

PRECorp News

DECEMBER 2018

PRECorp member money coming back in December

By Tim Velder, PRECorp Marketing Communications

In late December, many Powder River Energy members will receive a check in the mail. This check represents a return of a portion of the money members paid for electric usage during specific years with the cooperative.

A portion of the check is from the cooperative capital credit allocation that was provided on member bills in August. If the PRECorp Board of Directors determines the financial condition of the cooperative is healthy, it can approve a retirement of a portion of that allocation. This year's capital credit retirement is for electricity used during 2017.

PRECorp will also be retiring capital credits from Basin Electric for G&T allocations for year 2001.

Some members will notice a return of additional funds that reflect a correction for an oversight in application of rate adjustments in 2008, 2011, and 2014. PRECorp

rate change implementations revealed language differences between PRECorp and the Wyoming Public Service Commission that resulted in rate adjustments being billed too early - 10 to 40 days early, depending on the billing cycle.

For members with services on the Irrigation rate, and a few other members billed on commercial rates, the payment refunds will be applied to the bills dated January 2019, rather than refunded by check.

In all, PRECorp members will receive approximately \$8.5 million in returns on retirement of capital credits and payment refunds related to the rate application oversight.

After receiving your check, please direct any questions to PRECorp Member Service Representatives at 1-800-442-3630.

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

In This Issue

[CEO Straight Talk](#)

[Track outages online](#)

[Outage preparedness](#)

[AMI project update](#)

[Holiday office hours](#)

[Scholarship information](#)



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going”. Even though we might not be able to identify the source of this quote, we all know this phrase and have heard it before. As we wrap up 2018 and look forward to 2019 this saying could not be more applicable for PRECorp and for Wyoming as a whole.

We have continued to see the energy markets deliver difficult times for our coal industry and for the remaining Coal Bed Methane (CBM) industry. I spoke about this in detail in my CEO report to the membership in August and that video is on the PRECorp web-

We can't control what happens around us, but we can control how we prepare for and react to these circumstances.

site at <http://precorp.coop/annual-meeting>. I would encourage you to give this a look if you have not seen it and would like to learn more our opportunities and challenges.

The PRECorp Team and Board of Directors have been working tirelessly to position PRECorp to come through the ongoing decline of the coal industry and the eventual departure of the CBM industry. Cost cutting, innovation, efficiency improvements, and risk management have continued to move way beyond business “buzzwords” to how we do things here at PRECorp.

It would have been so easy for the PRECorp team to give up in the face of the adversity we have been experiencing for the past sev-

eral years. Instead of doing that, they have excelled at delivering great value to you in the provision of your electric service.

The reliability of our system continues to be high, even when the going gets tough. Our people continue to work hard while keeping our focus on safety and taking care of you, even when going gets tough.

We are here for you all the time, but especially during this Holiday Season when we depend so much on electricity to keep our homes warm and our lights on. This year, as you hang your Christmas lights, please remember the team of dedicated people that work together to keep your lights on. You can rest assured that the team is working hard to serve you, no matter what.

We know that 2019 will have challenges and some tough times. We are ready and able to handle these challenges as we have been preparing, planning, and executing on our Purpose, Vision, and Strategy. In early 2018 I used my CEO Straight Talk Articles to tell you about our new strategy and in 2019 I will be explaining the specific initiatives that we have developed for execution in 2019 and beyond. I am sure you will find that “When the going gets tough, the tough get going,” is true for PRECorp, your cooperative.

We can't control what happens around us, but we can control how we prepare for and react to these circumstances. I look forward to our continued dialog in 2019 both in these articles and in the quarterly Town Hall meetings done via the telephone and Facebook Live.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mike

AMI 'proof of concept' work underway

Powder River Energy has begun a new phase of implementation of the cooperative's long-term metering strategy. In May, National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative's (NRTC) and Itron received the bid for installation of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and other future smart grid and related applications for the PRECorp membership.

The new AMI system comes with an improved solid-state meter and a two-way communication network that not only remotely receives readings like our current meter system, but can transmit signals to the cooperative when it is experiencing a problem, like when there's been a power outage.

The project is being phased in from the eastern part of the service territory to the west. PRECorp is working with plans to test the system – aka 'proof of concept' – across two circuits near Hulett that are served by one substation. These circuits have diverse member profiles with single-phase and three-phase services, and a landscape with forest and hills that puts the wireless communications system to the test.

