

## Director nominating process underway

The 2022 PRECorp Board of Directors election process is officially underway with the designation of the nominating committees for three PRECorp counties.

### The following are ways to get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition, signed by at least 25 PRECorp members, by June 17, 2022.

### Nominating committees for Campbell, Johnson and Weston counties are as follows:

#### Campbell County (Gerry Geis, incumbent):

- Jaime Tarver, phone: (307) 680-9715
- Troy Swartz, phone: (307) 689-5230

#### Johnson County (Jim Purdy, incumbent):

- Gordon Taylor, phone: (307) 684-9415
- Brad Coltrane, phone: (307) 620-5665

#### Weston County (Reuben Ritthaler, incumbent):

- Walt Christensen, phone: (307) 746-2421
- Everett Kraft, phone: (307) 680-2513

**NOTE:** PRECorp Board Director Reuben Ritthaler of Weston County has announced he is not seeking re-election in 2022.

Any PRECorp member from the aforementioned director districts can run for a three-year term on the Board,

providing the member meets the following qualifications:

- Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected.
- However, members taking service outside the counties of Campbell, Johnson, or Weston shall be deemed to be a member of and within the area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;
- Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
- May not be in any way employed by, or have a substantial financial interest in, a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation.

### Election process dates:

- Friday, May 27: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.
- Friday, June 17: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.
- Saturday, July 16: Publication of director candidates, notice of August 27 Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

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**MIKE EASLEY,**  
CEO

### Our Vision:

We will be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

### Our Purpose:

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.

### Our Moonshot:

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero by 2050.

Back in 1935, the Rural Electric Administration (REA) was formed to bring electricity to Rural America. It was an amazing endeavor at the time, and by today's standards, I wonder if our political system could rally behind such an effort. I have been working for cooperatives since June 1983 and over the course of my years, I worked with cooperative leaders who were some of the original people that were part of this amazing story.

The REA leveraged existing entities and systems to help begin cooperatives, and County Extension offices were used to help organize and support the fledgling cooperatives. The REA prepared drawings, specifications, standards, and almost everything needed to start and run a cooperative, except the manpower.

I had the pleasure of knowing Earl Christensen who served as one of the original directors of Tri-County Electric Association, the predecessor organization to PRECorp. Earl would tell the story about going to his neighbors to ask them to sign up to get power. Back then a member needed to put up \$5 to get power. Sometimes people did not have the \$5, and Earl chipped in the money for them. Earl, like many of the early cooperative pioneers, had a passion for helping his neighbors and serving the greater good.

When I look back at these early days, and the cooperative pioneers that blazed the trail for us, I feel inspiration and awe. Creating something out of nothing is never easy, especially when the result is a growing interconnected system of over 11,000 miles of powerline spread over 15,000 square miles of service territory providing power to over 27,000 meters. Today the PRECorp team is about 114 people strong with impressive expertise and credentials in many fields including power line work, engineering, operations, administration, information

technology, finance and accounting, facilities management, and more.

Over the years we have gained experience and expertise to keep the system running well as we focus on our purpose of positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability. Service quality and reliability are critical measures of our success. I hope we are meeting your expectations in these areas and that you reach out if we are not.

Another critical component for our success is our relationship with our members and the governance process we use to ensure our cooperative is member focused and democratically controlled. Cooperative members sometimes count on someone else to exercise the responsibilities and rights of cooperative membership. Back in the early days member involvement was critical to the success of the cooperative and, while the type of involvement has changed, it is no less important to the success of your cooperative.

This month's PRECorp News marks the start of the director election process with the formation of the nominating committee. Electing directors and attending the Annual Meeting are two very important functions in the cooperative that only members can do. These functions are no less important to the success of our cooperative than how we build, operate, and maintain our electrical infrastructure.




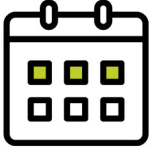



I encourage you to be active in the governance process of your cooperative. Finding candidates for the Board, electing them, and attending the annual meeting is not nearly as exciting as going door to door to build the cooperative membership like Earl did. However, it is a way you can contribute to the success of PRECorp as well as honor those who helped us get to where we are today.

