employee	Highest compensated employee	Former			
<b>1b Sub-Total</b> . . . . . ▶										
<b>c Total from continuation sheets to Part VII, Section A</b> . . . . . ▶										
<b>d Total (add lines 1b and 1c)</b> . . . . . ▶								1,002,148	0	226,545

**2** Total number of individuals (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of reportable compensation from the organization ▶ **8**

	Yes	No
<b>3</b> Did the organization list any <b>former</b> officer, director or trustee, key employee, or highest compensated employee on line 1a? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual . . . . .		No
<b>4</b> For any individual listed on line 1a, is the sum of reportable compensation and other compensation from the organization and related organizations greater than \$150,000? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such individual . . . . .	Yes	
<b>5</b> Did any person listed on line 1a receive or accrue compensation from any unrelated organization or individual for services rendered to the organization? If "Yes," complete Schedule J for such person . . . . .		No

**Section B. Independent Contractors**

**1** Complete this table for your five highest compensated independent contractors that received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization. Report compensation for the calendar year ending with or within the organization's tax year.

(A) Name and business address	(B) Description of services	(C) Compensation
WARD ELECTRIC COMPANY INC 3690 STAGECOACH ROAD LONGMONT, CO 80504	LINE CONSTRUCTION	1,179,060
HIGH WEST DIGITAL SOLUTIONS PO BOX 549 PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082	IT SERVICES	771,747
HIGH WEST WIRING PO BOX 838 PINE BLUFFS, WY 82082	ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR	586,623
WARD TRENCHING 302 WY-151 LAGRANGE, WY 82221	UNDERGROUND LINE	308,940
INTERMOUNTAIN ELECTRONICS INC 1511 US-6 PRICE, UT 84501	BUILDING AT SUBSTATION	162,492

**2** Total number of independent contractors (including but not limited to those listed above) who received more than \$100,000 of compensation from the organization ▶ **8**

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Part VIII

Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

☒

			(A) Total revenue	(B) Related or exempt function revenue	(C) Unrelated business revenue	(D) Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns . . .	1a				
	b	Membership dues . . .	1b				
	c	Fundraising events . . .	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e				
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f				
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f \$ _____					
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f . . . . .					
Program Service Revenue			Business Code				
	2a	ELECTRICITY SALES	221000	44,588,826	44,588,826		
	b	PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS	221000	1,136,650	1,136,650		
	c						
	d						
	e						
	f	All other program service revenue					
	g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f . . . . .		45,725,476			
Other Revenue	3		Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts) . . . . .	25,153		25,153	
	4		Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds				
	5		Royalties . . . . .	4,628		4,628	
	6a	(i) Real					
		(ii) Personal					
		16,800					2,911
		0					0
	b	Less rental expenses					
	c	Rental income or (loss)		16,800	2,911		
	d	Net rental income or (loss) . . . . .		19,711	2,911	16,800	
	7a	(i) Securities					
		(ii) Other					
		157,803					
		50,821					
	b	Less cost or other basis and sales expenses					
	c	Gain or (loss)		106,982			
	d	Net gain or (loss) . . . . .		106,982		106,982	
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ _____ of contributions reported on line 1c) See Part IV, line 18 . . . . .		a			
	b	Less direct expenses . . . . .		b			
	c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events . . . . .					
9a	Gross income from gaming activities See Part IV, line 19 . . . . .		a				
b	Less direct expenses . . . . .		b				
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities . . . . .						
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances . . . . .		a				
b	Less cost of goods sold . . . . .		b				
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory . . . . .			3,364	3,364		
Miscellaneous Revenue		Business Code					
11a	POLE ATTACHMENT INCOME		221000	4,021		4,021	
b							
c							
d	All other revenue . . . . .						
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d . . . . .			4,021			
12	Total revenue. See Instructions . . . . .			45,889,335	45,731,751	0	
						157,584	

Form 990 (2016)

**Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses**

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☒**Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.**

	(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
<b>1</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21.	9,990			
<b>2</b> Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22.				
<b>3</b> Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, line 15 and 16.				
<b>4</b> Benefits paid to or for members.	2,186,256			
<b>5</b> Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees.	517,252			
<b>6</b> Compensation not included above, to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B).				
<b>7</b> Other salaries and wages.	2,875,216			
<b>8</b> Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401 (k) and 403(b) employer contributions).	248,779			
<b>9</b> Other employee benefits.	874,752			
<b>10</b> Payroll taxes.	249,281			
<b>11</b> Fees for services (non-employees):				
<b>a</b> Management.				
<b>b</b> Legal.				
<b>c</b> Accounting.				
<b>d</b> Lobbying.				
<b>e</b> Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17.				
<b>f</b> Investment management fees.				
<b>g</b> Other (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O).				
<b>12</b> Advertising and promotion.				
<b>13</b> Office expenses.				
<b>14</b> Information technology.				
<b>15</b> Royalties.				
<b>16</b> Occupancy.				
<b>17</b> Travel.				
<b>18</b> Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials.				
<b>19</b> Conferences, conventions, and meetings.				
<b>20</b> Interest.	1,963,652			
<b>21</b> Payments to affiliates.				
<b>22</b> Depreciation, depletion, and amortization.	3,373,136			
<b>23</b> Insurance.				
<b>24</b> Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above (List miscellaneous expenses in line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A) amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O):				
<b>a</b> PURCHASED POWER	28,700,326			
<b>b</b> ADMIN & GENERAL EXPENSE	1,726,573			
<b>c</b> DISTRIBUTION EXPENSE	1,617,947			
<b>d</b> CONSUMER EXPENSE	488,374			
<b>e</b> All other expenses	303,804			
<b>25</b> Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e.	45,135,338			
<b>26</b> Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720).				