The installation of communications relays on power poles in December is the first project in the proof of concept. Approximately 105 of the newer AMI meters and associated communication components will be installed in this area starting with a few in January and the remainder in March 2019. The first real

power bills to be generated from the AMI proof of concept meters and communications network is scheduled for April.

During the proof of concept work, the AMI meters will be put to the test for response capability to data requests and how they send information on their own. Some of the data testing is for voltage readings, and verification and notification of a member's power outage.

The system is being designed to ultimately save the cooperative and its 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, often within seconds. Once fully deployed, it will also enable the cooperative the ability to monitor line voltages and make real-time adjustments as well as save time in identifying and pinpointing where on the system we are having problems for more timely corrections and power restorations.

As the project progresses, full AMI deployment will march across PRECorp's 10,000 miles of distribution lines served by 57 substations in 2019 and 2020.

PRECorp will notify members in advance when AMI work is being done on their property or with their meter. Anyone with questions is encouraged to call PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

Are there any bill assistance programs available?

Members who anticipate problems making ends meet with their electric bill, should contact PRECorp to discuss options as soon as possible. There are some alternatives our member service or billing staff can discuss to alleviate the stress. Call 1-800-442-3630 to start the conversation.

LIEAP/WAP

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is administered by the Wyoming Department of Family Services (DFS). The purpose of the LIEAP program is to help low and fixed income families and individuals pay their heating bills during the winter months. Priority is given to households that include elderly (age 60+), disabled, and/or young children (age 6 and under).

Seasonal LIEAP benefits must be applied to a household's main heat source (the fuel your heat system uses to heat the home; not the power source needed to turn on the furnace). LIEAP is federally funded through a block grant adminis-

tered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Anyone applying for LIEAP is also applying for the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). If an applicant has received WAP assistance in a prior year, this should be noted on the application.

If an applicant needs assistance with utility deposits, propane tank sets, disconnect or shut-off notices, or out-of-fuel for propane, heating oil, wood, pellets, or coal, a request for assistance can be made on the application.

Applications can be filled out anytime through February 28, 2019. To download an application or for more information go to www.lieapwyo.org, or call 1-800-246-4221.

Application forms, informational brochures, and a listing of assistance agencies are available at PRECorp offices in Gillette, Sheridan, and Sundance. Please note, applications cannot be received at PRECorp offices.

Making outages less painful

By Tim Velder, PRECorp Marketing Communications

During a power outage, safely restoring electricity to our members is the highest priority and PRECorp crews will respond anytime to get the lights back on.

Outages frequently last less than a few hours. However, severe damage to power lines and distribution systems may take days to repair, especially if treacherous weather condi-

tions persist. PRECorp emphasizes the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause.

Prepare ahead of time to have adequate supplies and know how to safely emerge from a winter storm emergency. This is particularly important for families with special needs.

