

# PRECorp News

NOVEMBER 2019

## PRECorp files General Rate Case to begin in 2020

Powder River Energy is seeking more than just a rate adjustment in its recent general rate case with the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC).

Changes to what members across residential and industrial classes can expect to pay on their monthly power bill will garner most of the attention. However, the cooperative is also changing the basic charge in order to capture fixed costs being lost due to declining sales, and to bring the basic charge closer to cost of service.

PRECorp is also filing to reintegrate much of the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) classes into General Service and Large Power classes in acknowledgement of less dedicated use of system investments by CBM members.

The filing requests PSC approval and implementation in September 2020. The following are the rate impacts in the Residential and General Service classes for 2020 planning:

- The Residential basic charge increases \$1.50 per month to \$27, and residential rates increase an average of 8.87%. The total rate per kWh will increase from \$0.086428 to \$0.094708.

- The General Service basic charge will increase \$5 per month, to \$40 for single-phase, and \$45 for three-phase. General Service rates will increase 8.86%. The total rate per kWh will increase from \$0.085053 to \$0.091608.

### Why the increase?

PRECorp projections show a continued decline in sales, particularly in the CBM industry and coal mines through industry consolidations and idling facilities. This decline has eroded the business results below the minimum financial performance required by PRECorp's lenders.

The recently completed cost of service study guides the rate changes by class. The rate adjustment, coupled with a continued focus on business efficiencies and cost reductions, will restore positive operating margins and allow the cooperative to continue to provide its consumer-members with the safest and most reliable service possible.

### More information on the web

Go to [www.precorp.coop/2020-rate-case](http://www.precorp.coop/2020-rate-case) for complete documentation in the case file, rate calculators to predict what your bill would be based on your usage, and a portal for asking questions.

## In This Issue

Pg. 2: CEO Straight Talk

Pg. 3: Holiday schedule

Pg. 4: SmartHub is  
a tool for account  
management

Pg. 5: Seasonal  
accounts take note

Pg. 6-8: 2020  
Scholarships, Youth  
Camp



**MIKE EASLEY,  
CEO**

At the end of October, PRECorp filed a General Rate Case (GRC) at the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC).

This GRC is the rate increase that I have talked about for the past few years. In September we presented the final details to the PRECorp Board. They discussed and deliberated and reduced the recommended increase. The Board did approve filing a request with the PSC to increase PRECorp's rates by \$7,030,045, or 4.23%, with a requested effective date of no later than September 1, 2020. This 4.23% increase is an average increase across all member classes with varied impacts to each class.

A PRECorp Residential member using the average amount of 1,175 kWh, will see an \$11.23 increase in their monthly bill consisting of a \$1.50 increase in the Basic Charge and remaining increase in the kWh charge beginning in September of 2020.

The biggest factor in the request before the PSC to increase our rates has been our declining sales. The system has been in decline since 2015 with annual year over year declines ranges from 2%-4% and we expect to see a 3.3% decline in 2019 from 2018 levels.

We have been working very hard to minimize the impacts of this increase. The PRECorp team has continued to increase efficiencies and reduce costs during these times of declining sales. The size of our workforce has shrunk by 20 full time positions between 2015 and 2019 and we have been successful in cutting costs so that our total operating costs have remained flat since our last rate filing in 2016, in spite of increased costs of doing business.

In 2019 PRECorp is expected to experience an operating loss as our sales continue to erode. We have simply done everything

we can do to both delay and minimize the need for additional revenue. We pride ourselves on providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost, and without this rate increase, I don't believe we will be able to continue to provide the level of service quality that we know our members expect and deserve.

The PSC will schedule our GRC for a hearing sometime in the summer of 2020. Prior to that time, PRECorp will continue to discuss the GRC with our members through our usual channels of communication. I will be discussing it during my upcoming Town Hall and Facebook Live events, and I look forward to answering your questions as well as responding to any concerns that you might have.

We will have community meetings in our three office locations in 2020 so you can come in and visit with us face to face if you would like. We will announce those dates in early 2020.

It is my hope that the discussions over the past few years have helped prepare you for this eventuality, but at the end of the day, no one likes a rate increase. We do not like to request them, and we know that you do not like to pay any more than you absolutely have to.

Please rest assured that we have done everything possible to mitigate the amount of the increase, as well as to delay it for as long as possible. If you would like more information, please let us know.

I look forward to sharing more information on this and keeping you posted as the PSC process unfolds, and I hope to visit with you during one of our upcoming meetings, or during our Town Hall or Facebook Live events.

*Mike*

## 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. Other information that will be needed is the member's physical address, member number, meter number, and emergency contact phone number.

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.



## Listen, watch, ask questions at CEO telephone town hall

PRECorp CEO Mike Easley will host a members-only telephone town hall at **6:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 20**. Members will be called at 6:30 p.m., but you may also call in toll-free at 1-844-881-1317.

Members are encouraged to ask questions and answer polls that will help us better serve you. Mike will be talking about the recent rate case filing along with any other issues on your mind.

