



# PRECorp News

MAY 2024

## Prepaid service could be an option for some members

PRECorp offers its residential members the option to prepay for their electric service through a program called PREPay Meter Service, or PREPay, for short.

PREPay is designed as a 'pay-as-you-go' service offering for those members who want greater control over their electric usage and costs. At its simplest, members prepay for their electric service by establishing a credit balance on their PREPay account.

As that credit balance gets low, the member will receive email or text notifications to make additional payments, and avoid suspension of their electric service. No deposit is required at sign-up and there is no reconnect fee to restore power. See the cost comparison chart at the right.

For more information go to <https://precorp.coop/prepay-program> or call PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.



## What's the Difference?

	Billed Monthly	PREPay MyWay!
Rate	Same	Same
Deposit Required	Depends on Credit Screen	No
Minimum Deposit (If Required)	\$350	\$0
Minimum Initial Prepayment Balance	\$0	\$50
Late Payment Charge	1.5% of the overdue amount	\$0
Disconnection/Collection Charge	\$75	\$0
After-Hours Reconnection Fee	\$150	\$0

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 • Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220  
[www.precorp.coop](http://www.precorp.coop)

## In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

Line inspections near your property

Operation RoundUp®

Idle line retention process



**BRIAN MILLS,**  
CEO

We are almost at the mid-point of the year with summer-time activities revving up. I bet for many of you, your work and play activity will be predominantly outdoors.

Like you, we try to make the most of these months completing construction and maintenance on the system. In any case, as we all make this seasonal transition, I want to encourage you to think about working and playing safely. For me, I have growing kids

and as they get older, they want to do different activities around the place. I do not assume they know or remember from last year what they are doing. (They just know what they want to do.) It is up to me to take a little extra time at the start to show, train, (or retrain them in some cases) to make sure they operate or do the activity safely.

As we have shared in past articles, we (The PRECorp Team) try to keep our “Why” in perspective when we go about our day. It helps us maintain a safer working environment, not taking shortcuts, and doing the extra step or little things to ensure we all go home to our families at the end of each day.

**Grants!** (I write with a big long sigh.) It seems there is a lot of buzz these days about grant funding that is available... for just about anything it seems. And while we all know that “free money” is not free, the idea of being able to offset costs is compelling. Another line you hear when discussing grant dollars is, “There is always a catch.” Again, another perspective that proves true more times than not. I can tell you, as we manage the coop on your behalf, any efforts we can do to control costs, that ultimately drive rate savings back to you, feels pretty good when we make it happen.

In setting the idea of grants up, I want to affirm that we are actively seeking grant dollars. We have a couple navigational beacons that we use to guide us in our efforts. First, do the dollars available align to projects that we are already planning to do? In essence, we have already made the business case for the project, all we are doing is making it better by finding outside financing versus leveraging the rate to pay for it. By doing this we are able to keep away from, what I call “grant-glut”, which can easily overload our plate. Think of your Thanksgiving dinner plate. Were you able to eat what you took? Or did you pile it too high just because it was there and available? Keeping our strategy in motion with justified business cases and then finding a way to ease the “price tag” is our initial approach.

The second idea we hold around available grant dollars

is what the requirements are to fulfill the grant’s purpose. “There’s always a catch,” rings out here. From wherever or whomever the grant is funded, there is an expectation to further their purpose with their dollars and they want to make sure you, in fact, furthered their purpose after you received and used their dollars. We take great lengths to understand at the beginning what it will take to meet the follow-up expectations. Sometimes, the added effort or change in behavior of business that it would take is too much, and we walk away. To me, those are not lost dollars, those are just check points for us to make sure we are committed to doing business the way we feel is best and helps us keep our focus.

In the end, there may be some grant funding opportunities that meet our strategic plan and soften the rate pressure without causing unintended consequences or impacts to the business. When we find those opportunities, it feels like we are doing good work on behalf of the membership.

To date, we have been unsuccessful in a few grant applications intended for Power Grid reliability. We continue to pursue funding opportunities in this area.

