

Utility scammers are always on the prowl

The scheme of randomly calling people and businesses to trick them into handing over money has been around a long time.

There are some common tactics the scammers have to achieve in order to be effective. The primary one is to make you believe they represent Powder River Energy. Scammers can program their phone to show up as “PRECorp” or “Powder River Energy” on your caller ID.

Secondly, they have to influence you to send funds in a hurry through a prepaid card. The caller may threaten to cut off power if the customer does not pay immediately over the phone - something PRECorp does not do. Calls of this nature circulate across all utility customers, then abruptly cease, only to return again a few months later.

The following are some things to keep in mind when a caller threatens to shut off your power for a late or unpaid power bill:

- Do not assume the name and number on your caller ID are legitimate. Caller IDs can be spoofed.

- Be particularly vigilant around holidays.
- Never share your personal information, including date of birth, Social Security number, or banking account information.
- Never wire money to someone you don't know.
- Do not click links or call numbers in unexpected emails or texts – especially those asking for your account information.
- PRECorp DOES NOT require their members to purchase prepaid debit cards or money orders to avoid an immediate disconnection.
- If you receive a call that sounds like it may be a scam, or if you believe the call is a scam, hang up, call law enforcement and report the incident to PRECorp.

PRECorp members are encouraged to call Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 to verify any electric service phone call that seems suspicious.

You can also help by alerting your family members and friends of the scammers' tactics described in this article.



PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.



Please note our Holiday office closures

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

Veterans Day:

Thursday, November 11

Thanksgiving:

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

Christmas:

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

New Year's: Friday, December 31

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

Events Calendar

The list of 2021 PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, and telephone town hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley. Board meetings rotate between Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan.

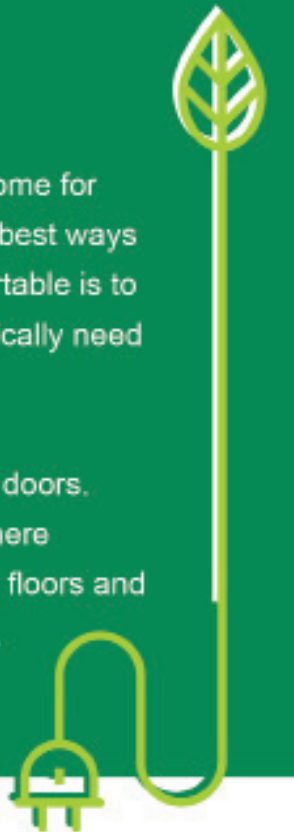
- **Tuesday, October 19** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Monday, October 25** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Thursday, November 11** - Veterans Day Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Tuesday, November 16** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Monday, November 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 25-26**, Thanksgiving Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Wednesday, December 1** - PRECorp CEO Mike Easley telephone town hall meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, December 21** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Thursday and Friday, December 23-24** - Christmas Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Friday, December 31** - New Year's Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: *energy.gov*



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