**Part X Balance Sheet**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX ☐

				(A) Beginning of year		(B) End of year
<b>Assets</b>	<b>1</b>	Cash—non-interest-bearing . . . . .		2,592,853	<b>1</b>	1,449,669
	<b>2</b>	Savings and temporary cash investments . . . . .			<b>2</b>	
	<b>3</b>	Pledges and grants receivable, net . . . . .			<b>3</b>	
	<b>4</b>	Accounts receivable, net . . . . .		6,436,431	<b>4</b>	5,635,562
	<b>5</b>	Loans and other receivables from current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, and highest compensated employees. Complete Part II of Schedule L.			<b>5</b>	
	<b>6</b>	Loans and other receivables from other disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)), persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B), and contributing employers and sponsoring organizations of section 501(c)(9) voluntary employees' beneficiary organizations (see instructions). Complete Part II of Schedule L.			<b>6</b>	
	<b>7</b>	Notes and loans receivable, net . . . . .		5,126,032	<b>7</b>	4,177,080
	<b>8</b>	Inventories for sale or use . . . . .		3,889,430	<b>8</b>	2,886,719
	<b>9</b>	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges . . . . .		455,728	<b>9</b>	359,253
	<b>10a</b>	Land, buildings, and equipment—cost or other basis. Complete Part VI of Schedule D.	<b>10a</b>	110,637,287		
	<b>b</b>	Less: accumulated depreciation	<b>10b</b>	35,280,297		
				72,456,171	<b>10c</b>	75,356,990
	<b>11</b>	Investments—publicly traded securities . . . . .			<b>11</b>	
	<b>12</b>	Investments—other securities. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		1,582,701	<b>12</b>	1,612,852
	<b>13</b>	Investments—program-related. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .		20,748,189	<b>13</b>	21,745,119
	<b>14</b>	Intangible assets . . . . .			<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b>	Other assets. See Part IV, line 11 . . . . .			<b>15</b>		
<b>16</b>	<b>Total assets.</b> Add lines 1 through 15 (must equal line 34) . . . . .		113,287,535	<b>16</b>	113,223,244	
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>17</b>	Accounts payable and accrued expenses . . . . .		4,598,235	<b>17</b>	4,646,301
	<b>18</b>	Grants payable . . . . .			<b>18</b>	
	<b>19</b>	Deferred revenue . . . . .			<b>19</b>	
	<b>20</b>	Tax-exempt bond liabilities . . . . .			<b>20</b>	
	<b>21</b>	Escrow or custodial account liability. Complete Part IV of Schedule D.			<b>21</b>	
	<b>22</b>	Loans and other payables to current and former officers, directors, trustees, key employees, highest compensated employees, and disqualified persons. Complete Part II of Schedule L . . . . .			<b>22</b>	
	<b>23</b>	Secured mortgages and notes payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .		62,756,229	<b>23</b>	61,931,920
	<b>24</b>	Unsecured notes and loans payable to unrelated third parties . . . . .			<b>24</b>	
	<b>25</b>	Other liabilities (including federal income tax, payables to related third parties, and other liabilities not included on lines 17-24). Complete Part X of Schedule D.		13,460,476	<b>25</b>	12,569,482
	<b>26</b>	<b>Total liabilities.</b> Add lines 17 through 25 . . . . .		80,814,940	<b>26</b>	79,147,703
<b>Net Assets or Fund Balances</b>	<b>Organizations that follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ► <input type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 27 through 29, and lines 33 and 34.</b>					
	<b>27</b>	Unrestricted net assets			<b>27</b>	
	<b>28</b>	Temporarily restricted net assets . . . . .			<b>28</b>	
	<b>29</b>	Permanently restricted net assets			<b>29</b>	
	<b>Organizations that do not follow SFAS 117 (ASC 958), check here ► <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and complete lines 30 through 34.</b>					
	<b>30</b>	Capital stock or trust principal, or current funds . . . . .		0	<b>30</b>	0
	<b>31</b>	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, building or equipment fund . . . . .		0	<b>31</b>	0
	<b>32</b>	Retained earnings, endowment, accumulated income, or other funds		32,472,595	<b>32</b>	34,075,541
<b>33</b>	<b>Total net assets or fund balances</b> . . . . .		32,472,595	<b>33</b>	34,075,541	
<b>34</b>	<b>Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances</b> . . . . .		113,287,535	<b>34</b>	113,223,244	

**Part XI Reconciliation of Net Assets**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XI ☒

<b>1</b>	Total revenue (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	<b>1</b>	45,889,335
<b>2</b>	Total expenses (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	<b>2</b>	45,135,338
<b>3</b>	Revenue less expenses Subtract line 2 from line 1	<b>3</b>	753,997
<b>4</b>	Net assets or fund balances at beginning of year (must equal Part X, line 33, column (A))	<b>4</b>	32,472,595
<b>5</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b>	Donated services and use of facilities	<b>6</b>	
<b>7</b>	Investment expenses	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Prior period adjustments	<b>8</b>	
<b>9</b>	Other changes in net assets or fund balances (explain in Schedule O)	<b>9</b>	848,949
<b>10</b>	Net assets or fund balances at end of year Combine lines 3 through 9 (must equal Part X, line 33, column (B))	<b>10</b>	34,075,541

**Part XII Financial Statements and Reporting**Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part XII ☒

	Yes	No
<b>1</b> Accounting method used to prepare the Form 990 <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accrual <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ If the organization changed its method of accounting from a prior year or checked "Other," explain in Schedule O		
<b>2a</b> Were the organization's financial statements compiled or reviewed by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were compiled or reviewed on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis		No
<b>b</b> Were the organization's financial statements audited by an independent accountant? If 'Yes,' check a box below to indicate whether the financial statements for the year were audited on a separate basis, consolidated basis, or both <input type="checkbox"/> Separate basis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consolidated basis <input type="checkbox"/> Both consolidated and separate basis	Yes	
<b>c</b> If "Yes," to line 2a or 2b, does the organization have a committee that assumes responsibility for oversight of the audit, review, or compilation of its financial statements and selection of an independent accountant? If the organization changed either its oversight process or selection process during the tax year, explain in Schedule O		No
<b>3a</b> As a result of a federal award, was the organization required to undergo an audit or audits as set forth in the Single Audit Act and OMB Circular A-133?		No
<b>b</b> If "Yes," did the organization undergo the required audit or audits? If the organization did not undergo the required audit or audits, explain why in Schedule O and describe any steps taken to undergo such audits		

