

# PRECorp News

NOVEMBER 2021

## AMI project is substantially complete; equipment optimization phase begins

After approximately five years of planning and two years of field installations, the PRECorp Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project is nearly complete. The final areas to receive meters are in the Barber Creek section in Campbell County and the Kaycee area of Johnson County.

PRECorp crews and contractors installed approximately 28,000 meters, 2,200 signal relays, and 47 central access points. This amounts to about 30,000 pieces of equipment to accurately read meters and report outages to PRECorp responders from anywhere in the vast service territory in northeast Wyoming.

### Optimization phase

So far, the AMI meters are showing a 99% success rate in reporting power usage back to the secure PRECorp database. Beginning in November, and likely running through January 2022, PRECorp staff and AMI meter manufacturers will run extensive testing on the installed equipment. They will be putting it through the paces to audit the connectivity of the metering network, making adjustments where needed. Some of these adjustments might include additional field visits, installation of additional relays, or other changes to ensure robust two-way data transmission going forward.

### Benefits for the members

The AMI system ties in perfectly with the personalized member phone app SmartHub. SmartHub helps you track usage, pay bills, follow outages, and receive important messaging. Call 1-800-442-3630 to sign up.

This is part of PRECorp's ongoing Moonshot goal of implementing technology to serve members: "Big Ideas for Bold Actions".



The AMI meters can also respond to requests for voltage readings or signal power outages on the PRECorp-side of the meter. With this level of information, PRECorp crews can speed up finding the location and cause of the outage. This will expedite restoration efforts.

"We have had some big wins from the data provided by the AMI meters," said PRECorp Manager of Service Operations Brandon Riddle. "There have been events and readings that indicate a problem and we have been able to dispatch a lineman to prevent an outage or other adverse event that would impact our members."

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MIKE EASLEY,  
CEO

Does gratitude even matter anymore?

You might think that is an odd question for me to ask you, especially in a corporate newsletter. It might be an odd question, but it's a question that I routinely ask myself. It is an important enough question that we set aside time in November to celebrate things for which we are grateful or thankful.

Our world today is filled with so many distractions as media companies and interest groups try to capture our attention as we transact with them by consuming their information in exchange for a slice of our energy and attention.

Behavioral science and brain research has determined that keeping us worried about things is also priming the pump of our need to know in order to keep ourselves safe. This is called being in survival or the fight-or-flight mode.

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If we are not careful, we can begin to rewire our brains to need a constant supply of information that we think is keeping us safe and, when taken to the extreme, we become exhausted by stress and anxiety.

This is where gratitude comes in. Gratitude and unsettled feelings like stress

and anxiety don't really mix. Gratitude is a more positive mindset and is a big part of a "glass is half-full" mindset. Stress and anxiety feed and shape a "glass is half-empty" mindset. We all experience both types of mindsets from time to time. My daily experiences are easier when I am experiencing a "glass is half-full" mindset because it is an antidote for stress and anxiety.

How does it work for you?

If we intentionally take time to reflect on the things we are grateful for we create our own

"glass is half-full" mindset. We are better able to let go of the negative feelings of stress and anxiety and break out of the cycle of being in fight-or-flight mode. Our rational thinking and our ability to problem solve is enhanced by having a "glass is half-full mindset" and we have real difficulties in problem solving when we are in fight-or-flight mode.

At PRECorp we have created a vision for a positive future and a plan, or strategy, to take us there. We spend our time and energy creating our future, rather than feeling stress and anxiety when things seemingly do not go our way. You might be surprised to know that in our last all-employee survey that 92% of the PRECorp team agrees that we have an exciting future. I think this is amazing especially considering the period surveyed covered the past 18 months.

Some of the challenges we faced in the past 18 months included dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, seeing declining sales in our energy industry, adjusting our budget and work plan to accommodate our decreasing sales (budget and resource cuts). It would have been so easy to succumb to stress and anxiety, blame our problems on external forces and go into survival mode.

Instead, the Team kept their focus.

We all feel the call to serve you, our members. It is a noble calling and one that we all answer with humility and hearts of service. You see this most vividly when our Team steps up to keep the lights on during extreme weather events, but it happens each and every day. I am proud of the PRECorp Team and so very grateful for the opportunity to serve you and to serve them.

This month may we all take some time out of our busy schedules to reflect on gratitude and to give thanks. I will be reflecting a bit on the awesomeness of the PRECorp Team, feeling gratitude for them, for you, and for the opportunity to serve.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Mike*

# Be prepared for winter power outages

During a power outage, safely restoring electricity to our members is the highest priority, and PRE-Corp 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 flashlight and batteries 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 mobile devices before the storm hits and use them sparingly.
- Be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide with gasoline-powered generators.
- Get help if you are short on supplies.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Giveaway

Two separate drawings will be held for 25-pound bundles of beef and pork at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 6. Operation RoundUp<sup>®</sup> members are automatically entered in the drawing. Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp<sup>®</sup>? Sign up today by calling 1-800-442-3630. Sign up by Friday, December 3 and be entered in the drawings on Monday, December 7.

## Have a medical necessity?



In an effort to better serve our members with special health care needs, PRECorp is requesting information from our members who may have electricity-dependent residential medical equipment such as oxygen or dialysis machines.



Typically this information is gathered when members join the Cooperative and sign up for PRECorp electrical service.

However, if members have obtained the medical equipment since joining the Cooperative, members may want to share that information with us.

The purpose for knowing this information is to notify members with medical necessities of scheduled outages that might impact their service.

Members will need to provide a doctor's note for our files explaining the medical necessity.

For more information or to update your information, contact PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630.

Powder River Energy Corporation will make every effort to restore electrical service as soon as possible during an outage. There is no guarantee the power will be restored within a given time frame. Individuals are responsible to have an alternative plan if power cannot be restored before any condition becomes critical.

## Please note our Holiday closures

Powder River Energy Corporation offices will be closed for these upcoming Holiday observances:



**Thanksgiving:**  
Thursday, November 25  
and Friday, November 26



**Christmas:**  
Thursday, December 23,  
and Friday, December 24



**New Year's:**  
Friday, December 31



**Presidents Day (All  
Employee Meeting)**  
Monday, February 21, 2022

**To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220 or, use the  
SmarHub app on your mobile device.**

## AMI...

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One example was an intermittent low voltage reading at a meter in Weston County. The PRECorp analyst viewing the alert recommended going to the location. The responding lineman discovered a loose connection had occurred between regular inspections. The connection was repaired, preventing a future outage.

### Why AMI?

The AMI system comes with an improved solid-state meter and a two-way communication network. The system receives readings like the older one-way system, but can also transmit signals to the cooperative when it is experiencing a problem.

The AMI system is the current industry standard. The cooperative saves money in the long-term by moving away from a higher-cost, unsupported meter system. The bottom-line benefit is improved service to our membership.

For instance, the AMI system is capable of gathering usage data more frequently than the former metering system, several times daily. The usage data retrieved contains readings that are captured every 15 to 30 minutes, providing better data to members who monitor high-use events or who simply want to better understand and securely manage their electrical usage.

The detailed usage data also enables flexible billing plans, such as Time-Of-Use or pre-paid metering. Again, this is a membership benefit realized from the Moonshot goal.

## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

**From our table to yours,  
Happy Thanksgiving!**

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

[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)

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