*Mike*

# Events Calendar

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, and telephone town hall meetings and more.

- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 9 a.m., Gillette
- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Saturday, April 23** - PRECorp Foundation Apprentice Lineman Scholarship banquet/fundraiser, 5 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.
- **Tuesday, May 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Tuesday, May 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Monday, May 30** - Memorial Day Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Wednesday, June 1** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall, member invite call at 6:30 p.m., stream live on Facebook, or dial 888-886-6602
- **Saturday, June 4** - PRECorp Foundation Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5k/10k run. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.
- **Tuesday, June 21** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Saturday, August 27** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. Go to [www.precorp.coop/annual-meeting](http://www.precorp.coop/annual-meeting) for more information.
- **Friday, September 16** - PRECorp Foundation Golf Scramble, Golf Club at Devils Tower, Hulett. Go to [www.precorpfoundation.org](http://www.precorpfoundation.org) for more information.

 <p><b>STARTING A NEW PROJECT?</b></p> <p>Here are 5 steps for safe digging.</p>	<p><b>1 NOTIFY</b></p>  <p>Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before you plan to start your project.</p> 
<p><b>2 WAIT</b></p>  <p>Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will mark underground lines.</p>	<p><b>3 CONFIRM</b></p>  <p>Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.</p>
<p><b>4 RESPECT</b></p>  <p>Respect the markers and use them as a guide for the duration your project.</p>	<p><b>5 DIG CAREFULLY</b></p>  <p>If you can't avoid digging near the provided markers, consider moving your project.</p>

# PRECorp updates Avian Protection Program

Powder River Energy Corporation is updating its migratory and predatory bird protection program in 2022.

PRECorp's electrical distribution system features thousands of miles of overhead power lines and power poles spread across northeast Wyoming. The poles and their adjoining cross-arms, switches, and insulators offer an inviting perch or nesting area for many species of birds. Lines can also pose collision hazards for some birds in flight.

The Avian Protection Plan (APP) has been a part of PRECorp's operating procedures since 2005. PRECorp has updated the plan multiple times to ensure it aligns with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department guidelines, as well as changes to PRECorp's power delivery technology and systems.

Over the past 17 years, PRECorp has undertaken specific measures to reduce bird injury and deaths, as well as associated power outages. Incidents in 2021 covered primarily three counties in PRECorp's service territory, with the majority in Campbell

County. In 2021 there were a total of 28 bird mortalities tied to the PRECorp system, well below the 17-year average of 49.

Unfortunately for 2021, the incidents resulted in longer-than-normal power outages. Despite the drop in incidents, the outage minutes nearly tripled in 2021. The most impactful incident knocked

out 1,100 meters for 30 minutes, while another incident put 155 members

out of power for nearly 5 hours. The top two outages were nest fires, with no bird mortalities at all. Instead, the empty nests touched energized equipment starting the nest on fire, destroying the nest and the power equipment on the pole.

Installation of protective covers, and increasing the distances between transformers, lines, and other energized device areas has helped the cooperative bring down bird mortalities and outage minutes by as much as 80%. Although PRECorp goes to great lengths to avoid occasions of bird deaths, electrocutions still occur. The majority of incidents involve owls and non-

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## Some species you might see

The following is a list of bird species in northeast Wyoming that PRECorp works to protect from power delivery infrastructure:

### **Predatory birds:**

Bald Eagle  
Golden Eagle  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Ferruginous Hawk  
Rough-legged Hawk  
Swainson's Hawk

Barn Owl  
Great Horned Owl  
Red Tailed Hawk  
Peregrine Falcon  
Prairie Falcon  
Northern Harrier  
Cooper's Hawk  
American Kestrel

### **Migratory birds:**

Common Raven  
American Crow  
Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Sandhill Crane

# PRECorp vehicles up for sale on eBay May 20-30

Retired PRECorp surplus vehicles will be up for auction on eBay on May 20, 2022.