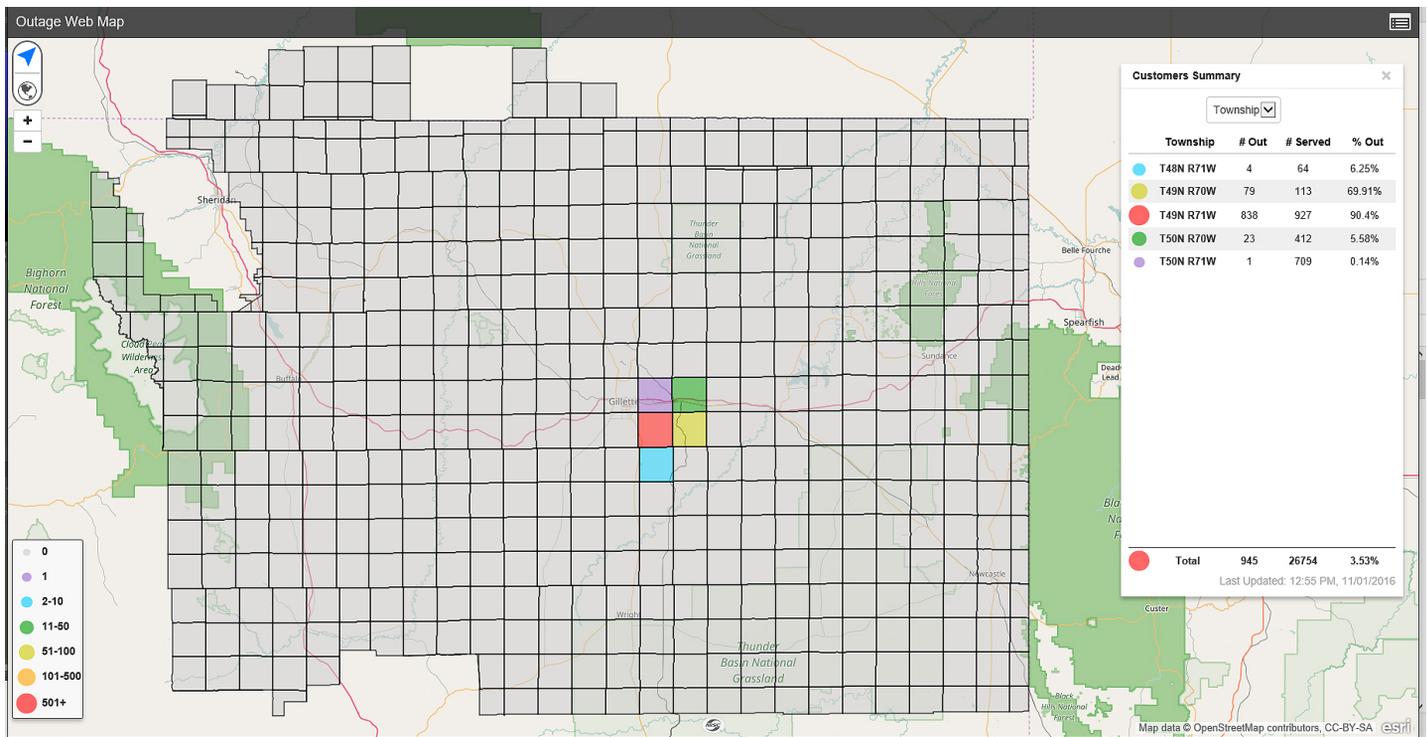
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Winter outage survival notes:

- Find adequate blankets.
- Keep a supply of one to two gallons of bottled water per person, per day.
- Set aside non-perishable foods to last three to seven days.
- Inventory a seven-day supply of prescription medications.
- Fuel up your automobile. Gas pumps might not work in an outage.
- Charge the mobile devices before the storm hits and use them sparingly.
- Get some cash. If power is out, credit card machines might not work.
- Get help if you are short on supplies.

Track PRECorp power outages on mobile:

Follow the restoration progress online at www.precorp.coop and click on the **Outages** button on the left side of the screen. You can read updates during major outages, connect to SmartHub, Twitter and Facebook for information, and view a live map showing outage densities in sections of the PRECorp service territory. **The example below** shows how outage locations are color-coded based on the estimated number of consumers who are involved in the outage.



Outages...

- When severe weather is forecast, decide ahead of time whether you are prepared to be out of power for at least three days. If you, your family members, and even livestock are not prepared, make necessary arrangements for a move to a location that will not be impacted by the storm.
- If you have a power outage, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. If they do, chances are you only have a tripped breaker. Take time now to get familiar with your home power panel.
- If your neighbors are out, call 1-888-391-6220 and relay any outage or trouble information you might have. Dispatch personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- Your meter number is printed on your bill, and is also located on the face of the meter itself. The service address is located on the top portion of your bill above your mailing address. The dispatcher will ask for this information.
- Please let the dispatcher know the level of urgency of the outage. Our dispatcher will then take that information and contact a line crew about the problem so work can begin to restore the power. Our linemen do work in the middle of the night when necessary.
- At present, using the phone to report trouble is the only way we can be absolutely sure that you will receive an immediate response - especially at night or on weekends. Do not use e-mail to contact us. *
- If you have more than one account, the dispatcher will need all of your meter numbers to determine which account is affected by the outage.
- Stay at least 30 feet away from downed power lines. Stepping in the direction of a downed power line exposes you to the risk of deadly voltages.
- Storms can damage power infrastructure without causing an outage. Ice and wind, combined with debris from trees or buildings, can create post-storm hazards. Inspect

from page 4.

your property for damaged poles, lines, meters, or transformers.

- Contact PRECorp to report hazards. Crews can be dispatched to remove trees from lines, repair broken meters, poles, or lines. Do not attempt to handle these problems yourself. You could be electrocuted.

