



# PRECorp News

AUGUST 2024

## Basin Electric announces 2025 rate increase

PRECorp's wholesale power supplier Basin Electric will implement an increase in the cost of the power it sells to PRECorp beginning in 2025. As of press time the estimated increase is between 9% and 10%. However, the impact on individual members' bills is still being evaluated.

The increase is tied to Basin's long-term efforts to increase its electric generation and distribution resources amid rising demand for power in the central and western United States.

"Basin is responding to pressure to meet demand for power from growing industrial and residential areas in its service territory," said PRECorp CEO Brian Mills. "Pair that with regulatory pressure to close down its coal generation fleet, Basin is working proactively to add alternative generation and distribution systems so they do not have to purchase power on a competitive open market."

Mills said the long-term benefits to Basin's members are rate stability as the wholesale power supplier works to control its own generation and pricing structure. Basin's generation mix includes coal, natural gas, wind, and solar. While coal generation has remained relatively stable, the demand for more electricity from industrial members and data computing centers has increased dramatically since the beginning of this decade.

Basin, an electric generation and transmission cooperative, is not owned by shareholders. Instead, Basin's member cooperatives hold a financial stake in the company and,

therefore, invest through rates and, over time, receive capital credit returns or dividends on those investments.

"The cooperative model of capital credits and the financial strategy of deferred revenue has enabled Basin and PRECorp to lessen the impact of this rate increase," said PRECorp Chief Financial and Administration Officer Bill Mertz.

"We were able to save up these dollars from previous years and leverage them to ensure this increase has less of an impact in 2025. Those funds bought us some time so that members can prepare for the increase to hit their bills later in the year when usage is lower."

"We understand any increase impacts every member whether they have high power usage or not. The last rate increases were in 2016 and 2020. This is a time for members to consider PRECorp's variety of programs to help control usage and costs," Mills said.

PRECorp offers Budget Billing, Heat Rates, Energy Audits, prepaid metering, and other arrangements to help members navigate their individual needs.

Members with specific questions about the impact on their monthly cost, can call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630. The [www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop) website has Rate Increase resources such as rate calculators and a deeper dive into the Basin Rate Increase.

PRECorp CEO Brian Mills will also answer questions during a live telephone town hall meeting on **Wednesday, November 13, at 6:30 p.m.**



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**BRIAN MILLS,**  
CEO

As you are reading the WREN this month, summer is winding down giving way to the school-time events that are starting to inundate our calendars. In one sense there is some “where did the summer go”, but in another sense the cadence of school schedule and activities provides a rhythm to which we have grown accustomed. Whether they are your own kids, your grand-kids, your brother’s or sister’s kids, your neighbor’s kids...more than likely “kids” and their activities are a strong influence on your life’s schedule.

I have had the chance to spend time working with the line crews over the past few months, and a common theme that comes up in conversation is kids. When I rode with Ivan back from the job, he spoke about how much he enjoyed taking his little ones hunting. Levi from another crew as he navigated his first kid graduating and getting started while Mike was working his last kid through college. Rob and Ty both spend their “free time” working on their house property to give the kids some room to run. And Katlin shared about a coyote hunt with his son. It was so apparent to me, the pride these men had for their kids and the limitless amount of effort they would give for them. Just like you and me, I bet.

In a previous column, I had posited the question of “what is your why” and challenged us to keep that “why” in mind as we go about the activities of our busy day. Turns out that when you are performing your job - whether it be lineman work, farming, ranching, driving, pumping, drilling, mining, teaching, homemaking, or just “odds and ends” around the house - keeping your “why” in mind leads to purpose and ultimately a safer decision when those moments-of-choice occur.

When I drove away from those crew visits, after I heard them share with me about their kids, I had no doubt those

men take working safely personally. Our kids captivate our busy schedules and ultimately give us our “why.” As one lineman reflected, “I wouldn’t change a thing. I love watching and being with my kids.”

Those kids really do strongly influence not only our life schedules but our life choices. By life choices I mean those small fraction-of-a-second moments when we choose the safer way to do something versus maybe a short cut. Choosing safety comes from who you want to watch on Friday night, or pick up from school later today, or run down to college to see, or spend next weekend with. Those kids.

In the next couple of weeks, I hope to be able to connect with you one way or another. We have our telephone town hall meeting on Wednesday, August 21. We will be dialing out at 6:30 p.m. that evening, and I would encourage you to jump on and listen, especially if you have never done so before. I think you will find our short 30 minutes informative.

