

Powder River Energy retires \$1.95 million in capital credits

Later this month, Powder River Energy Corporation will retire nearly \$1.95 million in capital credits to its eligible cooperative member-owners. Powder River Energy's board of directors authorized the retirement at its October Board Meeting.

Capital credits are a major benefit of being a member of an electric cooperative and are a reflection of one of the seven cooperative principles: **Member Economic Participation**. At the close of each fiscal year, all revenue received in excess of expenses for that year are allocated to each member as a capital contribution based on gross margin contributed through power purchases.

The total amount in a member's capital credit account represents the value of ownership in the cooperative. This value or capital contribution is returned to the membership over time in the form of capital credits.

This year's capital credit retirement is being paid to individuals and businesses who were members of the cooperative and received electric service in 1984 and 2015. Capital credit checks in excess of \$20 will

be mailed just before Christmas. Members who have capital credits less than \$20 will see the dollars applied as a credit on their December bill. A letter inside the mailings will explain the opportunity for members to donate their capital credits to the Powder River Energy Foundation.

Since 2011, PRECorp has provided the opportunity for members to help build the Foundation's giving to non-profit organizations in northeast Wyoming. To date, the membership has generously donated more than \$61,000 of their earned capital credits to the Foundation.

As in past years, PRECorp will not issue checks for under \$5. The retired amount will remain on the member's account and will be refunded once it reaches \$5.

Some members did not leave forwarding addresses. Unless they are claimed within three years, those funds will revert to community donations. Anyone with questions or concerns should contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

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, stay tuned to Facebook, Twitter, and SmartHub for updates on happenings in your cooperative.

COPA change to take effect in 2018

Powder River Energy Corporation members will see a change to their Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) in 2018.

Residential members

The 2018 power bills for residential and some other rate classes are likely to show an increase in the COPA rate. The average residential member using 1200 kWh per month will see an increase in the "Power Cost Adjustment" of \$2.35. Monthly usage determines the amount of that number for each bill.

Why?

PRECorp purchases all of its power from Basin Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., and distributes that electricity to its members throughout northeast Wyoming.

Each year PRECorp uses sales projections to determine how much revenue is needed to recover the costs of the power purchased from Basin. A portion of the revenue for the cost of power comes from the base rate in the most recent general rate filing approved by the Wyoming Public Service Commission. **There are two parts to the COPA rate:** Estimated future power costs; and a "true up" of prior months' power costs.

Projected sales and power costs are used to estimate future power costs for the COPA and are only an estimate each year. Basin has communicated a slight power cost reduction for 2018, and these new reduced rates will be included in the estimated future power costs portion of the COPA formula.

The "true up" part of the annual calculation of the COPA amount looks back to the prior year. This look-back compares the revenue collected to cover wholesale power costs to the actual costs that PRECorp incurred to buy that power. Amounts collected above the costs from a rate class are returned to the members of that rate class by lowering the COPA.

The Large Power Transmission classes had an over collection from the current COPA and the rest of the classes were under collected.

PRECorp recently filed an application with the Wyoming Public Service Commission, requesting an approval with an effective date of January 2018. All application materials are available on our website at www.precorp.coop/COPA. An article will also appear in the December and January Power Lines bill inserts.

Holiday office closings:

The Powder River Energy offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- Christmas, Monday, December 25
- New Year's Day, Monday, January 1

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

Scam reminder:

Scammers target consumers - including PRECorp members and businesses - with telephone calls threatening to shut off your power unless you pay immediately over the phone.

This is a very blatant scam to get your payment information.

Don't let them ruin your Christmas. If you receive a call of this nature, please notify PRECorp immediately at 1-800-442-3630.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Purchasing electronic gifts this holiday season? Remember to purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified electronics and give the gift of energy efficiency. Visit www.energystar.gov/productfinder for a full list of efficient products.

Source: energystar.gov



Winter power outage reminders:

- 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 3 to 7 days.
- Inventory a 7-day supply of prescription medications.
- Get help if you are short on supplies.
- Charge mobile devices before the storm hits and use them sparingly.
- Fuel up your automobile. Gas pumps might not work in an outage.
- Get some cash. If power is out, credit card machines might not work.