

PRECorp News

NOVEMBER 2018

COPA projected to decrease in 2019

Electric cooperative member owners have a financial stake in the business. That financial stake includes adjustments for changes in the cost of power and returns of dollars that were over-collected the previous year.

PRECorp's financial forecasters work throughout the year to monitor the costs members are paying for power. It shows up under the "Power Cost Adjustment" line item on your bill.

PRECorp purchases its power from Basin Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., and distributes that electricity to its members throughout northeast Wyoming.

How is COPA determined?

Each year PRECorp uses sales projections to determine how much revenue is needed to recover the costs of the power purchased from Basin. Basin Electric is making no changes to its rates in 2019. A portion of the revenue for the cost of power comes from the base rate in the most recent general Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA) filing approved by the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

The COPA is used annually to ensure that PRECorp recovers the actual cost of power it incurs each year. There are two parts to the COPA rate: Estimated future power costs, and a "true up" of prior year's power costs.

Projected sales and power costs are used to estimate future power costs for the COPA each year, and are just that - only an estimate.

The "true up" part of the annual calculation of the COPA amount looks back to the prior year. This look-back compares the revenue collected to cover wholesale power costs to the actual costs that PRECorp incurred to buy that power. Amounts collected above the costs from a rate class are returned to the members of that rate class by lowering the COPA.

Bottom line:

Although specific numbers had not been finalized at press time for this publication, all COPA factors are currently projected to decrease for 2019. This means members will see a slight decrease in the COPA charges on their bills beginning in February.

When the final COPA is calculated, PRECorp will file an application with the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC), requesting an approval with an effective date of January 2019. All application materials will be available on our website at www.precorp.coop/public-service-commission. More information will be shared in the upcoming PowerLines bill insert and the December PRECorp News, including the estimated percentage decrease and progress of the PSC filing.

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MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

We know some folks are struggling to meet many of the challenges life may present to us all from time to time.

Hopefully you will be able to slow down just a bit this month to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. Gratitude is such a powerful thing. Sitting down with family and friends to recognize and celebrate the things we are grateful for is a very special time for us all.

Sometimes it is hard to feel grateful and to give thanks, especially when things may not be going the way we wish that they would. Because PRECorp has such a large geographical footprint, we have a very diverse view of northeast Wyoming and a unique visibility into the many aspects of our communities.

We know some folks are struggling to meet many of the challenges life may present to us all from time to time. If you step back and look at the national picture, we can't forget the

victims of Hurricane Michael. Some of the challenges that we see around us are distant and some are in our own backyard. If you are like me, you might wonder, "Is there anything I can do to make a difference?"

One of PRECorp's stated principles is "Enhancing the Quality of Life of our Members". The PRECorp Membership has really stepped up over the years to help us live this principle in many ways, one of which is to participate in Operation RoundUp®, a program that rounds up their power bills to an even dollar amount. The collective donation of those pennies each month has gone a long way in helping support the Powder River Energy Foundation. These

Operation RoundUp® funds, and other funds raised by and for the Foundation, have contributed to the Foundation's ability to provide nearly \$875,000 in support since 2007, back to those individuals and organizations across our communities who need it most. From feeding the hungry to helping veterans, children, the elderly, and numerous other worthy causes, together we are making a difference in many lives in northeast Wyoming.

I know that our local food banks are always stressed this time of year. Whether it is paying their power bill or keeping food on the table, it is saddening to think of the many people who may be struggling to make ends meet, especially during the holiday season. I would encourage you to reach out to your local food bank to support the neighbors in your community.

Our helpful Member Service Team is here to help folks that are struggling with power bills. They have energy saving tips to share, no-interest loans to help with many energy efficient improvements and appliances, and a budget billing program that helps average out monthly electric bills to avoid seasonal swings. They can also help connect folks to programs providing assistance with paying electric bills.

If you already participate in Operation RoundUp®, thank you so much! If you're not signed up and would like to be, it's easy! Just call 1-800-442-3630, go to www.precorp.coop, or check the box on your payment stub to sign up for this great local program.

I know that I am speaking for the entire PRECorp Team when I say that we are all grateful for the opportunity to serve you and we wish you the best Thanksgiving ever!

Mike

Dates to remember from now through December:

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

November 20 - Gillette
December 18- Sheridan
January 15 - Sundance
February 19 - Gillette
March 18-19 - Sheridan

Other events to remember:

- **Thursday and Friday, November 22-23:** Thanksgiving Day holiday, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Wednesday, November 28:** Telephone Town Hall, 6:30 p.m. Dial toll-free 1-844-881-1317.
- **Monday and Tuesday, December 24-25:** Christmas, PRECorp offices closed.
- **Tuesday, January 1:** New Year's Day, PRECorp offices closed.