Beginning at 7 p.m., one unit will be listed every 15 minutes until all units are listed. This will allow for one closing every 15 minutes beginning at 7 p.m. on May 30, 2022, in the event an individual is bidding on more than one unit.

**The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 20 through May 30:**

- Unit 4024: 2014 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab
- Unit 4034: 2015 Ford F-250 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab, cab and chassis only
- Unit 4046: 2014 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab
- Unit 4064: 2015 Ford F-250 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab, cab and chassis only
- Unit 4071: 2016 Ford F-350 SuperdutyXL; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab

These vehicles were used for field service work. They have been regularly serviced and records are available. The truck was actively working in the field until the day it was retired from the fleet. All decals will be removed prior to sale, and trucks will be cleaned.

All units can be viewed at PRECorp Fleet office in Gillette if desired.

## How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. Starting May 20, go to [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: *vehiclesinwyoming*
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"
7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will appear on the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.



Unit 4024: 2014 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab



Unit 4034: 2015 Ford F-250 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab, cab and chassis only



Unit 4046: 2014 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab



Unit 4064: 2015 Ford F-250 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab, cab and chassis only



Unit 4071: 2016 Ford F-350 SuperdutyXL; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab

## Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 20, please obtain more information via e-mail at [fleet@precorp.coop](mailto:fleet@precorp.coop). This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles. Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of the sale.

# May is Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. But at PRECorp, safety is a daily emphasis, throughout our system, all year long - at work and at home.

Because we are looking out for the best interests of our members, we raise awareness about safety and ways to avoid accidents, keep our employees safe, and provide reliable service for our members.

Although you don't see the actual electricity flowing through the line, you would certainly feel it if you had an encounter with electricity. Touching lines or equipment with high voltages can not only cause injury, it can take a life.

However, safety concerns stretch beyond the immediate tasks of climbing poles and restoring power. We must consider safety in all aspects of our day.

People have accidentally driven vehicles and large equipment into power poles. Sometimes drivers underestimate the height of their vehicle and become tangled in power lines. Diggers sometimes discover too late they have hit power cables buried underground.

## In the home

Because of the higher loads of the newer electric devices, demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.

### Some tips:

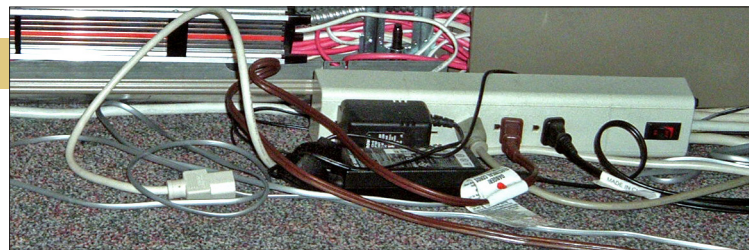
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard. Heat can also be trapped and cause a fire.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes. This equipment has a limited life expectancy.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- Keep all liquids away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Check refrigerator coils quarterly to eliminate dirt buildup. This can increase efficiency and remove fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink. GFCI outlets are required in kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoors.
- All appliance cords should be placed away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.

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Animals and even tiny insects are also in the picture. These creatures find ideal hangouts on our power lines, cross arms, insulators, and other attachments. Bugs hide in the tight spaces in the guards and insulators, and birds daringly try to root them out. The resulting electrocutions of the predators can knock out power or cause a fire.

Vines, trees, and bushes tend to grow quickly into our lines. Keeping vegetation trimmed and away from the poles, power lines, and other electrical equipment takes regular maintenance. Fires can start when lightning hits a pole, or wind slaps power lines together. It doesn't take much of a spark on dry grass or timber for high winds to push a fire several miles across open Wyoming countryside.

Are there some hazards around power services to your residence, ranch, or business that could result in a tragedy? If you notice potential hazards involving PRECorp facilities, call 1-800-442-3630, to report the facility location and nature of the problem.



# Electrical Safety Month...

from page 6.

