



PRECorp News

APRIL 2019

PRECorp installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure system

By Tim Velder, PRECorp Marketing Communications

For the past year, PRECorp has been implementing plans to replace the current automated meter reading (AMR) system (and meters) with a more robust and feature-rich advanced meter infrastructure (AMI) system.

The work has reached a critical phase where the testing and pilot installations are perfected and a planned roll-out to the entire PRECorp membership will begin.

Members in Crook and Weston counties will be the first to receive notifications that work is being done to install network equipment and eventually new meters.

The new AMI system comes with an improved solid-state meter and a two-way communication network. This receives readings like the older AMR system, but can also transmit signals to the cooperative when it is experiencing a problem.

Like when there's a power outage.

The AMR meters still perform as intended, but are approaching the end of useful life. Industry suppliers no longer support these meters with parts and repairs.

The new AMI system is the current industry standard. More specifically, PRECorp will be installing an integrated system of meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enable two-way communication between PRECorp and its meters.

"Moving to the new industry-standard for meters and communications will save the cooperative money in the long-term, can be implemented without having a negative impact on rates, and will provide for improved service to our membership," said PRECorp VP of Member Service Jeff Bumgarner. The AMI system and meters record

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What is an AMI meter?

- **Two-way communications between the meter and the cooperative.**
- **Near real-time meter reading through low-frequency radio signals.**
- **Real-time oversight for system operations (outage, voltage problems).**
- **All transmitted data is encrypted.**
- **An AMI meter has no idea what a consumer-member uses the electricity for, and it doesn't care.**

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Rate comparisons



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

In last month's CEO Straight Talk article, I talked about PRECorp's Moonshot and compared that to how today's system would seem like an impossible goal to PRECorp's founders. This month I want to spend our time together talking about our Culture Initiative which is one of the six strategic initiatives that we are working on this year.

Culture is to a company as personality would be to you or me. A good culture helps a company get better at accomplishing its purpose and a bad culture is one that interferes with a company's ability to accomplish its purpose.

PRECorp Purpose

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.

There are many aspects of a person's personality and it is the same for PRECorp's Culture. As we begin work on making PRECorp's culture even better, we thought it would be best to play to our strengths. We are learning how to strengthen the PRECorp culture by working on two aspects of our culture that are our strong points. These aspects are Leadership and Innovation.

PRECorp is an organization that is focused on service to our members and on service to each other. By embracing this aspect of service in *how we lead*, we will become even more effective in leading ourselves, our teams, and the organization.

PRECorp Moonshot

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero by 2050.

It is so important that the outcomes of leadership serve others rather than itself. Service to each other and to the greater good is what cooperatives do. It is in our DNA!

In addition to focusing on Leadership, we are focusing on Innovation. This is another one of our strengths that we are trying to make even stronger. Innovation has been an essential strength we have used over the past several years to improve our service quality while at the same time we have been reducing costs. Our need to be even better at innovating will only increase as time goes on.

The pace of technological change is getting faster and faster and our strategy is to harness these accelerating technologies to improve our core business.

Embracing innovation is about creating an environment where the PRECorp team is even more comfortable in trying new things, thinking in new ways, and having the courage to try new ideas. Some of the ideas may sound crazy. But the day before the breakthrough, it was a crazy idea.

If you read the article on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project in this issue of the PRECorp news you will see how this new technology is poised to help us really improve our core business as well as give you even more insight into your electric usage. In the future this type of technology and others like it will out us on the path that gets us closer and closer to our Moonshot.

I look forward to our time next month and telling you more about our 2019 Initiatives.

Mike

“It is so important that the outcomes of leadership serve others rather than itself. Service to each other and to the greater good is what cooperatives do. It is in our DNA!”

Thieves prey on members with bill collection schemes

The scheme of randomly calling people and businesses to trick them into handing over money has been around a long time.

There are some common tactics the scammers have to achieve in order to be effective. The primary one is to make you believe they represent Powder River Energy. This can be done by programming their phone to show up as PRECorp or Powder River Energy on your caller ID.

Secondly, they have to influence you to send funds in a hurry through a prepaid card. The caller threatens to cut off power if the customer doesn't pay. Calls of this nature circulate across all utility customers, then abruptly cease, only to return again a few months later.

Following are some tips to keep in mind when a caller threatens to shut off your power for a late or unpaid power bill:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, social security number, or banking account information.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- PRECorp DOES NOT require their members to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call law enforcement and report the incident to PRECorp.

