

PRECorp News

MARCH 2018

We want to help you efficiently manage your energy usage

By Tim Velder, PRECorp Marketing Communications

Energy efficiency does not have to mean wearing mittens in the kitchen or enduring cold showers in January. Many energy efficiency measures can empower PRECorp's residential and commercial member-owners to remain comfortable and productive, by changing the time of use or maximizing the benefits of electricity.

Oftentimes members will request help in understanding why their power bill changes drastically from month to month. They rightly call PRECorp's member service number at 1-800-442-3630 and start asking questions.

Did you know you can request a home or business energy audit? PRECorp can facilitate an audit at

no charge to the member. The audit team conducts an onsite walk-through of your business, home, or other buildings to learn more about critical operations and identify reasons for high energy usage or places where conditioned air is escaping a building.

One of the visual tools is thermal imaging devices that can show the amount of heat being lost through leaky windows, doors, or roofs. These imaging devices work best during temperature extremes when your house is heated, and it is cold outside.

During the walk-through, the auditor gives special attention to electrical systems such as lighting, water

heaters, furnaces, air conditioning, heat pumps, and motors. The audit also encompasses insulation, weather seals, and analysis of usage.

One example for a commercial member that closes its doors on weekends, might show usage for heating remains the same even when closed. The auditor will offer some solutions of how the business can turn down the heating/air conditioning systems when the doors are closed.

Lighting systems are rapidly changing technology. Affordable LED lights and fixtures are available at most home improvement and hardware stores. Research shows a PRECorp member could reduce power usage with an LED conversion to

Continued on page 5.

In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

Save \$\$\$ with efficiency

Call Before You Dig

Apprentice Lineman fundraiser information

Member

M1.
Help me realize the greatest value for every kWh purchased.

M2.
Anticipate my needs as an owner and provide me with great service.

M3.
Be my trusted and reliable resource for all my energy questions and cheerfully support my energy decisions.

M4.
Be a good corporate citizen and lead by example.

Financial

F1.
Maintain just and reasonable rates that are fair and equitable.

F2.
Ensure predictability and stability in rates.

F3.
Control expenses and provide a fair return on equity for everyone.



MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

In last month's CEO Straight Talk article, I introduced you to our 2018 Strategy Map by describing PRECorp's Mission, Vision, and our exciting Moonshot. The PRECorp Moonshot is a long-term, aspirational goal which we hope will become a major part of the way we think about our business and how we make decisions. The PRECorp Purpose is the reason for our existence, drawing from our legacy of improving the quality of life for those we serve. The PRECorp Vision provides us guidance and speaks to how we go about fulfilling our Purpose.

This month I wanted to talk about two important categories, or perspectives, of outcomes that we hope to realize as we fulfill our Purpose, while being guided by our Mission: "Member" and "Financial". (Shown above.) Within each of these perspectives are four member-related outcomes and three financial related outcomes which we have identified as being the most important to you, our member-owners.

The four outcomes in the Member perspective are: **M1:** Help me realize the greatest value for every KWH purchased; **M2:** Anticipate my needs as an owner and provide me with great service; **M3:** Be my trusted and reliable resource for all my energy questions and cheerfully support my energy decision; and, **M4:** Be a good corporate citizen and lead by example. Our goal is to align our actions and priorities to deliver these results to you so that you will have a truly cooperative member experience.

In addition to the four outcomes in the Member perspective, there are three outcomes that we are striving for in the Financial perspective. These are: **F1:** Maintain just and reasonable rates that are fair and equitable; **F2:** Ensure predictability and stability in rates; and, **F3:** Control expenses and provide a fair return on investment (equity) for everyone. As we go about the business of running PRECorp and keeping your lights on, we will be measuring our success

by how well we deliver on the outcomes in this Financial Perspective, ultimately demonstrating stewardship and financial strength.

If you take a look at each of these perspectives, it is easy to see that we are looking for great financial outcomes as well as member satisfaction. We understand that you value both quality in how we serve you as well as the costs and financial benefits you experience as a member-owner of PRECorp.

