

## 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.

## Making outages less painful

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 conditions 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.

### 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.

# Holiday office closings:

The PRECorp offices will be closed for the following holidays:



**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day, Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 24 & 25**



**New Year's Day, Tuesday, Jan. 1**



**Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 18; (Employee Meeting)**

**Call 1-888-391-6220 to report an outage.**

## Are there 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 learn more.

### 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 administered 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.lieap-wyo.org](http://www.lieap-wyo.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. Applications cannot be taken at PRECorp offices.

## 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.