# Additional Data

**Software ID:**

**Software Version:**

**EIN:** 83-0143525

**Name:** HIGH WEST ENERGY INC

Form 990 (2016)

**Form 990, Part III, Line 4a:**

PROVIDING ELECTRIC ENERGY TO OUR MEMBERS - 9,924 CONSUMERS AT YEAR END WERE PROVIDED ELECTRICITY ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL

efile GRAPHIC print - DO NOT PROCESS		As Filed Data -		DLN: 93493297014517	
<div>SCHEDULE D (Form 990)</div> <div>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</div>		<div>Supplemental Financial Statements</div> <div>► Complete if the organization answered "Yes," on Form 990, Part IV, line 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d, 11e, 11f, 12a, or 12b. ► Attach to Form 990. Information about Schedule D (Form 990) and its instructions is at <a href="http://www.irs.gov/form990">www.irs.gov/form990</a>.</div>			<div>OMB No 1545-0047</div> <div>2016</div> <div>Open to Public Inspection</div>
Name of the organization HIGH WEST ENERGY INC				Employer identification number 83-0143525	
Part I Organizations Maintaining Donor Advised Funds or Other Similar Funds or Accounts. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 6.					
		(a) Donor advised funds		(b) Funds and other accounts	
1	Total number at end of year				
2	Aggregate value of contributions to (during year)				
3	Aggregate value of grants from (during year)				
4	Aggregate value at end of year				
5	Did the organization inform all donors and donor advisors in writing that the assets held in donor advised funds are the organization's property, subject to the organization's exclusive legal control?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	Did the organization inform all grantees, donors, and donor advisors in writing that grant funds can be used only for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the donor or donor advisor, or for any other purpose conferring impermissible private benefit?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Part II Conservation Easements. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 7.					
1	Purpose(s) of conservation easements held by the organization (check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of land for public use (e g , recreation or education) <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of an historically important land area <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of natural habitat <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of a certified historic structure <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of open space				
2	Complete lines 2a through 2d if the organization held a qualified conservation contribution in the form of a conservation easement on the last day of the tax year				
a	Total number of conservation easements	Held at the End of the Year			
b	Total acreage restricted by conservation easements	2a			
c	Number of conservation easements on a certified historic structure included in (a)	2b			
d	Number of conservation easements included in (c) acquired after 8/17/06, and not on a historic structure listed in the National Register	2c			
		2d			
3	Number of conservation easements modified, transferred, released, extinguished, or terminated by the organization during the tax year ►				
4	Number of states where property subject to conservation easement is located ►				
5	Does the organization have a written policy regarding the periodic monitoring, inspection, handling of violations, and enforcement of the conservation easements it holds?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6	Staff and volunteer hours devoted to monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ►				
7	Amount of expenses incurred in monitoring, inspecting, handling of violations, and enforcing conservation easements during the year ► \$				
8	Does each conservation easement reported on line 2(d) above satisfy the requirements of section 170(h)(4)(B)(i) and section 170(h)(4)(B)(ii)?				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
9	In Part XIII, describe how the organization reports conservation easements in its revenue and expense statement, and balance sheet, and include, if applicable, the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that describes the organization's accounting for conservation easements				
Part III Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 8.					
1a	If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), not to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide, in Part XIII, the text of the footnote to its financial statements that describes these items				
b	If the organization elected, as permitted under SFAS 116 (ASC 958), to report in its revenue statement and balance sheet works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets held for public exhibition, education, or research in furtherance of public service, provide the following amounts relating to these items				
(i) Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1		► \$			
(ii) Assets included in Form 990, Part X		► \$			
2	If the organization received or held works of art, historical treasures, or other similar assets for financial gain, provide the following amounts required to be reported under SFAS 116 (ASC 958) relating to these items				
a	Revenue included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 1				► \$
b	Assets included in Form 990, Part X				► \$
For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.					
			Cat No 52283D	Schedule D (Form 990) 2016	

Part III

Organizations Maintaining Collections of Art, Historical Treasures, or Other Similar Assets (continued)

3

Using the organization's acquisition, accession, and other records, check any of the following that are a significant use of its collection items (check all that apply)

a

☐ Public exhibition

b

☐ Scholarly research

c

☐ Preservation for future generations

d

☐ Loan or exchange programs

e

☐ Other

4

Provide a description of the organization's collections and explain how they further the organization's exempt purpose in Part XIII

5

During the year, did the organization solicit or receive donations of art, historical treasures or other similar assets to be sold to raise funds rather than to be maintained as part of the organization's collection?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Part IV

Escrow and Custodial Arrangements.

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 9, or reported an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21.

1a

Is the organization an agent, trustee, custodian or other intermediary for contributions or other assets not included on Form 990, Part X?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII and complete the following table

c

Beginning balance

d

Additions during the year

e

Distributions during the year

f

Ending balance

	Amount
1c	
1d	
1e	
1f	

2a

Did the organization include an amount on Form 990, Part X, line 21, for escrow or custodial account liability?

☐ Yes

☐ No

b

If "Yes," explain the arrangement in Part XIII Check here if the explanation has been provided in Part XIII

☐

Part V

Endowment Funds. Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 10.