PRECorp members are encouraged to call Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 to verify any electric service phone call that seems suspicious. Also, alert your family members and friends and share the scammers' tactics described in this article.

Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the offices in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2019 are as follows:

- April 16 - Sundance**
- May 21 - Gillette**
- June 17-18 - Sheridan**
- July 16 - Sundance**
- August 20 - Gillette**
- September 16-17 - Sheridan**
- October 15 - Sundance**
- November 19 - Gillette**
- December 16-17- Sheridan**

Other events to remember:

- **Saturday, April 27:** PRECorp Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, 5 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall.
- **Wednesday, May 22:** Quarterly telephone town hall with CEO Mike Easley, 6:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 1:** Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K walk/run, 7 a.m. at the ranch north of Wright. Fundraiser for the PRECorp Foundation. Go to www.precorpfoundation.org for more information.
- **Saturday, August 24:** 74th PRECorp Annual Meeting, Buffalo High School.
- **Friday, September 6:** Annual PRECorp Foundation Golf Scramble fundraiser, Golf Club at Devils Tower, Hulett. Contact communications@precorp.coop for team and sponsor information.



Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. Contact a licensed electrician to install additional outlets.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

PREC Corp vehicles up for sale on eBay May 24

Retired PRECorp vehicles are on the auction block in special surplus equipment auctions on eBay May 24 - June 3. The online bidding starts at 8 p.m. MST on May 24, and closes at 8 p.m. MST on June 3.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 24 - June 3:

(All decals will be removed prior to sale, trucks will be cleaned.)

- 2001 Freightliner chassis with a 1995 Terex Digger derrick
- 2008 Buick Lucerne
- 1958 Kearn Box Trailer
- 2008 Ford F350 with flatbed
- 2009 Ford F250 pickup
- 2009 Ford F350 pickup
- 2011 Ford F350 cab and chassis 60-inch CA

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 24, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precorp.coop. This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles.

Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of sale.

How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. On May 24, go to www.ebay.com
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: *vehiclesinwyoming*
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"
7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will appear on the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.



2001 - Freightliner chassis with a 1995 Terex digger derrick



2008 - Buick Lucerne



1958 Kearn box trailer



2008 - Ford F350 with flatbed



2009 - Ford F250 pickup



2009 - Ford F350 pickup



2011 - Ford F350 cab and chassis 60-inch CA

Nominations are being accepted for the Powder River Energy Corporation Board of Directors

The Board of Directors has appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Brandon Dilts and Kyle Innes of Campbell County; Ben Schiffer and Thad Stoltz of Johnson County; and, Robert Cowger and Ty Miller of Weston County. This committee is responsible for nominating qualified candidates for election to the Board of Directors.

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the PRECorp membership will be Saturday, August 24, at Buffalo High School.

Following are ways members can stand for election to the Board:

How you can get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition signed by at least 25 PRECorp members.

Are you qualified?

Any PRECorp member from the aforementioned director districts can run for a three-year term on the Board, providing the member meets the following qualifications:

1. Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected. However, members taking service outside the counties of Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan or Weston shall be deemed to be a member of and within the

area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;

2. Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
3. May not be in any way employed by or have a substantial financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, please contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

Dates to remember:

According to the PRECorp bylaws, the following are some dates to remember regarding the election process:

Wednesday, April 24: Deadline for PRECorp Board of Directors to appoint nominating committees in each county.

Friday, May 24: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.

Friday, June 14: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.

Friday, July 19: Publication of director candidates, notice of Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

Friday, August 23: Deadline to submit mail-in ballots to a PRECorp business office.

Incumbent Board members up for election this year are:

Campbell County:

Gerry Geis

Johnson County:

Jim Purdy

Weston County:

Reuben Ritthaler

2019 Nominating Committee Members

CAMPBELL COUNTY:

Brandon Dilts

6546 State Highway 59 S.
Gillette, WY 82718
307-464-0652

Kyle Innes

888 Black and Yellow Rd.
Gillette, WY 82718
307-660-2323

JOHNSON COUNTY:

Ben Schiffer

34 Mountain View
Buffalo, WY 82834
307-217-2032

Thad Stoltz

1334 Upper Powder River Rd.
Arvada, WY 82831
307-736-2602

WESTON COUNTY:

Robert Cowger

PO Box 516
Upton, WY 82730
307-468-2805

Ty Miller

509 Mushcreek Rd.
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-9483



PRECorp photo

CHAPS Executive Director Kristen Marcus and 'Feather', left, and CHAPS Board Member Teresa Garrett-Martin, right, are pictured with PRECorp Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner, center, as he presents a \$2,500 donation recently near Sheridan.