Our focus is on service quality and financial outcomes and how we balance these two are major undertakings of the PRECorp Team. Keeping these two areas in balance is at the heart of the cooperative experience and is the focus of our strategy.

We continue to face many challenges as our largest commercial and industrial members continue to face hardships relating to declining markets and increasing costs. Over the years we have designed rates so that there are virtually no subsidies between classes. This has created a level of financial stability for PRECorp. That does not mean that we all would not feel some impact if a segment of our member base ceased operations. All our members still share in bearing the costs of common facilities and certain fixed costs, and the loss of a segment of our membership will shift costs to the remaining members. Our strategy has been to move our rates to cost of service, and this strategy is important to help us manage the challenges we continue to face.

Organizations must focus on both Strategy and Operations simultaneously - operations preserves value, and strategy creates new value. It is important that we maintain our focus on operations while at the same time leveraging strategy to create new value for you, our member-owners.

Next month I will continue to explain our new Strategy Map and the value that it will bring to you now and in the future.

Mike

Follow One-Call safety procedures when digging

In 2017, there were 57 incidents when people accidentally caused power outages when hitting PRE-Corp lines. Some of these outages happened when digging equipment hit underground power lines.

Last year's public-caused outage numbers are the lowest since 2013, but 57 incidents are still too many. The well-being of the people who hit underground lines is our top concern. Most people do the right thing. They call 811 for One Call of Wyoming, even when planting a tree. Line locators go to the property under construction and locate any underground utilities ranging from water and gas lines to electric and telephone. This is a way to ensure the diggers are safe from hitting and damaging lines buried underground.

Be sure to have locates done on any underground lines between the meter base and the structure. When meters are pole-mounted, there is likely an underground power line leading to the house or other structures. Many times the depths of the lines change with landscaping or site work, which can surprise those who are digging. Be careful at all times.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Notice of Bylaw Amendment

Members are hereby notified that the Powder River Energy Board of Directors will consider amendments to the PRECorp Bylaws at its regular meeting on **Tuesday, April 17**, in Sundance.

A change is proposed to **Article III, Section 3**, expanding the official Annual Meeting notice from 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting to 35 days.

A change is also proposed to **Article IV, Section 4**, regarding deadlines for the following:

- Appointment of nominating committees (change from 90 days to 120 days prior to the Annual Meeting);
- Director nominations (change from 60 days to 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting); and,
- Nomination by petition (change from 40 days to 50 business days prior to the annual Meeting).

Events calendar

The PRECorp Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at rotating locations in Sundance, Gillette, and Sheridan. Meetings might be moved to avoid conflicts with state or national cooperative events. The tentative dates for 2018 are as follows:

March 19-20 - Sheridan

April 17 - Sundance

May 22 - Gillette

June 18-19 - Sheridan

July 17 - Sundance

August 21 - Gillette

September 17-18 - Sheridan

October 16 - Sundance

November 20 - Gillette

December 17-18- Sheridan

Other events to remember:

- **Friday, March 30:** Application deadline for *PRECorp Scholarship* and *Swanda Scholarship*. Swanda Scholarship applicants must be Crook County high school seniors entering ag-related studies in post-secondary schools.
- **Saturday, April 28:** Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, 5:30 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall. (See Page 7 for details.)
- **Wednesday, May 16:** Telephone town hall, 6:30 p.m., call 1-844-881-1317.
- **Saturday, June 2:** Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5K/10K Walk/Run.
- **Wednesday, August 22:** Telephone town hall, 6:30 p.m., call 1-844-881-1317.
- **Saturday, August 25:** PRECorp 73rd Annual Membership Meeting, Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall and Heritage Center Theater.

Thank a Lineman on April 9

With Spring tantalizingly close, it brings with it the stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While PRECorp strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. While most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes or businesses, PRECorp linemen spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worse.