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***Choosing safety comes from who you want to watch on Friday night, or pick up from school later today, or run down to college to see, or spend next weekend with. Those kids.***

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Then on Saturday, August 24, we will be hosting our 79<sup>th</sup> annual member meeting in Upton. There is a full schedule of free activities planned, including wellness screenings, safety information, and prizes. Again, I would encourage you to come and participate in your coop.

In last month’s column, I shared about the forthcoming rate increase that we will all be seeing as our power

supplier, Basin Electric and Members 1<sup>st</sup> Power adjust rates to meet member requirements. While I do not yet have more detailed information as I write this, we do know that it will be a noticeable change in our power cost starting sometime the first part of next year.

By the time we meet at the annual meeting in late August, I hope to have the specifics and will continue to proactively communicate the change. As a member, getting the “heads-up” on something like this as soon as possible is helpful. As a manager, my desire is to give you the specifics as soon as possible so we can all plan accordingly, heading into next year. I look forward to connecting with you.

# Events Calendar

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

- **Saturday, August 24** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Upton Elementary-Middle School.
- **Tuesday, August 27** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 a.m., Gillette.
- **Monday, September 2** - Labor Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Monday, September 9** - PRECorp Foundation Golf Scramble, Devils Tower Golf Club
- **Tuesday, September 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan.
- **Tuesday, September 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 a.m., teleconference.
- **Tuesday, October 15 (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance.
- **Tuesday, October 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board of Directors meeting, 9:00 a.m., Gillette.
- **Monday, November 11** - Veterans Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Wednesday, November 13** - Telephone Town Hall meeting with CEO Brian Mills, 6:30 p.m.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 28-29** - Thanksgiving Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25** - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.
- **Wednesday, January 1, 2025** - New Year's Day Holiday, PRECorp **OFFICES CLOSED**. Call 888-391-6220 to report an outage.

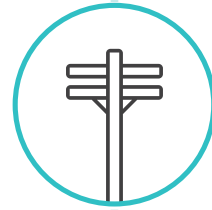
## 4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



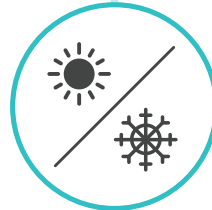
### 1 Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



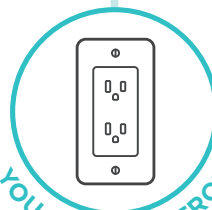
### 2 Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



### 3 Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



YOU HAVE CONTROL

### 4 Energy Consumption

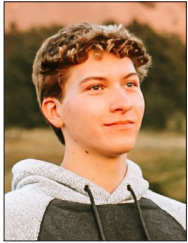
This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

# CONGRATULATIONS

*To the 2024 Powder River Energy scholarship winners.*

The PRECorp Scholarship programs awarded more than \$50,000 to college and post-secondary students of members in Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan, and Weston counties, with dollars from unclaimed Capital Credits, memorials, and funds raised through charitable events. The Powder River Energy Foundation Board of Directors reviews the applications and awards the scholarships.

Apprentice Lineman Scholarship, Basin Scholarship, and Rising Opportunity Student Scholarship awardees are also noted.



Branson Bankenbush  
Sundance



Koltan Cunningham  
Gillette



Stephanie Gray  
Gillette



Hayes Haiar  
Beulah



McKinly Hepp  
Clearmont



Rylee Hudson  
Gillette



Ahnya Ivie-Moody  
Hulett



Casey LeDoux  
Kaycee



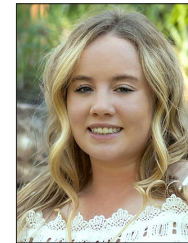
Jerome Lipp  
Newcastle



Sophie Louderback  
Upton



Anika Main  
Belle Fourche



Brooklyn Materi  
Upton



Abigail Palus  
Hulett



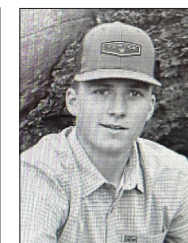
Risa Pilon  
Gillette



Payton Redden  
Buffalo



Emma Talbott  
Gillette



Pate Tavegie  
Newcastle



Cora Turner  
Buffalo

## Other recipients not pictured:

Lane Boden, Buffalo

### R.O.S.S.

Kaylee Anderson, Upton; Shayne Howe,  
Gillette; Sophie Louderback, Upton;  
Dayanara Sanchez Moreno, Gillette

### Basin Scholarship:

Ryder Downey, Sundance

### Lineman Scholarship:

Kaden Hohnholt, Gillette



**Lineman  
Scholarship:**  
Cohen Granzer  
Gillette



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