

# 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 <a href="https://precorp.coop/prepay-program">https://precorp.coop/prepay-program</a> or call PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

PREPay V MyWay	Vhat's the Difference?	
	Billed Monthly	PREPay MyWay
Rate	Same	Same
Deposit Required	Depends on Credit Screen	No
Minimum Deposit (If Required)	\$350	<b>\$0</b>
Minimum Initial Prepayment Balance	<b>\$0</b>	<sup>\$</sup> 50
Late Payment Charge	1.5% of the overdue amount	<sup>\$</sup> 0



#### In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

\$75

\$150

Disconnection/

**After-Hours** 

**Collection Charge** 

**Reconnection Fee** 

Line inspections near your property

Side-by-side raffle Idle line retention process

**\$**0

**\$0** 



BRIAN MILLS, CEO

#### Telephone Townhall meeting Wednesday, May 28

Plan to join me on Wednesday, May 28, for an important Telephone Town Hall with the PRE-Corp membership. I will be joined by PRECorp VP of **Operations Rich** Halloran as we share some insights on PRECorp's Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan and answer vour questions about the cooperative and our service. We will call PRE-Corp members at 6:30 p.m. to start the call. Also, join us on Facebook live, or dial toll free 888-886-6602 to participate via phone.

It has been a couple of months now since we first felt the impact of an increase in Basin's power costs.

Alongside national changes, higher energy costs are part of a broader unfolding situation. As a member owner, you simply want to be sure that your cooperative is doing everything it can to stretch your dollar by making your monthly bill as affordable and your energy as reliable as possible in these winds of change.

In this article I would like to offer some perspective on what we see from the operations perspective of the Co-op to help provide context for the headlines and speculations about our industry that you cannot help but see these days.

To start out, let us agree that energy usage continues to rise on a national scale year over year and is expected to do so for the near future. In our pursuit of a better lifestyle, electricity is a game changer and there is no going back. Only a few members remain who recall when the lights were first illuminated. The rest of us have never taken a breath without electricity being a part of our world.

Life over the last 80 years has been paced by the availability of power. No place more noticeable than in rural Wyoming. Power generation was built in the confidence of the pending industrialization and general growth bound to happen in our rural economy keeping pace with the rest of the country.

Arguably, building power generation as we have done in the past could keep up with a more modest growth curve scenario.

That type of growth curve is gone.

The type of load requests that we see today could double the size of our Co-op's megawatt (MW) sales by meeting just one request. They are very large and could be considered somewhat more transient, given market conditions. There is an energy opportunism that ebbs and flows as hopeful energy investors ro-

tate through a prospective company's business cycles. The type of power generation needed to accommodate this type of load takes a considerable amount of planning because of large capital outlays and system reliability impacts.

Energy generation is now being outpaced by industry and development and their availability/abundance of cash...and it is moving faster each day.

With 80 years of experience, PRECorp has a proven track record of maintaining a healthy balance among member groups for everyone's benefit. We have met the challenges of the cyclical nature that energy has had in the Powder River Basin while meeting the reliability expectations of even our most rural members. We have found and proven that it takes all of us to make it work, and we are all ultimately better off. So, we must grow together and it takes a little "give and take" to see it through. When we start getting short sighted, we see our cooperative model start to break down.

The fact that PRECorp has not changed the rate we charge to distribute energy since 2020 continues to be a source of pride for the team as we are continually searching out efficiencies and holding an investment mentality in our stewardship of the members' resources. As changes occur, a rate adjustment for PRECorp is inevitable, to continue maintaining safe and reliable energy.

The team and I understand these implications and are committed to hold each other to our standard of "living our values" - Working Safely, Doing the Right Thing, Accountable Decisions, Innovative Actions, and Serving Others. This is how we will continue to ensure your cooperative is doing everything it can to stretch your dollar, making your monthly bill as affordable and your energy as reliable as possible amidst these winds of change.

Powder River Let 'er Buck!



#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: 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.

#### 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: <a href="mailto:custom-erservice@precorp.coop">custom-erservice@precorp.coop</a>. 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 <u>www.</u> <u>Medora.com</u> and use discount code **TOUCH2025** for a 15% discount.

# 2025 Apprentice Lineman R Scholarship Fundraiser

SPECIAL DRAWINGS on Nov. 20!



TICKETS: \$100 each PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630; or Call Rick at 307-283-4930.

## Why donate?

Your donation supports the Apprentice Lineman Scholarship fund - an employee-based initiative to keep our best and brightest apprentices in our communities where they can be hard-working linemen, active citizens, and leaders.

PRECorp develops people who deliver A+ member service, great rates, and trusted energy partnerships to rural northeast Wyoming.

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

\$100 per ticket with only 350 tickets sold!

Special limited-entry drawings for a WINNER'S CHOICE:

2025 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side with winch and roof

Processed Half Beef (Two Prizes) from D Ranch, Philip & Jeanne Habeck

- OR -

CC purse with Kimber Micro 9 Rose Gold Pistol





Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.