

PRECorp returning member Capital Credits in December

In late December, the capital credit retirement “refund” will be processed. This process returns a portion of the money members paid for electric usage during chosen years. Some Powder River Energy members will receive a credit on their bill or a check in the mail as a result.

All members are apprised of their cooperative capital credit allocation on their bill statements each August. The PRECorp Board of Directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative and can approve a retirement of a portion of accrued capital credits, based on the financial well-being of the cooperative.

This year’s capital credit retirement is for electricity used during 1984, 1985, 1986 and part of 1987. Any member who had service with PRECorp in one or more of those years, will receive a percentage of the capital credit retirement. The Board also approved the retirement of all capital credits of less than \$20 to all inactive members. In all, PRECorp members will receive approximately \$13.5 million through retirement of capital credits.

Some members did not leave forwarding addresses. Unless they are claimed within three years, those funds will revert back to the cooperative and can be retained as equity or be used for for the benefit of the membership.

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.

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 patronage 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. 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.

If you have any questions about capital credits, please contact Member Service at 1-800-442-3630.

Be prepared for power outages

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. It is important to be prepared for dangerous winter storms and possible power outages.

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.

 Follow us on Facebook during large outages.

Winter outage survival notes:

- Have batteries for flashlights ready.
- 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.
- Be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide with generators.
- 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, Tuesday/Wednesday, December 24 & 25



New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1



Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 17; (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 representatives can discuss that might alleviate some 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 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 are out of 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 29, 2020. To download an application or for more information go to 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.

Please note, applications cannot be turned in to PRECorp offices.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov

