

Outage stats trending positive

The 2020 stats are in, and PRECorp’s power grid held up pretty well in terms of total power outages last year.

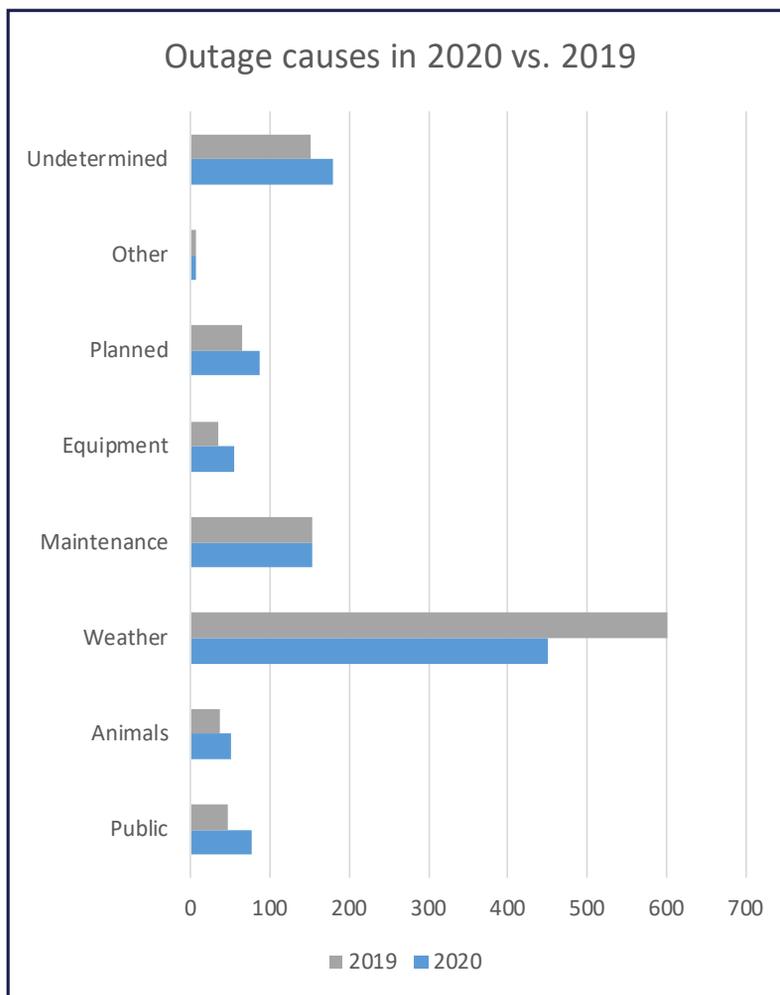
There were 1,066 power outages in 2020, a record low since this type of detailed record-keeping started in 2007.

There are many factors that contribute to changes in the outage numbers, but the milder weather in the latter half of 2020 reduced the outage numbers. That’s not to say there weren’t major weather events. There was a tornadic storm that plowed through Campbell County and Weston County in June, which not only broke several poles, but created outages that lasted for a day or longer. This skews the total minutes that members were out of power.

There was also a June derecho (wall of wind) that left behind broken poles in Campbell County.

“We have a lot of exposure to extreme weather events because we have thousands of poles

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MIKE EASLEY,
CEO

Our Vision:

We will be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

Our Purpose:

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.

Our Moonshot:

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero by 2050.

Last month following the events in DC I wrote an essay about my experience and thoughts surrounding the events at our Nation's Capitol. As we turn the page on 2020, I want to share it, as I feel it relates to cooperatives and the cooperative spirit. Here is that piece:

I have walked the halls of the Congress of the United States for the past 20 years and have made over 30 visits to Washington DC during both Democratic and Republican Administrations. I sat across the table with Wyoming congressional leaders, other states leaders, agency heads, committee staffers, and have testified at hearings discussing issues and solutions to our shared problems.

Each time I visited DC I went to the Lincoln Memorial before I walked the halls of Congress to pay my respects to President Lincoln and to remind myself of the price that was paid, and the sacrifices made due to division, separation and polarization. I read inscriptions on the north and south wall of the Monument where the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural Address are inscribed. Contemplating our history and our future I said a silent prayer that I might be someone who brings things together, rather than tear them down.