	(a)Current year	(b)Prior year	(c)Two years back	(d)Three years back	(e)Four years back
1a Beginning of year balance					
b Contributions					
c Net investment earnings, gains, and losses					
d Grants or scholarships					
e Other expenditures for facilities and programs					
f Administrative expenses					
g End of year balance					

2

Provide the estimated percentage of the current year end balance (line 1g, column (a)) held as

a

Board designated or quasi-endowment

b

Permanent endowment

c

Temporarily restricted endowment

The percentages on lines 2a, 2b, and 2c should equal 100%

3a

Are there endowment funds not in the possession of the organization that are held and administered for the organization by

(i) unrelated organizations

(ii) related organizations

b

If "Yes" on 3a(ii), are the related organizations listed as required on Schedule R?

	Yes	No
3a(i)		
3a(ii)		
3b		

4

Describe in Part XIII the intended uses of the organization's endowment funds

Part VI

Land, Buildings, and Equipment.

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11a. See Form 990, Part X, line 10.

Description of property	(a) Cost or other basis (investment)	(b) Cost or other basis (other)	(c) Accumulated depreciation	(d) Book value
1a Land		835,488		835,488
b Buildings		5,523,794	1,085,550	4,438,244
c Leasehold improvements				
d Equipment		92,407,623	34,194,747	58,212,876
e Other		11,870,382		11,870,382
Total. Add lines 1a through 1e (Column (d) must equal Form 990, Part X, column (B), line 10(c))				75,356,990



Part VII

Investments—Other Securities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11b.  
See Form 990, Part X, line 12.

(a) Description of security or category (including name of security)	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) Financial derivatives . . . . .		
(2) Closely-held equity interests . . . . .		
(3) Other _____		
(A)		
(B)		
(C)		
(D)		
(E)		
(F)		
(G)		
(H)		
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 12 ) ▶		

Part VIII

Investments—Program Related. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11c.  
See Form 990, Part X, line 13.

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - COBANK	291,431	C
(2) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - TRI-STATE G & T	19,936,359	C
(3) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - NISC	86,781	C
(4) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - FEDERATED	202,648	C
(5) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - WUES	1,198,221	C
(6) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - FVFC	13,243	C
(7) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - NREA	8,101	C
(8) PATRONAGE CAPITAL - OTHER	7,139	C
(9) MEMBERSHIP FEES IN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS	1,196	C
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 13 ) ▶	21,745,119	

Part IX

Other Assets. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11d See Form 990, Part X, line 15

(a) Description	(b) Book value
(1)	
(2)	
(3)	
(4)	
(5)	
(6)	
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 15 ) . . . . . ▶	

Part X

Other Liabilities. Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 11e or 11f.  
See Form 990, Part X, line 25.

1. (a) Description of liability	(b) Book value
(1) Federal income taxes	
ACCUMULATED POSTRETIREMENT LIABILITY	613,145
CONSUMER DEPOSITS	526,416
ACCRUED TAXES	291,033
PATRONAGE CAPITAL PAYABLE	690,996
VESTED HRA BENEFITS	509,332
DEFERRED CREDITS	9,938,560
(7)	
(8)	
(9)	
Total. (Column (b) must equal Form 990, Part X, col (B) line 25 ) ▶	12,569,482

2. Liability for uncertain tax positions In Part XIII, provide the text of the footnote to the organization's financial statements that reports the organization's liability for uncertain tax positions under FIN 48 (ASC 740) Check here if the text of the footnote has been provided in Part XIII ☒

**Part XI Reconciliation of Revenue per Audited Financial Statements With Revenue per Return**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total revenue, gains, and other support per audited financial statements . . . . .	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12		
<b>a</b>	Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Recoveries of prior year grants . . . . .	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>	
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .	<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 12, but not on line <b>1</b>		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .	<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total revenue Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 12 ) . . . . .	<b>5</b>	

**Part XII Reconciliation of Expenses per Audited Financial Statements With Expenses per Return.**

Complete if the organization answered 'Yes' on Form 990, Part IV, line 12a.

<b>1</b>	Total expenses and losses per audited financial statements . . . . .	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	Amounts included on line 1 but not on Form 990, Part IX, line 25		
<b>a</b>	Donated services and use of facilities . . . . .	<b>2a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Prior year adjustments . . . . .	<b>2b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Other losses . . . . .	<b>2c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>2d</b>	
<b>e</b>	Add lines <b>2a</b> through <b>2d</b> . . . . .	<b>2e</b>	
<b>3</b>	Subtract line <b>2e</b> from line <b>1</b> . . . . .	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b>	Amounts included on Form 990, Part IX, line 25, but not on line <b>1</b> :		
<b>a</b>	Investment expenses not included on Form 990, Part VIII, line 7b . . . . .	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Other (Describe in Part XIII ) . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	
<b>c</b>	Add lines <b>4a</b> and <b>4b</b> . . . . .	<b>4c</b>	
<b>5</b>	Total expenses Add lines <b>3</b> and <b>4c</b> . (This must equal Form 990, Part I, line 18 ) . . . . .	<b>5</b>	

**Part XIII Supplemental Information**

Provide the descriptions required for Part II, lines 3, 5, and 9, Part III, lines 1a and 4, Part IV, lines 1b and 2b, Part V, line 4, Part X, line 2, Part XI, lines 2d and 4b, and Part XII, lines 2d and 4b. Also complete this part to provide any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
See Additional Data Table	

**Part XIII** Supplemental Information *(continued)*

Return Reference	Explanation

Additional Data

Software ID:  
Software Version:  
EIN: 83-0143525  
Name: HIGH WEST ENERGY INC

Form 990, Schedule D, Part VIII - Investments Program Related

(a) Description of investment	(b) Book value	(c) Method of valuation Cost or end-of-year market value
(1)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - COBANK	291,431	C
(2)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - TRI-STATE G & T	19,936,359	C
(3)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - NISC	86,781	C
(4)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - FEDERATED	202,648	C
(5)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - WUES	1,198,221	C
(6)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - FVFC	13,243	C
(7)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - NREA	8,101	C
(8)PATRONAGE CAPITAL - OTHER	7,139	C
(9) MEMBERSHIP FEES IN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS	1,196	C

Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART X, LINE 2	THE COOPERATIVE ADOPTED THE "UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS" PROVISIONS OF ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE PRIMARY TAX POSITION OF THE COOPERATIVE IS ITS FILING STATUS AS A TAX EXEMPT ENTITY THE COOPERATIVE DETERMINED THAT IT IS MORE LIKELY THAN NOT THAT ITS TAX POSITIONS WILL BE SUSTAINED UPON EXAMINATION BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS) OR OTHER STATE TAXING AUTHORITY, AND THAT ALL TAX BENEFITS ARE LIKELY TO BE REALIZED UPON SETTLEMENT WITH TAXING AUTHORITIES

## Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
PART VII	THE AMOUNT OF INVESTMENTS - OTHER SECURITIES ON FORM 990, PAGE 11, PART X, LINE 12 DOES NOT EQUAL OR EXCEED 5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL ASSETS ON FORM 990, PAGE 11, PART X, LINE 16, COLUMN B CONSEQUENTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH IRS INSTRUCTIONS SCHEDULE D, PART VII HAS BEEN LEFT BLANK

Schedule J  
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Compensation Information

For certain Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees

► Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 23.  
► Attach to Form 990.

► Information about Schedule J (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No 1545-0047

2015

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization HIGH WEST ENERGY INC	Employer identification number 83-0143525
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Part I

Questions Regarding Compensation

	Yes	No
<b>1a</b> Check the appropriate box(es) if the organization provided any of the following to or for a person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a. Complete Part III to provide any relevant information regarding these items. <div><div><input type="checkbox"/> First-class or charter travel</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Travel for companions</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Tax idemnification and gross-up payments</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary spending account</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Housing allowance or residence for personal use</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Payments for business use of personal residence</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Health or social club dues or initiation fees</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Personal services (e g , maid, chauffeur, chef)</div></div>		
<b>b</b> If any of the boxes in line 1a are checked, did the organization follow a written policy regarding payment or reimbursement or provision of all of the expenses described above? If "No," complete Part III to explain	1b Yes	
<b>2</b> Did the organization require substantiation prior to reimbursing or allowing expenses incurred by all directors, trustees, officers, including the CEO/Executive Director, regarding the items checked in line 1a?	2 Yes	
<b>3</b> Indicate which, if any, of the following the filing organization used to establish the compensation of the organization's CEO/Executive Director. Check all that apply. Do not check any boxes for methods used by a related organization to establish compensation of the CEO/Executive Director, but explain in Part III. <div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation committee</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Independent compensation consultant</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Form 990 of other organizations</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Written employment contract</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Compensation survey or study</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Approval by the board or compensation committee</div></div>		
<b>4</b> During the year, did any person listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a with respect to the filing organization or a related organization: <b>a</b> Receive a severance payment or change-of-control payment?	4a	No
<b>b</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, a supplemental nonqualified retirement plan?	4b	No
<b>c</b> Participate in, or receive payment from, an equity-based compensation arrangement?	4c	No
If "Yes" to any of lines 4a-c, list the persons and provide the applicable amounts for each item in Part III		
<b>Only 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), and 501(c)(29) organizations must complete lines 5-9.</b>		
<b>5</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the revenues of: <b>a</b> The organization?	5a	
<b>b</b> Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 5a or 5b, describe in Part III	5b	
<b>6</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization pay or accrue any compensation contingent on the net earnings of: <b>a</b> The organization?	6a	
<b>b</b> Any related organization? If "Yes," on line 6a or 6b, describe in Part III	6b	
<b>7</b> For persons listed on Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, did the organization provide any non-fixed payments not described in lines 5 and 6? If "Yes," describe in Part III	7	
<b>8</b> Were any amounts reported on Form 990, Part VII, paid or accrued pursuant to a contract that was subject to the initial contract exception described in Regulations section 53.4958-4(a)(3)? If "Yes," describe in Part III	8	
<b>9</b> If "Yes" on line 8, did the organization also follow the rebuttable presumption procedure described in Regulations section 53.4958-6(c)?	9	

**Part II Officers, Directors, Trustees, Key Employees, and Highest Compensated Employees.** Use duplicate copies if additional space is needed.

For each individual whose compensation must be reported on Schedule J, report compensation from the organization on row (i) and from related organizations, described in the instructions, on row (ii) Do not list any individuals that are not listed on Form 990, Part VII

**Note.** The sum of columns (B)(i)-(iii) for each listed individual must equal the total amount of Form 990, Part VII, Section A, line 1a, applicable column (D) and (E) amounts for that individual

(A) Name and Title		(B) Breakdown of W-2 and/or 1099-MISC compensation			(C) Retirement and other deferred compensation	(D) Nontaxable benefits	(E) Total of columns (B)(i)-(D)	(F) Compensation in column(B) reported as deferred on prior Form 990
		(i) Base compensation	(ii) Bonus & incentive compensation	(iii) Other reportable compensation				
1 BRIAN HEITHOFFCEO	(i)	173,364 -----	225 -----	2,315 -----	20,319 -----	24,581 -----	220,804 -----	0 -----
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 MARVIN POWELL WAFB OPERATIONS MANAGER	(i)	116,555 -----	175 -----	7,400 -----	10,782 -----	26,112 -----	161,024 -----	0 -----
	(ii)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Part III**   **Supplemental Information**

Provide the information, explanation, or descriptions required for Part I, lines 1a, 1b, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 7, and 8, and for Part II. Also complete this part for any additional information.