Remember, there will be a \$50.00 gift card drawing for members who stay on the line until 6:45 p.m. If you want to watch via Facebook Live, go to the PRECorp Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/precorp/](https://www.facebook.com/precorp/).



## Please note our Holiday office closures

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

**Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 28  
and Friday, November 29**

**Christmas – Tuesday, December 24,  
and Wednesday, December 25**

**New Year's – Wednesday, January 1, 2020**

**Presidents Day (All Employee Meeting)  
– Monday, February 17, 2020**

**To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220.**

## SmartHub means smart management

SmartHub can help you take control of your PRECorp account like never before, giving you more time to focus on important things.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smart-phone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact Member Service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks...or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with past bills, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll also be able to see important PRECorp notices with SmartHub. You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

Reporting a service issue is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. SmartHub's contact feature lets you contact PRECorp for member service requests or with any questions you may have.

Access SmartHub by visiting [www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop) or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

# PRESENTING SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



On the go and in control. SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to do business with us like never before:

- Manage your account
- Report service issues
- Receive important notices
- View and pay your bill
- Monitor usage 24/7

...All in the palm of your hand and online.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# Seasonal accounts will have two bills

It's seasonal billing time again.

Consumer-members who have stock water wells, recreational cabins, rural community buildings, or other services that qualify for once-a-year bills – are reminded to expect TWO bills for their seasonal accounts.

The first bill – to be issued in November – covers usage from January 1 through October 31. The second bill – to be issued in January – covers usage from November 1 through December 31.

## Why two bills?

Seasonal bills are issued each November for usage through October. Each

year cost of power adjustments (COPA) are implemented and effective for usage on or after January 1.

Sometimes there are slight increases, sometimes there are slight decreases. In order to close out 2019 with the correct rates, a second bill for November and December usage is issued. This way, the seasonal accounts start the new year with the correct COPA rate effective for usage on or after January 1.

**Plans are underway to transition the seasonal accounts to be billed monthly rather than two times per year. This is tentatively effective in September 2020.**

This transition cannot occur until the entire cooperative is fitted with Advanced Metering Infrastructure or AMI.

The AMI meters are designed to provide more timely and accurate usage data for members in those hard to reach locations. If there are problems with a pump or another piece of equipment at a location, the usage spike can be found much faster than once per year.

As with any billing questions, we encourage members to call 1-800-442-3630 on weekdays between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to speak with a Member Service representative.

## Dates to remember from now through December:

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. rotating between the Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan offices. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative upcoming dates are as follows:

**November 19 - Gillette**

**December 17- Sheridan**

**January 21 - Sundance**

### Other events to remember:

- **Wednesday, November 20:**  
Telephone Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.  
Dial toll-free 1-844-881-1317.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 28-29:** Thanksgiving Day holiday, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25:** Christmas, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Wednesday, January 1:** New Year's Day, PRECorp offices closed.

## 2nd Annual Christmas Giveaway

Two separate drawings for 25-pound bundles of beef and pork at 8 a.m. on Monday, December 2.

Operation RoundUp® members are already in the drawing.



**Not enrolled in Operation Roundup®?**

Sign up today by calling 1-800-442-3630 before Wednesday, November 27, for a chance to win a bundle of meat.

# New deadlines set for 2020 scholarships

Powder River Energy Corporation facilitates many scholarships for eligible high school and post-secondary students from northeast Wyoming.

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2020 scholarship information is available online at: [www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships](http://www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships).

Descriptions and deadlines for some of the scholarships follow:

## Basin Electric Scholarship - \$1,000

Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be PRECorp members. One student from the PRECorp membership service territory may be chosen. Another is nominated for consideration for the Members 1st selection.

**The filing deadline for the Basin Electric Power Scholarship is January 31, 2020. See application on Pages 7-8.**

## Swanda Scholarship - \$2,500

To a Crook County High School senior planning to enroll in agricultural or animal science studies at a university or vocational/technical school in Wyoming, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Seniors at Sundance High School receive preference this year on the program's rotating schedule. However, all seniors from Crook County are encouraged to apply.

**The filing deadline for the Swanda Scholarship is February 28, 2020.**

## Powder River Energy Corporation/ Foundation Scholarship - \$1,500

To qualifying seniors and post-secondary students from 14 high schools and up to 5 at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be active PRECorp members.

**The deadline for Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is February 28, 2020.**

## Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

The Powder River Energy Board of Directors sponsors an all-expense-paid experience for high school age students of PRECorp members. **Turn the page for the application.** Two local youth are selected to represent PRECorp at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat, CO, July 11-16, 2020. The students tour industry sites, and enjoy the resort community. During the week, students have the opportunity to find out how co-ops work and find out what's happening in the world of electric energy. Applicants must be age 16 by June 1, 2020, and interested students must turn in an application by **Friday, January 17, 2020**. For more information, a video, and an application go to [www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships](http://www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships).

## PRECorp Lineman Scholarship - \$3,000 and up

The PRECorp Lineman Scholarship is available to qualifying applicants who plan to attend an approved lineworker training program. Awards begin at \$3,000, but can be more.