Our crews often must work on overhead lines 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., linemen must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe,

PRECorp System Operations personnel wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also

adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

Line crews use computer equipment to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our communities, PRECorp linemen are responsible for monitoring 16,000 miles of line across five rugged counties, in order to bring power to your home and our member-owners, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

Being a lineman is at its essence an inherently dangerous profession, requiring work near high voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at all times of the day or night. During blizzards, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see a lineman, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

**WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT,
IT'S THEIR TIME TO SHINE.
On Lineman Appreciation Day
April 9, #ThankALineman**



Energy usage...

from page 1.

replace older incandescent, fluorescent, or halogen systems. These savings are based on the longevity of the LED bulbs and their ability to put out sufficient light with lower wattage.

Other options

If the audit or your own personal research reveals certain energy efficiency purchases will make a difference in your usage, PRECorp has a program available to assist with up-front costs. It is called H.E.L.P. (Home Efficiency Loan Program). This program offers zero-interest loans of up to \$2,500 for members – commercial or residential – to lower energy use. Some areas where loans may be applied include:

- Weatherization;
- Lighting;
- Increasing insulation;
- Purchase of an energy-efficient HVAC system (heat pump, geothermal heating, off-peak heating, electrical thermal storage);

- Replacing old appliances with new Energy Star® appliances;
- Replacing older windows with energy-efficient windows;
- Installation of renewable power systems (solar, wind, hydro generators).

Residential Heat Rate

The Residential Heat Rate is a program that separates the power used for heating from the rest of the home’s usage.

By measuring electric heat only, PRECorp incorporates the cheaper rate into the monthly bills from October through April. Members with all-electric homes can see up to \$100 savings per month.

There is special metering equipment an electrician must install, which has an up-front cost to the member. However, that cost is most likely to return in the form of electric bill savings in less than a year.



Save the Date!

**The 73rd
PRECorp Annual
Meeting will be
held Saturday,
August 25, 2018
at the Gillette
Cam-Plex Energy
Hall/Heritage
Center Theater.**

Be aware of scams

Scammers will try just about anything to trick PRE-Corp members into handing over money or personal financial information. Be aware that many scam calls will have the deceptive caller ID of Powder River Energy and the voice on the line will claim to represent PRECorp.

They could threaten to shut off power unless a payment is made over the phone. Others could ask you wire money from a local store. Some of the scammers will be very pleasant on the phone, while others might be quite rude.

Do not engage the scammer on the phone. Just hang up and give PRECorp a call.

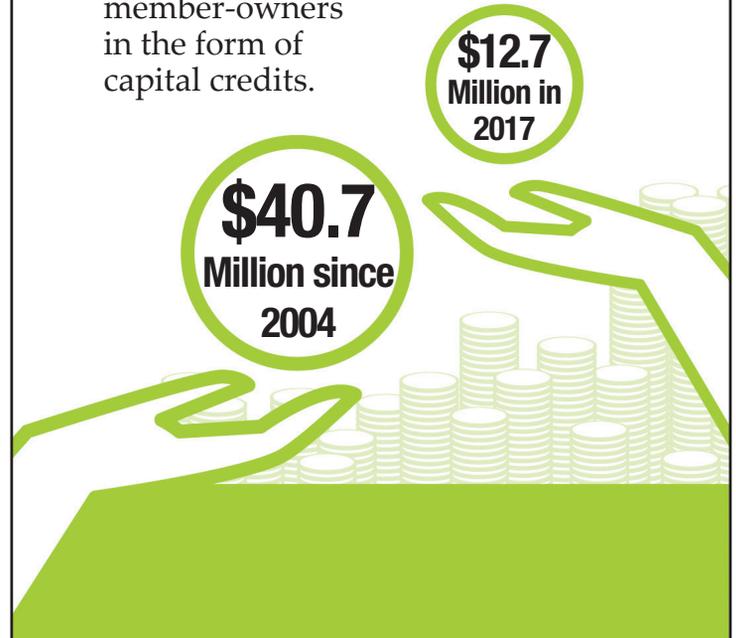
Businesses are often targeted. The crooks try to take advantage of short staffs or the boss being away to pull off the scam. Notify your employees about the threat of scam calls on evenings, holidays, or weekends.