Return Reference	Explanation
PART I, LINE 1A	TRANSPORTATION, LODGING AND MEALS WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH DIRECTOR'S SPOUSE AND THE GENERAL MANAGER'S SPOUSE FOR ATTENDANCE AT THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION'S (NRECA) ANNUAL MEETING. DIRECTORS WILL ALSO BE REIMBURSED FOR MEALS AND INCIDENTALS IF THEIR SPOUSE ACCOMPANIES THEM TO THE WREA, NREA, TRI-STATE, MIDWEST ANNUAL MEETINGS, REGIONAL 7 MEETINGS AND THE NRECA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE. THE COOPERATIVE WILL REIMBURSE ANY EMPLOYEE UP TO \$25.00/MONTH IF THEY JOIN A FITNESS OR WEIGHT LOSS CLUB. THIS IS PART OF THE COOPERATIVE'S WELLNESS PROGRAM.



**SCHEDULE O**  
(Form 990 or 990-EZ)Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue ServiceName of the organization  
HIGH WEST ENERGY INC**Supplemental Information to Form 990 or 990-EZ**Complete to provide information for responses to specific questions on  
Form 990 or 990-EZ or to provide any additional information.

▶ Attach to Form 990 or 990-EZ.

▶ Information about Schedule O (Form 990 or 990-EZ) and its instructions is at  
[www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No 1545-0047

**2016****Open to Public  
Inspection****Employer identification number**

83-0143525

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 4	DURING THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING, THE MEMBERS APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS TO MODIFY THE DEFINITION OF JOINT MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE TWO PEOPLE ALL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF JOINT MEMBERSHIP REMAINED THE SAME ADDITIONALLY, THE MEMBERS APPROVED THE REMOVAL OF PROXY VOTING FOR ITEMS REQUIRING THE VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP THE MEMBERS RETAIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE BY MAIL

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 6	THE COOPERATIVE WAS FORMED BY THE MEMBERS TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC SERVICE AT COST ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7A	THE MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE VOTE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS ARE DONE ON A ONE MEMBER ONE VOTE BASIS PER DISTRICT

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 7B	THE FOLLOWING ACTS REQUIRE APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE 1 DISSOLUTION/LIQU IDATION OF THE COOPERATIVE, 2 MERGER OR CONSOLIDATION OF THE COOPERATIVE WITH ANOTHER ORG ANIZATION, 3 DISPOSAL OF A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE COOPERATIVE'S ASSETS, 4 AMENDMENT TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, AND 5 AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION A, LINE 8B	THE COOPERATIVE HAS NO COMMITTEES WITH AUTHORITY TO ACT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY T HEREFORE, AND PURSUANT TO FORM 990 INSTRUCTIONS, THE QUESTION HAS BEEN ANSWERED "NO"

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 11B	MANAGEMENT PRESENTED A COPY OF THE FORM 990 TO THE BOARD FOR DISCUSSION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO FILING

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 12C	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO REVIEW AND BE FAMILIAR WITH THE POLICIES OUTLINED IN THE COOPERATIVE'S CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS ARE REQUIRED TO DISCLOSE ANY ACTION OR SITUATION THAT MIGHT VIOLATE THE POLICY TO THE FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY IS REVIEWED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION B, LINE 15	THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS USE COMPARATIVE INDUSTRY DATA FROM EACH STATE IN THE COOPERATIVE'S NRECA REGION AND SUPPLEMENTAL NATIONAL DATA PROVIDED BY NRECA WHEN DETERMINING THE COMPENSATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER THIS DATA SHOWS COMPARATIVE SALARIES FOR GENERAL MANAGERS FROM SIMILARLY SITUATED COOPERATIVES LOCATED IN WYOMING, NEBRASKA, COLORADO, AND THE NATION THE BOARD AND THE GENERAL MANAGER USE COMPARATIVE INDUSTRY DATA FROM EACH STATE IN THE COOPERATIVE'S NRECA REGION AND SUPPLEMENTAL NATIONAL DATA PROVIDED BY NRECA WHEN DETERMINING THE COMPENSATION OF THE COOPERATIVE'S OTHER EMPLOYEES MEETING THE DEFINITION OF OFFICER AND KEY EMPLOYEES, IF ANY THIS DATA SHOWS COMPARATIVE SALARIES FROM SIMILARLY SITUATED COOPERATIVES LOCATED IN WYOMING, NEBRASKA, COLORADO, AND THE NATION



**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VI, SECTION C, LINE 19	THE COOPERATIVE PROVIDES A SUMMARIZED COPY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COOPERATIVE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING THE COOPERATIVE WILL PROVIDE A COMPLETE COPY OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OR GOVERNING DOCUMENTS TO ANY MEMBER WHO REQUESTS A COPY ADDITIONALLY, A COPY OF THE COOPERATIVE BYLAWS CAN BE FOUND ON THE COOPERATIVE'S WEBSITE

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VII, COLUMN F	<p>IN ORDER TO PROVIDE RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO ITS EMPLOYEES, THE COOPERATIVE HAS ESTABLISHED A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN UNDER SECTION 401(K) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PLAN ARE MADE PURSUANT TO THE PLAN DOCUMENT. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS PLAN ARE BASED ON THE FULL FUNDING LIMITATION OF SUCH PLAN. EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS PLAN ARE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATING EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING OFFICERS AND HIGHLY COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES, MEETING THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH PLANS. THE COOPERATIVE ALSO PROVIDES HEALTH, DENTAL, VISION AND LIFE INSURANCE TO ALL ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES THROUGH A QUALIFIED PLAN. THE AMOUNTS REPORTED ON PART VII, COLUMN (F) FOR THE OFFICERS AND HIGHLY COMPENSATED EMPLOYEES IS COMPRISED OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED BY THE COOPERATIVE TO THE DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN AND INSURANCE PAID ON BEHALF OF AND FOR THEIR BENEFIT. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE RETIREMENT PLAN, THE COOPERATIVE ALSO PROVIDES POST-RETIREMENT HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS THROUGH AN UNFUNDED WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN. THE VALUE OF THESE BENEFITS HAS NOT BEEN ESTIMATED.</p>

