

# POWERLines

April 2009

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## Call Before You Dig, It's the Law



There are a lot of important things buried in the ground in Wyoming - things people and businesses depend on like electric, telephone, and gas lines; water and sewer lines; pipelines carrying crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas; and TV cables. When you dig around buried facilities, you may damage them and, at a minimum, cause inconvenience to people and disruption of important services. Telephone, electric, and natural gas service can be interrupted; and it takes time and money to make emergency repairs. Worse than that, there is the human risk

that dig-in accidents can kill people or injure them. The key to solving the problem is knowing what is buried and where it is. The solution is One-Call, a program which helps those who dig by identifying and locating underground facilities such as utility pipes, lines, wires, cables, and other equipment.

One-Call is completely free. The calls are toll-free, and the locates are also free. They are too important not to be. Besides, they save so much in lives, property, and uninterrupted utility and other service that it is more than worth it to the owners of the facilities.

**One Call of Wyoming**  
**CALL 811 or 1-800-849-2476**  
**48 Hours Before You Dig!**

What could happen if I don't call in a location request? Plenty. State law requires you to contact the one-call service provider to request the location of underground facilities in the area of your excavation before you dig. If you don't call for a location and your excavation damages an

underground facility, under the Wyoming Underground Facilities Notification Act, you would "... be liable for all damages, including personal injury and property damages, caused by the excavation." You could also be fined up to \$5,000.

Contact One Call of Wyoming at 811 or 1-800-849-2476. Remember the time, the life, the property you save, may be yours!

## Co-op Membership = Rates Lower than the Industry Average

Being part of a cooperative means you are a member-owner. A cooperative is always working to keep rates down, even in fluctuating energy markets and in the face of legislative changes which could affect prices. A co-op is always looking out for it's members. Unlike investor-owned utilities, we don't answer to stakeholders, we answer to each individual and to our communities. Despite changes, we're still a great value and we continue to invest in our communities.

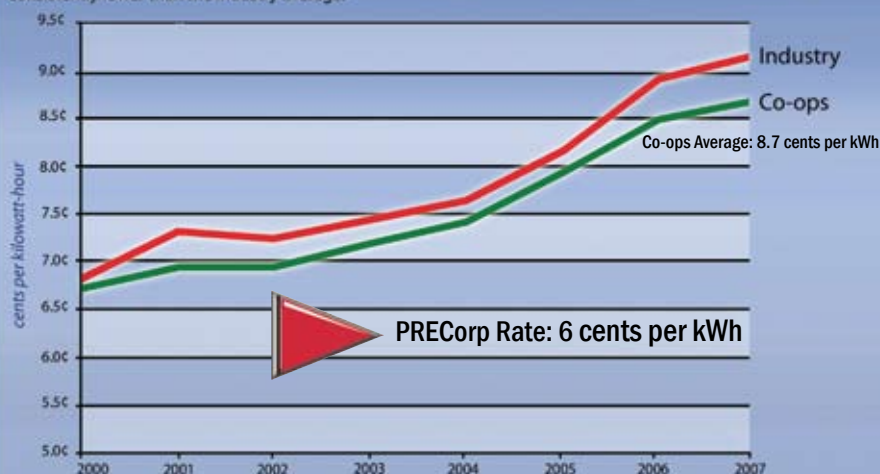


Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



### Co-op electric rates lower than industry average

Residential electric rates have steadily increased in recent years due to rising costs for fuel, construction materials, and labor. However, the average price for electricity paid by electric cooperative consumers has remained consistently lower than the industry average.



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

# What's On the Line? Flight Diverters for Avian Protection

PRECorp's avian protection program and other related activities are dedicated to preserving the natural wildlife and habitat of species of the West. In 2005 PRECorp was a pioneer in establishing a proactive approach to improving raptor safety on lines. In 2008 PRECorp instituted the Sage Grouse plan in order to be aware of natural habitat preservation.

Part of having a plan is making sure it's implemented and addresses any new situations. Recently, it came to the notice of PRECorp that flights of Canadian geese were migrating along transmission lines and were being impacted. PRECorp immediately ordered an environmental survey and received the recommendation to install "Flight Diverters" on the static wires of transmission lines and on distribution lines along the Kluver Road on the Northeast side of Gillette.

In conjunction with Pacificorp, an investor owned utility that also had lines in the area, a plan was created with each company responsible for their share of improvements. The process wasn't without complications.

Problems arose when engineers realized PRECorp's distribution lines extended over the playa (natural water collection area created by the glaciers long ago). The playa is a mecca for waterfowl and



shorebirds. Since water was standing several feet deep, lines couldn't be accessed. Line crews waited until the water froze, which allowed trucks to traverse the ice safely and install the flight diverters. Diverters work on a simple premise. They break up the long spans of conductor (visually) so that birds can see them and it forces them to fly above or below the lines (not on the same plane as the lines). PRECorp installed two different sizes. On the transmission lines, larger diverters called "Swan Flight Diverters" were installed. On the distribution lines, general "Bird Flight Diverters" were installed. Work on the lines was completed in early February.

Tracy Jones, Project Manager for PRECorp's Avian Protection Plan had this comment, "We've been asked from passer-bys what they are and why they have to be there. I simply tell them that we are each on this earth for a short period of time to use it. It is our responsibility as users of the land to make the least amount of an impact on our wildlife resources while we are here."

Tracy's attitude is a great example of the co-op philosophy. PRECorp believes with proper planning, observance and special design specifications, there can be a harmonious coexistence of power facilities, wildlife, and their habitat. So many people enjoy seeing the migration of the Canadian geese each year, it is our duty to make sure that pleasure remains.

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**Note: PRECorp has recently submitted a request to modify the Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Line Extension policy with the Wyoming Public Service Commission. For more details please contact the Wyoming Public Service Commission.**



**Slim Down Your Bill  
Zero Interest Conservation  
Loans Available  
Find Out More!**

## ***Energy Efficiency: Small Improvements Can Make a Big Difference***

By taking advantage of PRECorp's zero interest rate Conservation Loans, members can use the loan to purchase new windows, appliances, insulation, furnaces, and other energy efficient improvements to existing homes. To qualify, members must attend an energy efficiency seminar. The main seminar will be held in the Sundance PRECorp office with video conference seminars held in the Gillette and Sheridan offices. An RSVP is required to attend. Contact Betty Finn at 1-800-442-3630 or [bettyf@precorp.coop](mailto:bettyf@precorp.coop). The zero interest loan can be up to \$2,500. Small changes can make a big difference!

## **Save the Date:**

**Energy Audit Workshop for Contractors  
May 13th and 14th, 2009 Gillette**

PRECorp is offering a national Residential Energy Auditing workshop for area contractors at the PRECorp office in Gillette. **Jim Heritage, CEM, ICC Certified Mechanical Inspector, will be facilitating this 2 day workshop. Areas of concentration include energy auditing policies and procedures, electrical calculations and energy savings methodology. The overall objective of this training is to prepare attendees to perform walk-thru energy audits. The workshop is sponsored by PRECorp so there is no charge. For more information: Betty Finn 1-800-442-3630 [bettyf@precorp.coop](mailto:bettyf@precorp.coop)**

**Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Seminar  
April Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2009 Time: 5:30-6:30 pm  
[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)**