**There is no filing deadline and applications are accepted year-round.**

## WREA Lineman Scholarships

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association offers various scholarships for prospective linemen. They include the Hackworth Scholarship and the Adkins Scholarship. Go to [www.wyomingrea.org](http://www.wyomingrea.org) for more information. **There is no filing deadline and applications are accepted year-round.**

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.**

Please complete the form below. Completeness and neatness ensure your application will be evaluated appropriately.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 digits of SS # \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ College Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's parent is:  Member cooperative employee  Member cooperative consumer

Co-op System Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-op City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

High School name and address from which you graduated or will graduate this spring: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activities, Achievements, or Honors:

Sending a resumé does not replace any part of this application. If space provided in any section is inadequate, you may continue on additional sheets. Attachments must follow the same format. DO NOT repeat information already reported on the application form. Your name, address, and name of this scholarship program should be included on all attachments.

**Work Experience:** Describe your work experience (e.g. food server, babysitting, lawn mowing, and office work). Indicate dates of employment for each job and approximate number of hours worked each week.

Employer/Position	From-Mo/Yr	To-Mo/Yr	Hours per Week
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Goals And Aspirations:** On a separate piece of paper, write a brief statement or summary of your plans as they relate to your educational and career objectives and long-term goals and include it with this application.

High school seniors must include a transcript and complete this section. Students currently or previously entered in college or vocational-tech school must include college transcript of grades. Completion of ACT and/or SAT scores is not necessary.

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ ACT: English \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Comp \_\_\_\_\_ SAT I: Verbal \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of accredited school you plan to attend in the fall of the year:

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

4-yr College or University  2-yr Community or Junior College  Vocational-Technical School

What will your class status be in the fall of the year?  Freshman  Sophomore  Junior  Senior

Major course of study: \_\_\_\_\_ Minors: \_\_\_\_\_

**Essay Question (Required):** As part of the application, you are required to compose and submit an essay. The essay should be no more than one page, typed with a font size no smaller than 12 point, and double spaced on 8½ x 11 paper. Include your name on the top right-hand corner of the essay. Student Essay Topic: Describe how a cooperative can build a culture to best serve its members.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

continued from front

## Applicant Appraisal (Required)

To the Applicant: This section is required and must be completed in the format provided. If incomplete, your application will not be evaluated. The section is to be completed by a high school or college counselor or advisor, an instructor, or a work supervisor who knows you well.

To the Adult Appraiser: You have been asked to provide information in support of this application. Please give immediate and serious attention to the following statements. When complete, please return to applicant. If you prefer, photocopy this section and return to applicant in a sealed envelope. A letter of recommendation does not replace this section.

The applicant's choice of a post-secondary educational program is:	extremely appropriate	very appropriate	moderately appropriate	inappropriate
The applicant's achievements reflect his/her ability.	extremely well	very well	moderately well	not well
The applicant's ability to set realistic and attainable goals is:	excellent	good	fair	poor
The quality of the applicant's commitment to school and/or community is:	excellent	good	fair	poor
The applicant is able to seek, find, and use learning resources.	extremely well	very well	moderately well	not well
The applicant demonstrates curiosity and initiative.	extremely well	very well	moderately well	not well
The applicant demonstrates good problem-solving skills, follows through, and completes tasks.	extremely well	very well	moderately well	not well
The applicant's respect for self and others is:	excellent	good	fair	poor

Comments:

Appraiser's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Scholarship Submittal Requirements

The student is responsible for submitting all materials on time. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

- Complete this application (attach additional sheets if necessary). Your name and address should be on all attachments.
- Recent academic transcript, whether it be from a high school, college, university, or trade school.  
**Current College Freshman** – Judges will screen and require more than one semester or quarter of grades. If this applies to you, submit your high school transcript.
- Copy of your college entrance examination (ACT and/or SAT) scores. (Only college Freshman.)
- Essay.
- Applicant Appraisal.

Mail your complete application packet as directed below.

If you are a dependent child of a member cooperative consumer, or a child of a member cooperative employee, send this application and all supporting documentation to **Powder River Energy**. (Each member cooperative will be responsible for selecting finalists in these categories.)

Cooperative Applications must be sent to **Powder River Energy**.

**Deadline: January 31, 2020.**

All scholarship entries are confidential and will only be viewed by the Basin Electric Cooperative or Member Cooperative Selection Committees. Information such as schooling, achievements, and career plans may be used for publicity purposes.

**SUNDANCE – CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS**  
221 Main Street • P.O. Box 930 • Sundance, WY 82729  
(800) 442-3630 Phone • (307) 283-3527 Fax

**GILLETTE**  
200 S. Garner Lake Road • Gillette, WY 82718  
(800) 442-3630 Phone • (307) 682-0733 Fax

**SHERIDAN**  
1095 E. Brundage Lane • Sheridan, WY 82801  
(800) 442-3630 Phone • (307) 674-9018 Fax

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

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