# 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART VIII, LINE 2	PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS RESULT FROM THE PURCHASE OF WHOLESale POWER FROM A GENERATION & TRANSMISSION COOPERATIVE PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS ALSO RESULT FROM THE PAYMENT OF INTEREST FROM COOPERATIVE BANKS AND THE PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES AND SERVICES FROM OTHER COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS THE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH PURCHASES FROM AND PAYMENTS TO SUCH COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATIONS ARE A DIRECT COMPONENT OF COST OF THE ELECTRIC SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE COOPERATIVE TO ITS MEMBERS

# 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX	THE ACCOUNTING RECORDS OF THE COOPERATIVE ARE MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RUS UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS AS PRESCRIBED FOR ELECTRIC BORROWERS OF THE RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES (RUS) THE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS DOES NOT RECORD EXPENSES IN THE GENERAL EXPENSE CATEGORIES PROVIDED ON PART IX LINES 1 - 23 THE COOPERATIVE SEPARATELY REPORTS SALARIES AND WAGES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND PAYROLL TAXES THAT ARE ALLOCATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS ACCOUNTING SYSTEM, BUT OTHER EXPENSES THAT ARE DESCRIBED IN LINES 1 - 23 ARE REPORTED ON LINE 24 UNDER THE EXPENSE CATEGORIES REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS

# 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24	ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSE IS COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE SERVICES EMPLOYE D \$ 1,058,644 OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE 307,760 GENERAL ADVERTISING EXPENSE 39,251 OTHER INS URANCE 86,599 REGULATORY COMMISSION EXPENSE 44,049 DUES TO ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS 95,601 DIRECTORS EXPENSES 34,446 MAINTENANCE OF GENERAL PLANT 60,223 TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND GE NERAL EXPENSE PER 990 \$ 1,726,573

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINES 5-7	SALARIES AND WAGES ARE ALLOCATED TO ASSET, LIABILITY, AND EXPENSE ACCOUNTS BASED ON THE AC COUNTING SYSTEM DESCRIBED ABOVE THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE RECONCILES AMOUNTS REPORTED ON LIN ES 5-7 TO TOTAL WAGES ACCRUED AND/OR PAID TOTAL PER LINES 5-7 \$ 3,392,468 LESS DIRECTORS FEES REPORTED ON 1099-MISC (176,649) LESS EMPLOYEE OFFICER BENEFITS INCLUDED IN LINE 5 (70 ,969) PLUS SALARIES AND WAGES ALLOCATED TO NONOPERATING MARGINS 810,890 PLUS SALARIES AND WAGES CAPITALIZED DIRECTLY TO PLANT 1,367,042 PLUS SALARIES AND WAGES CAPITALIZED/EXPENSED INDIRECTLY THROUGH CLEARING AND OTHER ACCOUNTS 176,688 TOTAL WAGES ACCRUED AND/OR PAID \$ 5,499,470

## 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 24E	OTHER EXPENSES IS COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING TRANSMISSION EXPENSE \$ 53,407 SALES EXPENSE 390 TAXES 229,611 OTHER ELECTRIC EXPENSE - LINE DAMAGE REPAIR 20,396 TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES PER FORM 990, LINE 24E \$ 303,804

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 4	<p>PURSUANT TO THE FORM 990 INSTRUCTIONS, THE AMOUNT OF PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS PAID TO THE MEMBERS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "PATRONS") SHOULD BE REPORTED ON PART IX, LINE 4. THE PHRASE "PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS PAID" REFERS TO THE PROCESS, SUBSEQUENT TO YEAR-END, BY WHICH THE COOPERATIVE ALLOCATES PATRONAGE CAPITAL TO AND, THEREFORE, OPERATES AT COST WITH ITS PATRONS. THE COOPERATIVE'S TAX EXEMPT PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE ELECTRICITY TO ITS PATRONS AND TO DO SO ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS. TAX LAW DEFINES "OPERATING ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS" AS SUBORDINATION OF CAPITAL, DEMOCRATIC CONTROL, AND OPERATION AT COST. THE COOPERATIVE OPERATES AT COST THROUGH THE ALLOCATION OF TRUE PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS (ALSO REFERRED TO AS ALLOCATIONS OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL) TO ITS PATRONS. PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS ARE CONSIDERED PAID IF THE ALLOCATION IS MADE (1) PURSUANT TO A PRE-EXISTING OBLIGATION, (2) FROM THE MARGINS PRODUCED FROM THE TRANSACTIONS DONE WITH OR FOR PATRONS, AND (3) IN A FAIR AND EQUITABLE MANNER ON THE BASIS OF PATRONAGE (I.E. PURCHASES). ADDITIONALLY, THE ALLOCATION OF PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME PERIOD AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE COOPERATIVE'S YEAR-END OF DECEMBER 31. EACH ONE OF THESE REQUIREMENTS FOR A TRUE PATRONAGE DIVIDEND IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE NON-PROFIT OPERATION ARTICLE OF THE COOPERATIVE'S BYLAWS. THE AMOUNT REPORTED ON PART IX, LINE 4 REPRESENTS THE AMOUNT OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL THAT IS EITHER ALLOCATED OR TO BE ALLOCATED TO THE PATRONS RESULTING FROM THEIR PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY FROM THE COOPERATIVE FOR THE 2016 CALENDAR YEAR. BECAUSE PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS ARE THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE COOPERATIVE OPERATES AT COST WITH ITS PATRONS AND THEREBY A KEY COMPONENT TO ACCOMPLISHING ITS EXEMPT PURPOSE, THE COOPERATIVE HAS REPORTED SUCH AMOUNTS AS AN EXPENSE FOR FORM 990 REPORTING. PATRONAGE DIVIDENDS ARE NOT AN EXPENSE FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES, HOWEVER.</p>