I exercised the right to free speech and my responsibility to represent PRECorp's membership with respect. The Halls of Congress and the Capital may not be sacred, but they certainly are hallowed and to see them violated as they were yesterday is heartbreaking and gut wrenching.

The statue of President Lincoln, surrounded by his inscribed words of wisdom and guidance, looks back at the US Capitol, and I imagine that like many of us, his eyes welled with tears as he watched an outrage perpetrated on our Nation's Capital, and in turn, each of us.

Here are words from a great American and a true leader who experienced the true cost of division. They are worth a read. <https://www.nps.gov/linc/learn/historyculture/inscriptions.htm>

I have always been moved by President Lincoln's words about division and especially these phrases from the Second Inaugural address "Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God and each invokes His aid against the other", and from the Gettysburg Address "that the government of the people by the people for the people shall not perish from the earth".

The cooperative movement across the United States includes differing world views from all sectors: politics, religion, social issues, and so on and just like PRECorp they dedicate themselves and their people to serving the person at the end of the line. Each cooperative, no matter how different uses their version of the wording to describe their purpose of positively influencing and improving the lives of their membership.

As cooperatives work together to serve their membership we focus on our common interests and don't let our differences get in the way of serving 42 million people across more than 2,500 counties in the US. As we move into 2021, I know that cooperatives will be working together in spite of their differences. We will continue to look past the many ways we are different and to focus on the areas we are the same, our mission of service to our member-owners.

Many of the challenges that PRECorp and its membership have experienced over the past several years will continue, and I am sure we will pick up more challenges in 2021. As your cooperative we will take what we have learned and experienced in 2020 to sharpen our focus even further to ensure we stay true to our mission of service to you.

2021 will have its own challenges, but by working together, working hard, and focusing on our common interests we will have a great year.

Mike

Events Calendar

The list of 2021 PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates and telephone town hall meetings with CEO Mike Easley. Other events, such as the Annual Meeting and Foundation fundraisers are subject to change under the existing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

PRECorp Board meetings are held in Sundance until social distancing requirements are relaxed.

- ◆ **Tuesday, February 16** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- ◆ **Monday, February 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 24** - PRECorp telephone town hall with CEO Mike Easley, 6:30 p.m. Members will be called to start the meeting or dial the toll-free number at 888-886-6602.
- ◆ **Tuesday, March 16** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- ◆ **Monday, March 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, Gillette
- ◆ **Saturday, April 17** - Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet, Gillette
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 20** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- ◆ **Monday, April 26** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 14!** Set your clocks forward by one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.



Source: www.energy.gov

Drive safely; Be cautious at accidents



At PRECorp, our primary concern is for the well-being of equipment operators, drivers, and passengers, whose lives and health are threatened in an accident.

Drivers who are distracted, inexperienced, careless, impaired, or overconfident on slick roads run the risk of colliding with another vehicle, or careening into a ditch.

Accidents may require emergency responders and PRECorp crews to clear the scene, replace the broken poles, and restore power to the scores of members whose homes and businesses are darkened by the accidents.

Below are some life-saving facts to know if you are involved in or discover an accident.

Be safe

While no driver can pick the place their automobile accident will happen, there are measures to keep in mind when driving on hazardous roads:

- Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.
- Stay focused. Do not use your phone or dashboard controls if they pull your eyes or attention off the road.
- Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand, gravel).
- If your vehicle starts to slide, always look and steer where you want to go.
- Leave time and distance to slow down. It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Double the following distance behind the cars in front of you. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Slow down and get over when passing emergency response vehicles parked on the shoulder. This includes utility vehicles such as PRECorp trucks.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly helps regain traction and avoids spin outs.
- Know your brakes. Whether you have antilock brakes or not, the best way to stop is to keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal.

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Outage stats...

from page 1.

carrying thousands of miles of line in the open country of northeast Wyoming. Whenever there is a major storm, some of those poles crack under the pressure,” said PRECorp VP of System Operations Rich Halloran. “We also experience infrequent power supply issues where a provider outside our territory has an issue that only they can fix. These outages aren’t always connected to weather but take time to safely restore.”