## Outdoor hazards

Here are a few things to keep in mind regarding hazards on your property:

- Do not attach anything to a power pole. Nails, tacks, staples, wires, satellite dishes, deer stands, basketball hoops, signs, and other items create immediate hazards for you and our crews if they need to respond to an outage.
- Be aware of clearances with your vehicles, equipment, or roof work. Look up. Look all around you to make sure you are at least 15-feet from a pole or overhead line. A few seconds to look can save you the aggravation of an accident or power outage.
- Do not plant, build, pile or stack anything beneath a power line.
- Look up. Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders that touch power lines - even ladders made of wood - can shock or electrocute people touching them.
- Call 811 or 1-800-849-2476 (One Call of Wyoming) at least two business days before you dig. Make sure locates are completed. Large construction projects that dig deep into the ground are commonly thought of as the occasions when underground line locates are necessary. Because of landscaping or erosion, lines could be close enough to the surface that you could hit them with that first plunge of the shovel. The service is free in some cases. Repairs are not.
- Heed the warning signs posted on PRECorp electrical facilities.
- Check for weather damage around your home, ranch, or business.
- If you encounter a damaged power pole or line, always assume it is energized. Do not touch or try to move downed power lines. Stay in your vehicle if you hit a power pole or power line. If you must get out of the vehicle, keep both feet together and jump clear. Do not step onto the ground while touching your vehicle.
- If you happen upon an accident involving a pad-mount transformer (that green box), power pole, or line, call 911 immediately. Do not approach the scene because electricity from energized lines can kill you, even if you are 10 yards away.



## And remember fire safety:

- The top and the area above the cooking range should be free of combustibles, such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns. Range hood filters also need to be replaced regularly.
- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Batteries - even in the hard-wired models - should be replaced every six months, and remember smoke alarms have a limited life expectancy.
- Consider installing a carbon monoxide detector.
- Clean your dryer filter with each use, and check the dryer vent periodically for lint buildup. It can be a fire hazard.
- Talk to your family - including small children - on planning an emergency escape route - they are more likely to remember a plan they help create.



PRECORP linemen remove a tightly-packed Osprey nest from a pole near Hulett in 2021. This nest was relocated to a safer location on a platform several yards away.

PRECORP photo

## Avian protection program...

from page 4.

raptor birds. Some eagles and hawks have wingspans that stretch over six feet, putting them in danger of electrocution by touching energized lines. About one-third of the incidents involve hawks or eagles.

Although PRECORP employees have the greatest probability of noticing bird threats, PRECORP members, wildlife officials, and partner agencies also play a large role in reporting general hazards.

People who discover a bird carcass, injured bird(s) perching atop PRECORP power lines, should call 1-800-442-3630. Please do your best to have a location and any identifying numbers attached to a nearby pole. Callers will also be asked for their contact information and any photos of the scene would also assist in the response.

Reporting is the most important part of the APP. The quicker PRECORP is notified, the quicker the cooperative and its partner agencies can respond and assess the situation. This reduces mortalities, and lessens the chances for outages and potential fires.

PRECORP partners with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Wyoming Game & Fish Department (WGFD) and other involved agencies to investigate certain bird mortalities. Some of our investigations are very lengthy and detailed to determine what the bird

was trying to do at the time of the incident, to recreate where and how the contact was made, and to learn how to better protect from future incidents happening.

Data is logged, mitigation devices are often installed, and a record is kept regarding the incidents. The data helps in determining the cause of the incidents that assists in driving improvements to the overall APP. All new construction is designed with adequate spacing to reduce the chances of incidents occurring.

In 2022, PRECORP will continue to retrofit existing structures to reduce overall impact to wildlife in conjunction with its system maintenance plan. Specially designed structures may also be installed near prior incident sites where they are needed as a follow-up to special mortality cases. These structures can include nesting platforms located near problem poles. Under USFWS and WGFD guidance, PRECORP has successfully moved many nests to safe platforms since 2005.

Other work in 2022 includes updating the written APP to ensure it reflects all of the work that PRECORP is doing in this area.

Anyone with questions or comments regarding PRECORP's Avian Protection Program should call 1-800-442-3630 or email [raptors@precorp.coop](mailto:raptors@precorp.coop).



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.