We have been successful thus far in the application process with the USDA in their **Powering Affordable Clean Energy or “PACE” program**. Behind this program there is a purpose to create more renewable energy. With that said, we know that the best way to leverage renewable energy is the utilization of battery storage. One of our strategic plans is to develop utility scale storage for our system.

Utility scale storage will allow us to control how we purchase power for all of us. In simple terms, if we can buy it and store it when it is the cheapest and then dispatch it back onto the system or use it when power costs are high, it results in a lower average cost for all of us. I remember Mom stocking up on butter when it went on sale because its typical price was so high. Same idea here. The PACE program will allow us the ability to install utility scale storage (stock up on butter) behind a renewable energy source (the purpose of the USDA). We are currently looking for ways to partner on the renewable energy portion of the program so that we can develop the battery storage behind it. More to come on this program, but I felt it timely to talk about our philosophy around grant dollars and what is currently in motion at PRECorp.

I look forward to catching up with you during our Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, May 29. If you haven’t stayed on to listen to one yet when we call out, I would encourage you to do so. It will give you a chance to hear the latest updates as well as ask questions. We value your feedback and input.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.



**ENERGY EFFICIENCY**  
TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Idle line retention rate reminder

The Idle Line Retention process provides a rate structure that allows members to retain idle lines that they intend to reenergize in the future, while contributing to the maintenance, depreciation and property taxes associated with the idle line.

In this designation, the member may have the meter disconnected and continue to pay a minimum charge to ensure the electric line is left in place. Transformers and secondary line can be removed at PRECorp's option.

If you have an idle service on your property for which you are not paying the Idle Line Retention rate, PRECorp will

contact you to find out whether you have future plans for this service or would like to have it removed.

To retain the idle line, you will be required to pay the idle line retention charge associated with the type of service it was when energized.

The monthly rates are:

- Residential/Seasonal: \$15
- Irrigation: \$15
- General Service: \$18
- Large Power: \$79

For more information, contact PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630; or go to [precorp.coop/rules-regulations](http://precorp.coop/rules-regulations).

## Line inspections near your property

Your safety and the reliability of your power supply are our top priorities. PRECorp's dedicated linemen, distribution design technicians, and contractors are hard at work inspecting and testing poles, patrolling lines, and checking other infrastructure across our service territory as part of our maintenance program. Therefore, you might notice PRECorp employees and our contractors out and about, either on the ground or using binoculars and drones to ensure our electrical equipment is operating correctly and that we have adequate clearances.

Your safety is important to us. If you see our personnel or contractors in your area, rest assured that they can provide

identification upon request. To complete our planned inspection and maintenance activities this year we may have crews working during all daylight hours, even on the weekend. PRECorp's employees and contractors adhere to our safety protocols and use appropriate personal protective equipment. If you have any questions or concerns, we would like to hear from you. You can reach us by calling our member service team at 1-800-442-3630, or by dropping us an email at: [customerservice@precorp.coop](mailto:customerservice@precorp.coop). We're here to help!

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work to keep your power reliable and your community safe.

## Member discounts in Medora, ND

Through a Touchstone Energy member benefit, PRECorp members are eligible for ticket discounts at the following Medora, ND, venues:

- Medora Musical tickets
- Pitch Fork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

- Gospel Brunch tickets
  - Old Town Theater shows
- Lodging at all Roosevelt Medora Foundation properties. Call 1-800-MEDORA-1 or go to [www.Medora.com](http://www.Medora.com) and use discount code **TOUCH2024** for a 15% discount.

# Operation RoundUp® Meat Giveaway

In 2024, drawings will be held for a 25-pound bundle of local beef and pork. PRECorp Operation RoundUp® members are automatically entered in the drawings.

Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp®?

Call 1-800-442-3630.

Sign up TODAY and be entered in the drawings. Drawings will be held on June 3, Aug. 2 and Oct. 1. TWO additional drawings will be held on December 9.



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.