Bills change in January

A reminder, the monthly PRECorp power bill statements will have a new look starting in January. Be sure to open the bill and review a special January PowerLines insert that will outline how to read the bill. PRECorp will not publish a PRECorp News in January, so members are encouraged to review the materials mailed to them in January.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers?
When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

Source: energy.gov



Please note our Holiday office closures

Powder River Energy Corporation offices will be closed for these upcoming Holiday observances:

**Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 22
and Friday, November 23**

**Christmas – Monday, December 24,
and Tuesday, December 25**

New Year's – Tuesday, January 1, 2019

**Presidents Day (All Employee Meeting)
– Monday, February 18, 2019**

To report an outage call 1-888-391-6220.



Thanks to the volunteerism of Powder River Energy (PRECorp) employees, and a matching donation from the Powder River Energy Foundation, the Crook County Library Foundation received \$5,800 toward the purchase and implementation of a 'Book Bike' program in the county. (Above) Awarding a \$5,800 donation to the Crook County Library Foundation are, from left, PRECorp employees Yvonne Moberg and Steph Pribilske; Sundance Branch Librarian Kim Heaster; Crook County Library Foundation President Will Yemington; Crook County Librarian Jill Mackey; PRECorp Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner; and Library Foundation Secretary Linda Rogers. Since 2013 the employee booth has raised more than \$11,000 for charities, and is matched 100% by the Foundation.

PRECorp Employees, Foundation give back



Photos by Tim Velder/PRECorp

The Powder River Energy Foundation and Basin Electric have joined forces to donate \$10,000 to Climb Wyoming, a statewide nonprofit whose mission is for low-income single mothers to discover self-sufficiency through career training and placement.

(Left) Receiving a \$10,000 donation to Climb Wyoming are, from left, Climb Program Director Stacie McDonald and Climb graduate Della; presenting the check is PRECorp Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner.

The grant will help create brighter futures for struggling single mothers and their families in Gillette by funding comprehensive training sessions, according to program officials. The program includes job training and placement in high-demand careers, individual and group therapy, and life skills instruction including personal financial management and parenting skills.

THE GREAT BIG
**CHRISTMAS
GIVEAWAY!**

Three separate drawings for
25-pound bundles

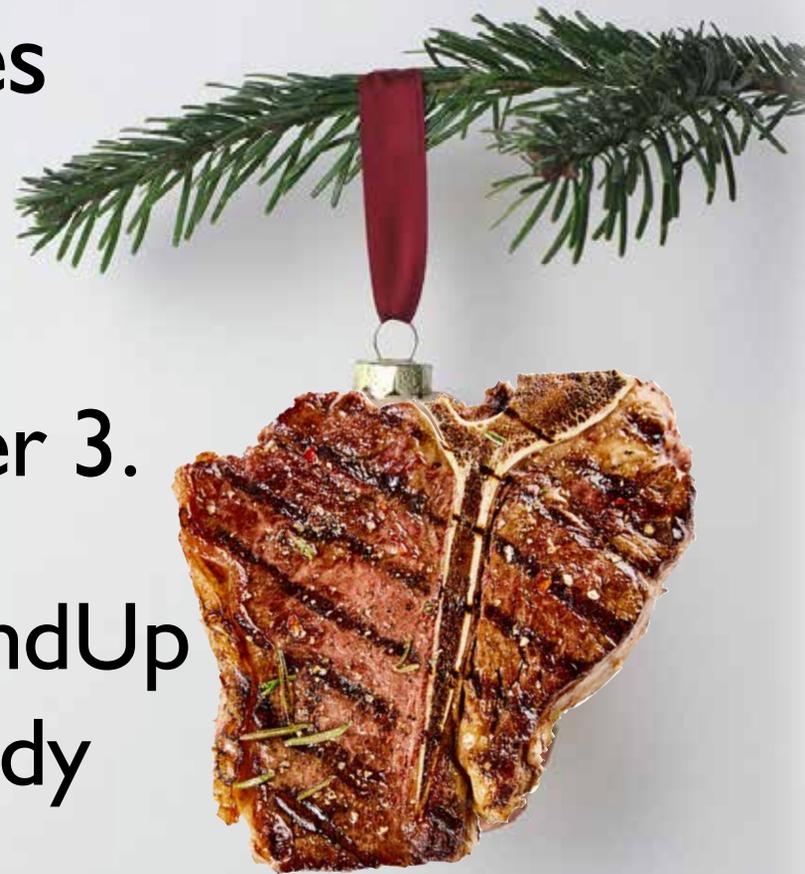
of meat*

at 8 a.m. on

Monday, December 3.

*(Mixed bison, beef & pork)

All Operation RoundUp
members are already
in the drawing.

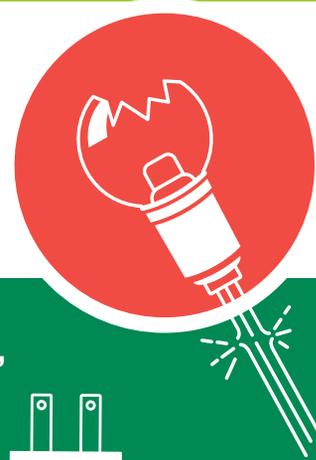


Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp?
Sign up today by calling 1-800-442-3630 before
Friday, November 30, to get in the drawing.

SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

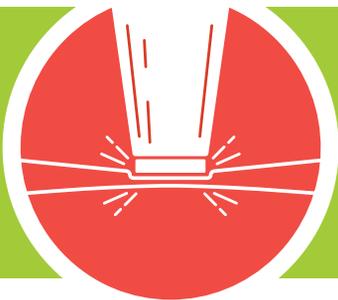
It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



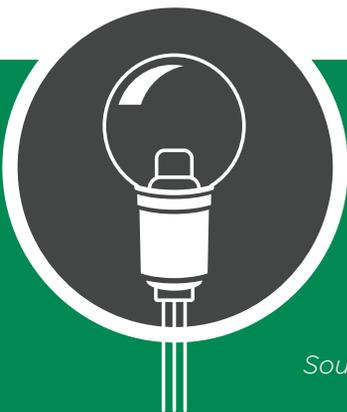
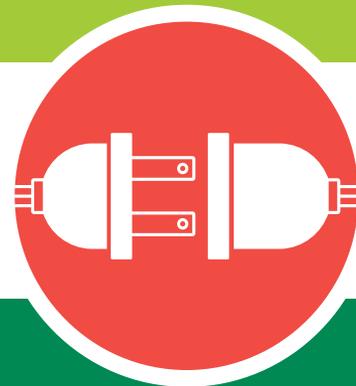
Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

PRECorp announces 2019 scholarships

Powder River Energy Corporation facilitates many scholarships for eligible high school and college students from northeast Wyoming.

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2019 scholarship information is available online at: www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships.

Descriptions and deadlines for each scholarship follow:

Basin Electric Scholarship - \$1,000

The filing deadline for the Basin Electric Power Scholarship is February 1, 2019.

Swanda Scholarship - \$2,500

To a Crook County High School senior planning to enroll in agricultural or animal science studies a university or vocational/technical school in Wyoming, North Dakota, or South Dakota. Seniors at Sundance High School receive preference this year on the pro-

gram's rotating schedule. However, all seniors from Crook County are encouraged to apply. **The filing deadline for the Swanda Scholarship is March 29, 2019.**

Powder River Energy Corporation/Foundation Scholarship - \$1,500

To qualifying seniors and college students from 14 high schools and at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be PRECorp members.

The deadline for Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is March 29, 2019.



Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp

The Powder River Energy Board of Directors sponsors an all-expense-paid experience for high school age students of PRECorp members. **Turn the page for the application.** Up to five local youth are selected to represent PRECorp at the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat, CO, July 13-18, 2019. The students tour industry sites, and enjoy the resort community. During the week, students have the opportunity to find out how co-ops work and find out what's happening in the world of electric energy. Applicants must be age 16 by June 1, 2019, and interested students must turn in an application by **Friday, January 18, 2019**. For more information, a video, and an application go to www.precorp.coop//student-scholarships.



Have a medical necessity?



In an effort to better serve our members with special health care needs, PRECorp is requesting information from our members who may have electricity-dependent residential medical equipment such as oxygen or dialysis machines.

Typically this information is gathered when members join the Cooperative and sign up for PRECorp electrical service.

However, if members have obtained the medical equipment since joining the Cooperative, members may want to share that information with us.

The purpose for knowing this information is to notify members with medical necessities of scheduled outages that would affect their service.

Members will need to provide a doctor's note for our files explaining the medical necessity. Other information that will be needed is their physical address, member number, meter number, and emergency contact phone number.

For more information or to update your information, contact PRECorp member service at 1-800-442-3630.

Powder River Energy Corporation will make every effort to restore electrical service as soon as possible during an outage. There is no guarantee the power will be restored within a given time frame. Individuals are responsible to have an alternative plan if power cannot be restored before any condition becomes critical.

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.

**TRANSPORTATION,
LODGING, MEALS,
ARE ALL FREE!**

2019 COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION

Camp dates are July 13-18, 2019.

Student Information:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name of High School: _____ Date of Graduation: _____

Full Name: Father/Guardian: _____

Full Name: Mother/Guardian: _____

School: _____ G.P.A.: _____ Year in School*: _____

*Applicants must be 16 years-old by June 1, 2019.

List special activities in which you have participated including sports, honors, and community involvement:

Why would you like to participate:

Please also include the following with this application:

- Reference letter: Not required, but if possible, attach a reference letter from someone familiar with your academic, community, or personal history.
- A copy of your most recent PRECorp electric bill, OR, your PRECorp account number: _____

Return application and other documentation to:

Powder River Energy/Youth Camp
Attn: Marketing Communications Division
PO Box 930, Sundance, WY 82729
Email: communications@precorp.coop
For more information: www.precorp.coop



DEADLINE: MUST BE RECEIVED IN OUR OFFICE BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019.

SUNDANCE – CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
221 Main Street • P.O. Box 930 • Sundance, WY 82729
(800) 442-3630 Phone • (307) 283-3527 Fax

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