* SmartHub app users can track and report outages by tapping "Service Status" on the opening menu.



For outages affecting an area of 250 meters or more, PRECorp will make every effort to post updates on the restoration to Facebook and Twitter.



TIPS FOR PURCHASING NEW APPLIANCES

When buying a new appliance:

- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label.
- Carefully review the EnergyGuide label on the appliance.
- After you choose your make and model, compare prices.
- Recycle or sell your old appliance if possible.

U.S. Government Federal law prohibits removal of this label before consumer purchase.

ENERGYGUIDE

Clothes Washer
Capacity Class: Standard

ACME Corporation
Model: ABC123FFF**
Capacity: 12.3 Cubic Feet

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost
(when used with an electric water heater)

\$15

\$10 Cost range of Similar Models \$71

92 kWh
Estimated Yearly Electricity Use

Your cost will depend on your utility rates and use.

• Cost range based only on standard capacity models.
• Estimated operating cost based on six wash loads a week and a national average electricity cost of 12 cents per kWh and natural gas cost of \$1.09 per therm.

Beginning in January, your monthly bill will have a new look. Below are highlights of some of the changes:

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BILL

- A** Total amount due and due date for current bill amount.
- B** Your PRECorp member account information.
- C** Usage data compared to last month and last year.
- D** Daily usage average and your power cost per day.
- E** Important cooperative messages or notices of upcoming events.
- F** Payment stub. If you are mailing or dropping off your payment, detach this portion and enclose with your check. Members can mark changes to address or phone number and Operation RoundUp participation.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Member Services: 800-442-3630
24 Hour Outage #: 888-391-6220
www.precorp.coop

Member Name: JOHN DOE
Billing Date: 07/06/2018
Current Bill Due Date: 07/26/2018
Account #: 999999999

Thank you for your previous payment(s) of \$55.47
Charge detail found on the back of this page.
Bills are due upon receipt, delinquent after due date.

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$85.94
Due Date 07/26/2018

MONTHLY ENERGY USE COMPARISON

Total Energy Use Last Month	Total Energy Use This Month	Total Energy Use This Month Last Year
184 kWh	258 kWh	316 kWh
61° Avg Temp	69° Avg Temp	66° Avg Temp

Your Average Daily Use

9 kWh AVERAGE DAILY USE
\$2.00 AVERAGE DAILY COST

MEMBER MONTHLY MESSAGE

Message Area 1 - This is the area where the BP Info Message will print if one exists. If one does not exist, this entire message block will not print, so this entire area would be blank. I would suggest some type of message to be printed so the whole area is not blank.

Please detach bottom portion and return with your payment.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PO Box 930
Sundance WY 82729-0930
Statement Enclosed

Current Amount Due 07/26/2018: **\$85.94**
Billing Date: 07/06/2018
Account #: 999999999

Bills are due upon receipt, delinquent after due date.
Your payment may be processed electronically.

Sign me up for Operation Roundup!

JOHN DOE
123 ANY ST
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49525

1 2

540250001A675270020712370020712370726-20185

- 1** Your meter number(s), rate type, service dates, number of days in billing cycle, meter readings, and kWh usage.
- 2** Your monthly energy use graph displaying the current month, previous 12 months, and average monthly temperature.
- 3** The summary of account activity since the last billing date.
- 4** The current detail of charges for electric use, and everything that adds up to your total amount due.
- 5** Learn more about convenient payment options; bill management; how, where, when to speak with us.
- 6** Learn more about Operation RoundUp and the charitable activities of the PRECorp Foundation.
- 7** Learn more about how SmartHub can work for you.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION
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Member Services: 800-442-3630
24 Hour Outage #: 888-391-6220
www.precorp.coop

Svc Address: 123 Any Road
Svc Map Loc: 99-99-99

Meter #	Rate Schedule	Services	From	To	Days	Readings	Previous	Present	Meter Multiplier	Meter Usage	KWh Usage
12345678	001- Residential		05/30/2018	06/30/2018	31	54093	54723		1.00	630	630

kWh Usage History

Previous Account Activity

Item	Amount
Previous Balance	\$61.09
Payment Received 07/02/18 - *Thank You*	-\$61.09
Account Balance Before Current Charges	\$0.00

Current Activity

Item	Amount
Basic Charge	\$25.50
KWh Energy Charge	630 kWh @ \$0.008675 = \$27.86
Power Cost Adjustment	630 kWh @ \$0.008571 = \$5.40
State Tax	\$2.09
County Tax	\$2.00
Total Current Activity	\$65.94
Total Amount Due	\$85.94

Comparison

Comparison	Days	kWh	Avg HI Temp	Avg Lo Temp
Current Month	31	630	76	49
Last Month	30	785	82	43
One Year Ago	31	625	93	4731

For more information on your usage, visit your SmartHub app or precorp.coop.