Remember, the only number you can trust to ensure secure account and billing management is 1-800-442-3630. If you receive a call saying your bill is unpaid or past due, call our toll free number.

Did You Know?

Powder River Energy has retired \$40.7 million to member-owners since 2004 - \$12.7 million in 2017 alone.

Because electric cooperatives operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to member-owners in the form of capital credits.



I signed up for Operation RoundUp® and I won a bundle! [of meat]

Just in time for grilling season, Powder River Energy is offering Operation RoundUp® members and new enrollees a chance at a free bundle of bison, beef, and pork, just because you are part of the monthly charitable contribution network to the Powder River Energy Foundation.

If you are currently enrolled in Operation RoundUp® or you sign up before March 30, 2018, you will be entered in a drawing for a bundle of bison, plus 4-H beef and pork totaling 25 pounds!

The drawing will be held Monday, April 2.

If you are not a member of Operation RoundUp®, **SIGN UP NOW** by checking the box on your bill, or by calling PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.



4th Annual

2018 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28 - 5 P.M.
GILLETTE CAM-PLEX ENERGY HALL**

5 p.m. - Social hour, no-host bar

6 p.m. - Dinner

Auction - Following dinner, there will be raffles and auction opportunities for many guns and other prizes.

EVENT TICKETS:

\$50 per person

Call Mike Pommarane at

307-680-3149

or Alyssa Himle at

307-257-9693

Buy a banquet ticket and get a chance to win a commemorative rifle!



LINEMEN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Why donate?

Help us maintain a scholarship fund for future generations. Help us provide funds for scholarships for locally-grown apprentices who live, work, and contribute to our northeast Wyoming communities.

Keep our best and brightest in our communities where they can be active citizens and leaders. Train quality and hard-working linemen that provide safe and affordable electricity to rural northeast Wyoming.

This program is an employee-based initiative that supports the cooperative's mission and vision of being an employer of choice throughout the region and enhance service to our member/owners.

The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.

SPECIAL DRAWING!

Special limited-entry drawing for a Street Legal

2018 Polaris Ranger 900 Side-By-Side.

\$100 per ticket with only 200 tickets sold!

For tickets call Mike Pommarane at 307-680-3149.



Street Legal!

Reliable and smooth, yet powerful enough to get the job done. From the fun and adventure enthusiasts at Peak Powersports of Sheridan.

Drawing will take place April 28, 2018, if 150 tickets are sold. The drawing will be held later once 150 tickets are sold. Need not be present to win.



PRECorp to put surplus vehicles up for sale on eBay May 18

Retired PRECorp vehicles are on the auction block in special surplus equipment auctions on eBay May 18-28. The online bidding starts at 8 p.m. MST on May 18, and closes at 8 p.m. MST on May 28.

The items below will be listed in the vehicle auction May 18-28:

(All decals will be removed prior to sale, trucks will be cleaned.)

- 2010 Ford F150 crew cab with short box
- 2006 Buick Lucerne
- 2001 Chevy Suburban
- 2003 Ford Explorer
- 2008 Buick Lucerne
- 2009 Ford F250 extended cab with long box
- 2009 Ford F350 cab and chassis
- 4 – 2010 – 550 Artic Cat Four Wheelers

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on May 18, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precorp.coop. This is are 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 sale.

How to access the PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. On May 18, Go to 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.



2003 Ford Explorer



2008 Buick Lucerne



2010 Ford F150 crew cab with short box



2009 Ford F250 extended cab with long box



2006 Buick Lucerne



2009 Ford F350 cab and chassis



2001 Chevy Suburban



2010 550 Artic Cat Four Wheeler (4 offered)