

# PRECorp News

MAY 2019

## Options are available for keeping an idle service in your name

When Powder River Energy staffers talk about an “electric service,” they are referring to a transformer, a metering point, and the poles or wires that connect and support them.

That electric service apparatus is sometimes de-energized and left idle when the member no longer needs it, or temporarily suspends power to the property, which can range from a stock well or irrigation pump, to a residence or larger structure.

PRECorp still maintains these services, and pays property taxes on them as a part of our system. Additionally, unused lines and equipment can cause inefficiencies in our distribution system and increase the chances of power interruptions to other services. Idle lines, therefore, add to the cost of providing electric service to all of our members.

PRECorp has procedures to ensure that the cooperative effectively manages idle lines within its system. Retention rates allow PRECorp to account for idle services where appropriate, in order to reduce the expenses associated with those services.

Also, the program keeps infrastructure in place in case there is a future need for improving the membership’s service reliability.

The process also provides a rate structure that will allow members to retain idle lines that they intend to re-energize in the future while contributing to the maintenance, depreciation and property taxes associated with the idle line. The Idle Line Retention will allow the member to have the meter disconnected and continue to pay a minimum charge to ensure the electric line is left in place.

Transformers and secondary line could also be removed if it is deemed appropriate.

If you have an idle service in your name, PRECorp will contact you to find out whether you have future plans for this service or would like to have it removed.

To retain the idle line, you will be required to pay the idle line retention charge associated with the type of service it was when energized.

**The monthly rates are:**  
**Residential/Seasonal: \$15**  
**Irrigation: \$15**  
**General Service: \$18**  
**General Service CBM: \$35**  
**Large Power: \$79**  
**Large Power CBM: \$100**

For more information, contact the PRECorp Member Service Department at 1-800-442-3630.

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Annual Meeting



**MIKE EASLEY,**  
CEO

This is the fourth in a series of articles that are breaking down PRECorp's strategy. It is my sincere hope that these articles are helpful in gaining a better understanding of our Strategy. In addition to our job of keeping the lights on by focusing on core business or operations, we also focus on strategy. Strategy is intended to create new value for the

organization. Working on operations is essentially working "in the business," and working on strategy is working "on the business".

Wyoming itself is going through a transformation as we all struggle with the changes we are experiencing in the minerals industry. Many of us have first-hand experience in dealing with difficulties as the downturn in our coal industry impacts us, our communities, and the State of Wyoming. Wyoming has been working "on the business" for several years with its economic diversification and other efforts to create new value for its citizens.

We have a sense of urgency to get out in front of

these issues and challenges. We do this by developing and executing strategy. Last month, I described our strategic initiative designed to make our leadership and innovation culture even stronger. Our Culture Initiative is one of six initiatives that we are focused on this year. Over the next few months I am going to take a deeper dive on these strategic initiatives. This month I am going to talk about our RAMPP strategic initiative and our exciting PRECorp Power Pitch.

**RAMPP is an acronym for Reports, Approvals, Meetings, Policies and Processes.** This initiative is about reviewing these areas to determine how we can reduce work efforts and resources dedicated to lower-impact processes in order to focus on more important areas. Essentially, we are enhancing productivity where it matters most.

We will know we are successful with our RAMPP Initiative when we see a reduction in work on non-critical tasks and procedures with no impact to our ability to provide you great service. We will also be developing our ability to better define our expectations around productivity, efficiency, project management, and collaboration. Employee empowerment is a big element of our RAMPP Initiative. We hope to eliminate nearly 4,000 work hours with the RAMPP process. This translates to each employee saving about 40 minutes per week by eliminating non-essential or low-value activities. We may also leverage technology to help the team achieve these goals.

We are also looking at creating an innovation engine at PRECorp by implementing an initiative we call PRECorp Power Pitch. PRECorp employees have always been good at coming up with new ideas and ways to be more efficient and to reduce costs. We are taking this strength to the next level with focused training and implementation of special processes and training to make innovation even stronger within the PRECorp Team. I am currently working with several employees who have come to me with ideas for new innovations in various aspects of the business. We will have our first "pitch session" at PRECorp in mid-May where these employees will present their ideas to a team for review and consideration. I am really excited about the potential of this initiative.