# 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART IX, LINE 1	ALL GRANTS, SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE MADE TO NON-PROFIT AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE LOCATED IN THE COOPERATIVE'S SERVICE AREA ALL DONATIONS ARE INTENDED TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH OUR MEMBERS RESIDE EACH GRANT, SCHOLARSHIP AND/OR DONATION MADE DURING THE YEAR WAS BELOW THE REPORTING THRESHOLD OF SCHEDULE I, PART II

## 990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XI, LINE 9	EQUITY METHOD INCOME OF SUBSIDIARY 30,152 PATRONAGE CAPITAL ASSIGNABLE 2,186,256 PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIRED - TOTAL -1,598,803 PATRONAGE CAPITAL RETIRED - DISCOUNT 312,144 POSTRETIREMENT BENEFIT ADJUSTMENT -80,800

**990 Schedule O, Supplemental Information**

Return Reference	Explanation
FORM 990, PART XII, LINE 2C	THE BOARD AS A WHOLE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT AND SELEC TING THE INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDITOR PROCEDURAL CHANGES DID NOT OCCUR DURING THE YEAR

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As Filed Data -

DLN: 93493297014517

SCHEDULE R  
(Form 990)

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

▶ Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33, 34, 35b, 36, or 37.

▶ Attach to Form 990.▶ Information about Schedule R (Form 990) and its instructions is at [www.irs.gov/form990](http://www.irs.gov/form990).

OMB No 1545-0047

2016

Open to Public Inspection

Name of the organization  
HIGH WEST ENERGY INC

Employer identification number  
83-0143525

Part I

Identification of Disregarded Entities

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 33.

(a) Name, address, and EIN (if applicable) of disregarded entity	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Total income	(e) End-of-year assets	(f) Direct controlling entity

Part II

Identification of Related Tax-Exempt Organizations

Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related tax-exempt organizations during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Exempt Code section	(e) Public charity status (if section 501(c)(3))	(f) Direct controlling entity	(g) Section 512(b)(13) controlled entity?	
						Yes	No

**Part III Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Partnership** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a partnership during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Predominant income(related, unrelated, excluded from tax under sections 512- 514)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of-year assets	(h) Disproportionate allocations?		(i) Code V-UBI amount in box 20 of Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)	(j) General or managing partner?		(k) Percentage ownership
							Yes	No		Yes	No	

**Part IV Identification of Related Organizations Taxable as a Corporation or Trust** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34 because it had one or more related organizations treated as a corporation or trust during the tax year.

(a) Name, address, and EIN of related organization	(b) Primary activity	(c) Legal domicile (state or foreign country)	(d) Direct controlling entity	(e) Type of entity (C corp, S corp, or trust)	(f) Share of total income	(g) Share of end-of- year assets	(h) Percentage ownership	(i) Section 512(b) (13) controlled entity?	
								Yes	No
<b>(1)</b> HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC PO BOX 519 PINE BLUFFS, WY 820820518 83-0316111	INVESTMENTS	WY	HIGH WEST ENERGY INC	C	683,903	2,265,684	100 000 %	Yes	

**Part V Transactions With Related Organizations** Complete if the organization answered "Yes" on Form 990, Part IV, line 34, 35b, or 36.**Note.** Complete line 1 if any entity is listed in Parts II, III, or IV of this schedule**1** During the tax year, did the organization engage in any of the following transactions with one or more related organizations listed in Parts II-IV?

	Yes	No
<b>a</b> Receipt of <b>(i)</b> interest, <b>(ii)</b> annuities, <b>(iii)</b> royalties, or <b>(iv)</b> rent from a controlled entity . . . . .	<b>1a</b> Yes	
<b>b</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution to related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1b</b>	No
<b>c</b> Gift, grant, or capital contribution from related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1c</b>	No
<b>d</b> Loans or loan guarantees to or for related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1d</b>	No
<b>e</b> Loans or loan guarantees by related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1e</b>	No
<b>f</b> Dividends from related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1f</b>	No
<b>g</b> Sale of assets to related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1g</b>	No
<b>h</b> Purchase of assets from related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1h</b>	No
<b>i</b> Exchange of assets with related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1i</b>	No
<b>j</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets to related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1j</b>	No
<b>k</b> Lease of facilities, equipment, or other assets from related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1k</b>	No
<b>l</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations for related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1l</b>	No
<b>m</b> Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations by related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1m</b> Yes	
<b>n</b> Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, or other assets with related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1n</b>	No
<b>o</b> Sharing of paid employees with related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1o</b> Yes	
<b>p</b> Reimbursement paid to related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .	<b>1p</b> Yes	
<b>q</b> Reimbursement paid by related organization(s) for expenses . . . . .	<b>1q</b> Yes	
<b>r</b> Other transfer of cash or property to related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1r</b>	No
<b>s</b> Other transfer of cash or property from related organization(s) . . . . .	<b>1s</b>	No

**2** If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," see the instructions for information on who must complete this line, including covered relationships and transaction thresholds

(a) Name of related organization	(b) Transaction type (a-s)	(c) Amount involved	(d) Method of determining amount involved
(1) HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC	A	16,800	INVOICES & OTHER RECORDS
(2) HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC	M	840,251	INVOICES & HOURS
(3) HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC	O	1,580,926	HOURS & EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION
(4) HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC	P	1,323,229	INVOICES & OTHER RECORDS
(5) HIGH WEST COMMUNICATION INC	Q	582,555	INVOICES & OTHER RECORDS

Provide the following information for each entity taxed as a partnership through which the organization conducted more than five percent of its activities (measured by total assets or gross revenue) that was not a related organization. See instructions regarding exclusion for certain investment partnerships.

[illegible]

**Part VII**   **Supplemental Information**

Provide additional information for responses to questions on Schedule R (see instructions)

Return Reference	Explanation
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