CHAPS receives Foundation grant

The Powder River Energy Foundation recently donated \$2,500 to Children, Horses and Adults in PartnerShip (CHAPS) Equine Assisted Therapy.

This grant will assist this program as it provides high-quality equine therapies to youth, adults and veterans with physical, mental, social and/or psychological disabilities.

According to CHAPS Executive Director Kristen Marcus, equine therapy helps people in many physical and emotional ways. "The benefits of equine therapy include improved balance, posture, muscle strength, flexibility, cognitive function, fine/gross motor skills, spatial awareness, problem-solving and coping as well as improved communication/relationship skills. Decreased symptoms of depression

and/or anxiety have also been reported," Marcus said.

Based in Sheridan, CHAPS provides therapy to hundreds of people. While some are from the Wyoming area, others, mostly veterans, are from across the United States. CHAPS partners with the local Veterans Administration to serve veterans with opportunities to heal from traumatic events during their service.

The Foundation's donation will pay for scholarships that, in turn, are used to feed and care for the horses as well as general operations costs.

Marcus said that the benefits of the therapy should be made available to as many people as possible through scholarships from donors. "It is our belief that everyone

should have access to services, regardless of their ability to pay," she said. In 2018, more than 90 percent of the clients utilized scholarships to participate.

The award is made possible in part by the PRECorp members who participate in the Operation RoundUp® program, and/or donate capital credits from the cooperative. When members sign up for Operation RoundUp®, PRECorp rounds up their electric bill to the next dollar and those added pennies are donated to the Foundation. When the PRECorp Board returns profits to members – called capital credits – many PRECorp members also donate those dollars to the Foundation.

Along with member donations

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CHAPS...

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and contributions, the Foundation receives donations from businesses that help sponsor various fundraising events each year, events like the June 1 Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede, and the annual golf event at Hullett.

Since its inception, the Foundation has donated nearly \$1 million back to our communities. The Foundation's goal is simple - to provide financial and philanthropic support to organizations and causes that have a direct impact in our local communities. The impact of these donations is felt by the consumer-members of PRECorp in northeast Wyoming.

"Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the people in northeast Wyoming," said Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner. "CHAPS helps people become self-reliant through education and training."

AMI...

from page 1.

member usage and report that information back to PRECorp, just like AMR systems.

However, the AMI meters can also respond to requests or send information on their own, such as voltage readings, allowing the cooperative to verify or be notified of a member's power outage.

"Reliability is expected to improve with features such as advanced outage reporting and improved voltage monitoring," Bumgarner said.

This can save members money by avoiding an unwarranted trouble call when a breaker has tripped, or by allowing members to notify the cooperative of a verified outage.

With this level of information, we can pinpoint the members affected, more quickly diagnose the location of the problem, and speed up restoration of service.

Today, the AMR system captures and records daily member usage, which the cooperative provides to members enrolled in Smart-Hub, the

cooperative's online member portal, under the "My Usage" tab.

The AMI system will provide additional benefits as well, like the capture and recording of usage data.

The AMI system will be capable of capturing usage data more frequently, several times daily, and the usage data retrieved will contain individual readings that are captured every 15 to 30 minutes, providing better data to members to help diagnose high-use events or simply better understand and manage their electrical usage. The detailed usage data could also enable the possibility to develop optional flexible pricing plans, like time-of-use plans, where members who shift usage to off-peak hours of the day can save even further.

PRECorp members have indicated in surveys and direct communications with the cooperative that they want more information and control over their energy consumption and costs. It all starts with a way to measure electricity use on the system in more frequently and in greater granularity. Finding out 30-days later is like trying to drive your car using only the rear-view mirror. Timely measurement is the first step toward that goal.