Both our RAMPP and Power Pitch initiatives are moving us in the direction to help us fulfill our Purpose, by executing our Mission, and getting us closer to our Moonshot. These efforts to work "on the business" have great potential to deliver extraordinary results to you.

Stay tuned for more information on these and our other 2019 Strategic Initiatives. I hope you will join me on May 22, at 6:30 p.m., for our Telephone Town Hall and Facebook Live event. I will be giving an update on all things PRECorp and taking any questions that you might have.

*Mike*

## 2019 Initiatives:

1. **RAMPP - Focus on what is important**
2. **Power Pitch - Employee driven improvements to technology or systems**
3. **10-Year Rate Design - Controlling each part of a member's bill**
4. **10-Year Digital Strategy - Improve efficiency for members and the cooperative**
5. **Strategic Awareness - Build knowledge of the strategy with employees and members**
6. **Culture Management - Develop employee leadership and innovation**



## ePayment system speeds up

Many of our member-consumers use their bank bill payment service to pay their monthly power bill. The member initiates the payment from their online banking account, the bank cuts a check and mails it to PRECorp.

This process generally takes several days to complete. PRECorp is upgrading its e-payment system to accept an online payment, rather than processing a physical check.

This will significantly reduce the time for the payment to reach PRECorp.

For this change to be effective, the bill payment account number on the bank payment service needs to exactly match the account number listed on your PRECorp monthly billing statement.

Otherwise, the electronic payment cannot be made and a paper check will continue to be mailed. In addition, if you pay multiple accounts, you will need to initiate a bill payment for each account.

Please review your account number next time you pay your bills using your bank's online bill payment service to ensure it matches the account number on your billing statement.

This change reduces the volume of checks PRECorp manually processes and also reduces the chance of PRECorp receiving your payment after the due date.

Call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 if you have any questions regarding this process.

## Pole testing notice to members

Powder River Energy linemen and distribution design technicians are inspecting and testing poles and other infrastructure throughout our service territory in Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties as part of our maintenance program.

Landowners and local residents are notified ahead of time that

PRECorp personnel could be working within power line rights-of-way or using binoculars in their area.

PRECorp personnel can provide identification on demand if there is a question about their presence on your property.

Call 1-800-442-3630 if you have any additional questions.

## 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:

**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:

- **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. See below 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](mailto:communications@precorp.coop) for team and sponsor information.

## Telephone Town Hall Meeting set for May 22

PRECorp members are invited to participate in quarterly Telephone Town Hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley. Mike will be live on the phone at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, to take your questions and highlight the cooperative's activities for 2019. Members will receive a telephone call at the beginning of the meeting. If you would like to call in to join, dial 855-312-2107.

# PRECorp 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; and trucks will be cleaned.)

- 2001 Freightliner chassis with a 1995 Terex digger derrick
- 2008 Buick Lucerne
- 1958 Kearney box trailer
- 2008 Ford F350 with flatbed
- 2008 Ford F350 cab & chassis 60-inch CA
- 2009 Ford F250 pickup
- 2009 Ford F350 pickup
- 2011 Ford F350 cab & chassis 60-inch CA

## How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. On May 24, go to [www.ebay.com](http://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 - Ford F350 cab and chassis 60-inch CA



2008 - Buick Lucerne



1958 Kearney 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](mailto: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.



## HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE:

**Powder River Energy Corporation offices will be closed Monday, May 27, to observe the Memorial Day holiday.**



## Governor Gordon proclaims Linemen Appreciation Day

Powder River Energy linemen attended an April 8 proclamation signing at Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon's office in Cheyenne. Pictured are Wright Journeyman Lineman Keith Sarkinen (left) and Gillette Journeyman Lineman Randy Himle (right), with Gov. Gordon in the center. "Linemen Appreciation Day is an opportunity to thank linemen for their work to keep the power on and the public safe," Gov. Gordon stated in the proclamation. "Linemen work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep the power on - often under dangerous conditions or in severe weather."



(Photo courtesy Kelly Etzel Douglas/WREA)

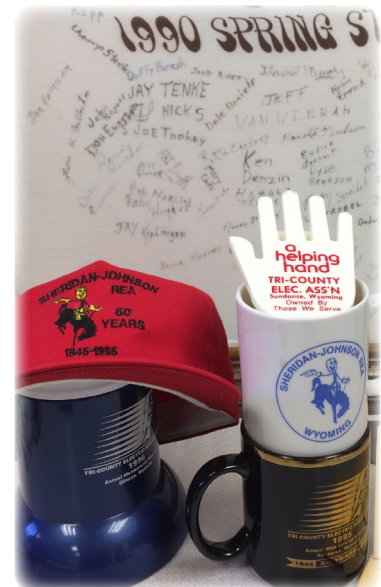
# We want to hear from you.

How long have you been a member of PRECorp?

Do you have memories of Tri-County Electric or Sheridan-Johnson REA?

Still have stories and photos about power lines to your farm, home, or ranch?

Any logoed items in your possession that remind you of the old days as a member of your electric cooperative? Please send information or photos to [communications@precorp.coop](mailto:communications@precorp.coop), or drop a note in the mail to: *PRECORP 75th Anniversary, PO Box 930, Sundance, WY, 82729.*





# Three easy projects to save on energy bills

One of the best ways to start saving on energy costs is to do the easy projects yourself. You don't have to be an energy expert to do any of the following projects:

## 1. Make the Most of Your Water Heater

If your electric water heater is warm to the touch, you could save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills if you wrap it with special insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$30. Follow the instructions on the kit. Also, if you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

## 2. Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

How much of your electric heat in the home is lost through air leaks? Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone because it is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Follow the application instructions on the tube.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

## 3. Weather Strip Exterior Doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Be sure to include those doors that enter unheated mud rooms or covered porches. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware store or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

# Save the Date!

## Free blood draws at the Annual Meeting

Wyoming Health Fairs will conduct wellness blood draws at Buffalo High School from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, August 24, prior to the PRECorp Annual Meeting. PRECorp will pay the cost of the basic blood draw for members and their spouses. Attendees may pay for additional tests if they so choose.

Those wishing to have their blood drawn for a standard blood panel test must fast for 12 hours. Coffee and light snacks will be provided to blood draw participants prior to lunch being served at 11 a.m. Member registration and voting will also be available starting at 7 a.m.

Call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 if you would like to take advantage of a free blood test.







Runners at the 2018 Buffalo Stampede salute the camera after the event.

## Buffalo Stampede raises money for Foundation

Runners and walkers from northeast Wyoming will gather at the Durham Buffalo Ranch for the 18th time on Saturday, June 1, and challenge the open range course to raise money for charity.

In addition to the challenge of competing in the 5-kilometer run or walk and 10-kilometer run, participants will have the satisfaction of knowing they helped raise money for some of the most critical community needs in northeast Wyoming.

The event is an annual fundraising effort of the Powder River Energy Foundation. The event organizers and hosts at the Durham Ranch have partnered with the Foundation because of its wide range of giving to

local children's charities, feeding the hungry, and helping local veterans.

The event draws scores of runners and walkers to the Durham Ranch in Campbell County, four miles north of Wright.

Walkers kick off the event at 8:00 a.m. and runners start at 8:30 a.m. The always-popular Buffalo "Breakfast Burritos" are served at 9:30 a.m. followed by awards for the top finishers in all runner categories and drawings for door prizes from event sponsors. Don't miss out on the final event of the day, the crowd favorite "buffalo chip" throwing competition.

The cost to pre-register is \$20 per person or \$40 per family if participants sign up prior to May 25. To pre-register or for more information, call

the Campbell County Rec Center in Gillette at 682-7406; the Wright Rec Center in Wright at 464-0580; or email: [buffalo@vcn.com](mailto:buffalo@vcn.com). Registration forms can also be picked up and dropped off at the Powder River Energy Corporation office at 200 Garner Lake Road, Gillette.

Costs after May 25 up to the day of the race are \$25 for a single and \$45 per family. Event day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. June 1. All paid registrants receive a T-shirt and a breakfast the morning of the run. Family registrations include two T-shirts and breakfast for the family.

For more information on the Foundation's work go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org)





## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!**