



PRECorp News

MAY 2021

Renters seeking assistance should contact PRECorp

Powder River Energy is spreading the word to its eligible members about the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

The program provides financial assistance to landlords and utility companies on behalf of renters who, because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, are unable to pay or are behind on making rental or utility payments.

The ERAP structure covers past-due and ongoing bills for up to 15 months total. Bills must be for services on or after March 13, 2020. Funding is available through December 2021, with the ERAP able to make prospective payments covering rent or utilities up to March 2022.

Utilities and home energy costs include water, sewer, trash, electric, gas, fuel oil/propane. Past due amounts are paid out first.

ERAP is available to households who rent their home and meet specific income level requirements. Applicants must have experienced a financial loss due to COVID-19 and be at risk of losing housing or becoming homeless.

Renters must fill out the application, but landlords can assist renters with the renter's written permission.

Payments are made directly to landlords and utility providers on behalf of the tenant. Payments can also cover applicable late fees.

PRECorp can temporarily suspend disconnects for non-pay while affected renters complete their application process. Call PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630 to make arrangements.

Applications are available through the Department of Family Services online at: www.dfs.wyo.gov/assistance-programs. The site has information for applicants and a list of necessary documents, a portal for email updates, and frequently asked questions.

Applicants are encouraged to keep all relevant communications from their housing and utility providers including bills, statements, and notices of past-due, eviction, and disconnect. Other documents showing financial hardship can include medical bills, child care statements, pay stubs, and tax documents.

A similar program for homeowners paying mortgages is in development. Please go to the Department of Family Services website for more information on the launch of this program.

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

www.precorp.coop

In This Issue

[CEO Straight Talk](#)

[Pole testing notice](#)

[Idle line retention](#)

[Holiday office closures](#)

[Electrical safety](#)



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

Springtime is here and it seems to me that everyone is excited about it. I know the PRECorp Team has some important projects they are working on in order to better serve you now and into the future.

Line rebuilds, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) installations, CBM power-line removal, and system upgrades are but a few projects we are working on, in addition to the influx in new line extensions that we normally see in this time of year. We are also seeing an uptick in subdivision work in many areas of our service territory. It may be that people are figuring out how great a place Wyoming is to live.

Our engineering and operations departments work as a team to identify areas of our system that may need improvements, and these projects are outlined in our work plan. Our planning process is one that we are very proud of and it helps us to keep our system running reliably and at the lowest possible costs.

This spring we have hired contractors to help with the AMI meter installations. This project is expected to be done before the end of this year and it will allow us to replace an outdated and high maintenance meter reading system. These new meters will also help us to provide even better service and information to you. This project will be a huge asset to the membership in the years to come.

We still have a CBM industry operating, although the biggest player in the industry is still in bankruptcy. This past year we were able to adjust our operations so that we are not relying on CBM sales to make our budget work. Every month they are on

the system makes for a good month as we see revenue that we had not planned on. This will help us offset some of the declines we are seeing in sales in other sectors of our system.

This year we will be making a large effort to remove more than 2,000 poles that were previously used to serve CBM. Many years ago, PRECorp collected the funds needed to remove this infrastructure from the CBM customers that were being served at the time, so there is no adverse budget impact for these removal costs.

Taking care of the PRECorp system is truly a team effort between all the various groups at PRECorp. We sometimes forget just how large of a system we operate. We have about 10,700 miles of distribution line, 700 miles of transmission line, and 60 substations spread over our 16,000 square miles of service territory throughout northeast Wyoming and part of Montana. This infrastructure is currently valued at over \$425 million including member funded line extensions. It is no small task to care of the PRECorp electrical system.

The PRECorp Team does a great job in keeping the lights on and in keeping your costs affordable. This gets tougher each year as our sales numbers decline, but the PRECorp Team keeps innovating, creating efficiencies, lowering costs, and doing more with less.

It is our pleasure and honor to serve you, to help improve the quality of life in northeast Wyoming and to support our communities and our members.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pole testing, line patrol notice

Powder River Energy linemen and distribution design technicians are inspecting and testing poles, patrolling line, 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 might see PRECorp personnel 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.

Idle Line Retention options

The Idle Line Retention process provides a rate structure that allows 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.

In this designation, the member may have the meter disconnected and continue to pay a minimum charge to ensure the electric line is left in place. Transformers and secondary line can be removed at PRECorp's option.

If you have an idle service on your property that you are not paying the Idle Line Retention

rate for, 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.

Events calendar

The list of 2021 PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates and telephone town hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley. PRECorp Board meetings have tentatively returned to the Sundance-Gillette-Sheridan rotation. The Annual Meeting and Foundation fundraisers are planned as in-person events, unless COVID-19 pandemic restrictions return.

- **Tuesday, May 18** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Wednesday, May 19** - PRECorp telephone town hall with CEO Mike Easley, 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday, May 21:** Deadline for PRECorp nominating committees to post their list of Board of Directors candidates.
- **Monday, May 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette
- **Tuesday, June 1** - Special Operation RoundUp meat drawing. All members enrolled in Operation RoundUp are eligible. Sign up today!
- **Saturday, June 5** - Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K Foundation fundraiser, 7 a.m.
- **Friday, June 11:** Deadline for PRECorp Board candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.
- **Tuesday, June 22** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan



Holiday office closures:

PRECorp offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

Independence Day, Monday, July 5

Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.

Consider invoice group billing

Invoice group billing allows you to have all or a subset of similar residential or commercial accounts, combined on a single monthly statement or statements. You get the same level of meter reading and usage data by metered service you would on a single account statement, but the convenience of it being combined and totaled on one simple statement. Additionally, there is only one remittance advice per invoice group to return with your payment.

To make things even more convenient you also may consider signing up for auto pay with a bank account or debit/credit card (available to residential accounts only). You can sign up through our secure online service portal, SmartHub at www.precorp.coop or on an easy-to-use app found in your mobile device App Store. Auto pay allows you peace of mind knowing your bills are always timely paid, you will not incur late fees, security deposit installment, or risk having your service disconnected. In addition to payment options, SmartHub also provides copies of your billing statements, real-time information regarding your usage history and outage notifications.

Call your Member Service Representative at 800-442-3630 to find out what options work best for you!

DON'T GET OUT

If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment **makes contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box**, DO NOT get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- Call 9-1-1 and wait for us to arrive to cut the power.
- Wait to exit your cab until the **power is de-energized**.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle, and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

For more information visit SafeElectricity.org.



Safe
Electricity.org

**POWDER
RIVER
ENERGY
CORPORATION**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

www.precorp.coop

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