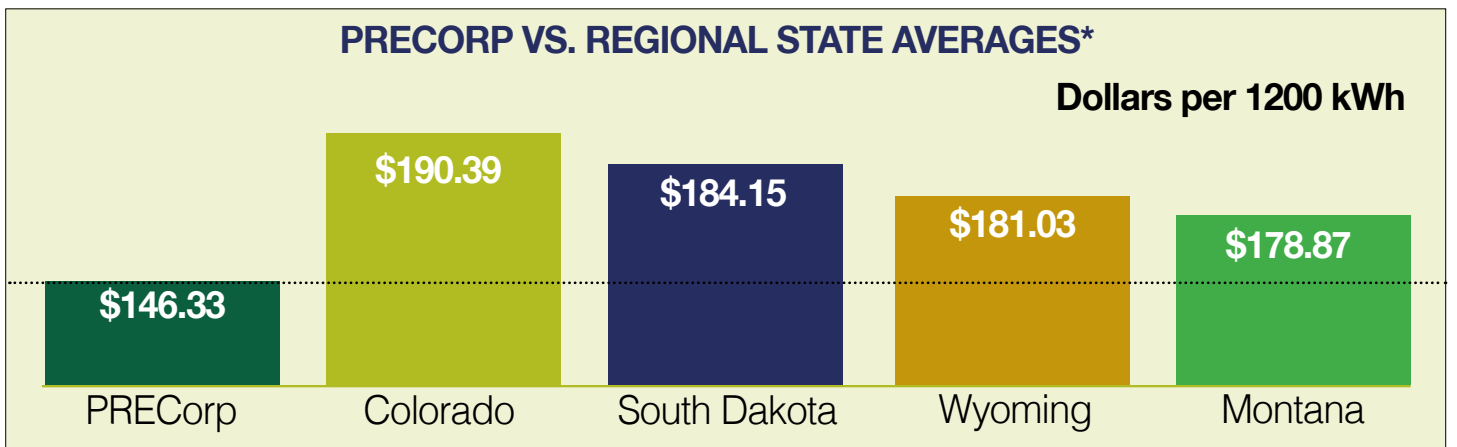
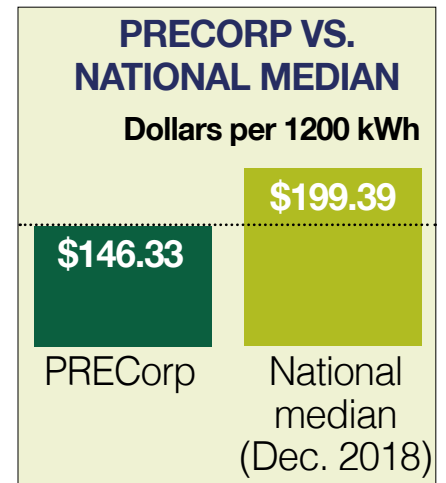
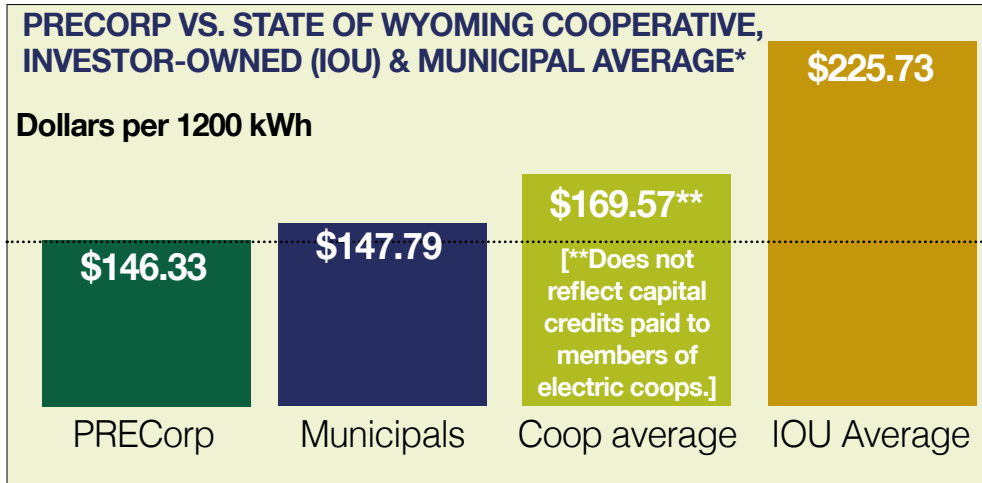
Some might be wondering if investing in the new AMI system will have a negative impact on rates. "Your rates will not increase because of the AMI project," Bumgarner said. "PRECorp has been planning for the need to upgrade the meter reading system and will begin retiring the old system as the new system is phased in."



Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

How do your rates compare to the neighbors?



* - Data compiled in a PRECorp survey of residential rates that are publicly available through power suppliers in the region on the Wyoming PSC website at psc.state.wy.us and EIA.gov. This is not inclusive of all power suppliers in the region.

Frequently tripped circuit breakers and blown fuses are a clear warning sign of faulty electrical wiring. Contact a licensed electrician for an inspection.

Safety starts with you.
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Only use light bulbs that meet (or are below) the maximum wattage listed on the lamp or fixture. Exceeding the maximum wattage can cause overheating and potential fire hazards.

Safety starts with you.
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