SmartHub Manage your account online or on your mobile device at precorp.smarthub.coop

Budget Billing Learn about leveling out your monthly bills at precorp.coop

HELP Loan Learn more about Home Efficiency Loan Program at precorp.coop

In-Person 221 Main St., Sundance 200 S. Garner Lake Rd., Gillette 1059 Brundage Lane, Sheridan Hours: 9 am-5 pm Phone: 1-800-442-3630

Operation RoundUp Operation RoundUp was created to assist northeast Wyoming communities through the Powder River Energy Foundation. When you enroll, we will round up your electric bill to the next whole dollar. The extra cents will be contributed to the Operation RoundUp fund, assisting needy causes such as feeding the hungry, emergency services, Veterans' groups, at-risk children and families, education and workforce development, and other critical community needs.

Sign Up Today! Just check the box on the front of this payment stub to begin contributing!

smart hub Manage your account with SmartHub!
• Make Payments
• Track Electric Usage
• Report Outages

Sign up today at <https://precorp.smarthub.coop>



PRECorp photo

PRECorp VP of Member Service and Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner (center) presents a \$10,000 check to Crook County Medical Services District CEO Nathan Hough (left), and Dr. Heith Waddell, MD, (right), for the purchase of emergency room equipment at the hospital which is seeing major facility improvements this year.

PRECorp Foundation donates \$10,000 to Crook County Medical Services District

The Powder River Energy Foundation, along with a matching grant from Basin Electric Cooperative, recently donated \$10,000 to the Crook County Medical Services District Hospital in Sundance (CCMSD) for emergency room and diagnostic equipment for the patients of Crook County and surrounding communities.

Part of the project includes a facility remodel to help make the CT scanner an integrated piece of its diagnostic efforts, like a PET/CT scanner.

Sundance had been renting a mobile unit detached from the hospital and, bringing those services under a perma-

nent roof, better serves the patients seeking emergency and non-emergency scans.

“The Foundation’s mission is to demonstrate our commitment to individuals and nonprofit or charitable organizations in northeast Wyoming by lending a helping hand that will improve their quality of life or service to their community,” said Bumgarner.

The grant will go directly toward a specialized gurney that will enable caregivers to perform critical care without having to move the patient from bed to bed, or platform to gurney.

Deadline reminders for 2019 scholarships

Powder River Energy Corporation facilitates many scholarships for eligible high school and college students from north-east Wyoming.

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2019 scholarship information is available online at:

www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships.

Descriptions and deadlines for each scholarship follow:

Basin Electric Scholarship - \$1,000

The filing deadline for the Basin Electric Power Scholarship is February 1, 2019.

Swanda Scholarship - \$2,500

To a Crook County High School senior planning to enroll in agricultural or

animal science studies at a university or vocational/technical school in Wyoming, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Seniors at Sundance High School receive preference this year on the program's rotating schedule. However, all seniors from Crook County are encouraged to apply. **The filing deadline for the Swanda Scholarship is March 29, 2019.**

Powder River Energy Corporation/ Foundation Scholarship - \$1,500

To qualifying seniors and college students from 14 high schools and at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be PRECorp members.

The deadline for Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is March 29, 2019.

Students who will be age 16 by June 1, 2019, and who are interested in attending the free Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat, CO, July 13-18, 2019 must turn in an application by **Friday, January 18, 2019.**

For scholarship information and applications, go to www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships or scan the image below.



No January PRECorp News

Because there is no WREN magazine published in January, there will be no January PRECorp News mailed to members. For up-to-date member information read the Power Lines in your January bill, go to www.PRECorp.coop, or stay tuned to Facebook, Twitter, and SmartHub for updates on happenings in your cooperative.

Please note our Holiday office closures

Powder River Energy Corporation offices will be closed for these upcoming holiday observances:

Christmas – Monday and Tuesday, December 24 and 25

New Year's Day – Tuesday, January 1, 2019

To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630

www.precorp.coop

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.