In the past decade, PRECorp has seen vast reductions in outage frequency because greater attention is being paid to preventative maintenance of infrastructure starting at the substations and extending out to the single-phase distribution lines.

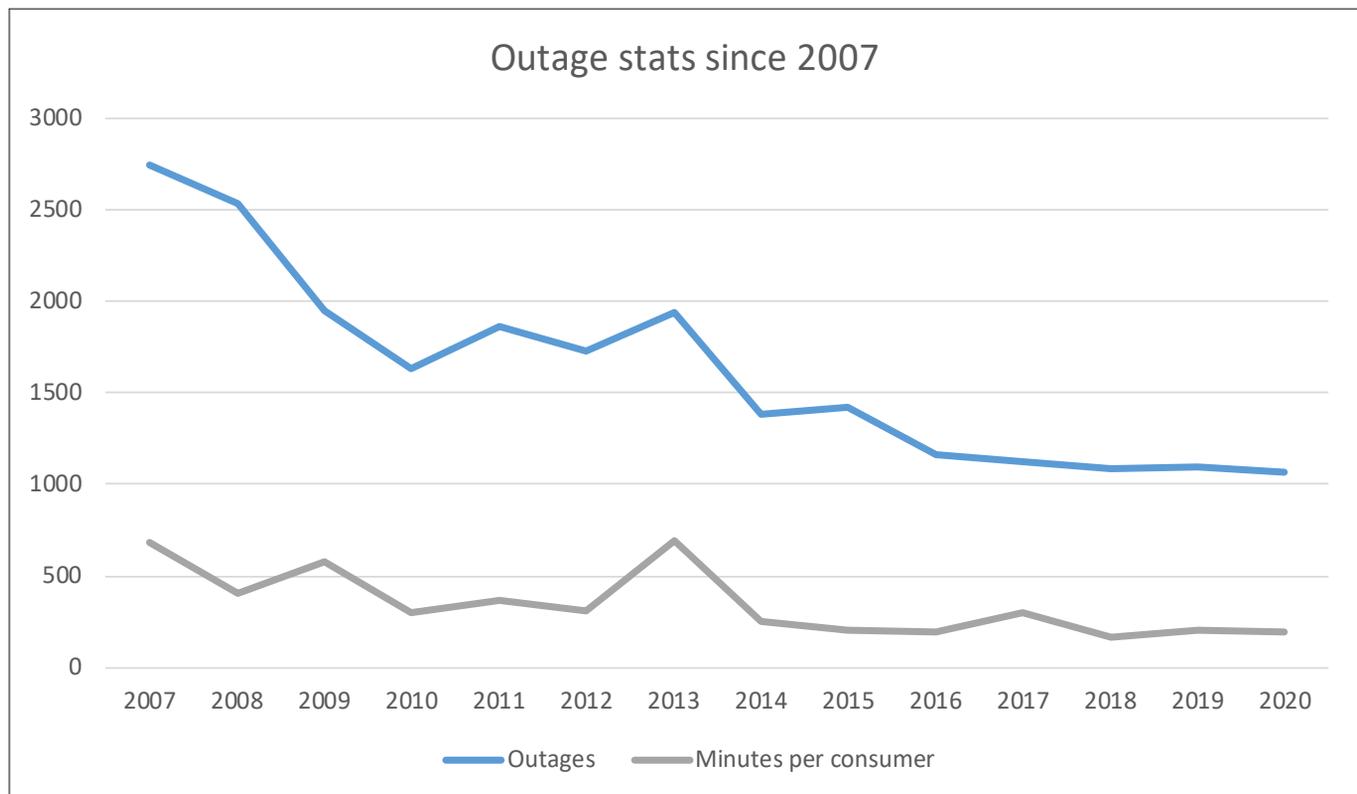
Another innovation that is scheduled to be completed this year is the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) which gives real-time reports of power quality, outages, and usage readings from each meter location. There will be many uses for this technology. One of those is improved response times and restoration of power. The AMI meters can notify dispatchers and

line crews in seconds where an outage is occurring, enabling them to safely deploy resources to the right places at the right times.

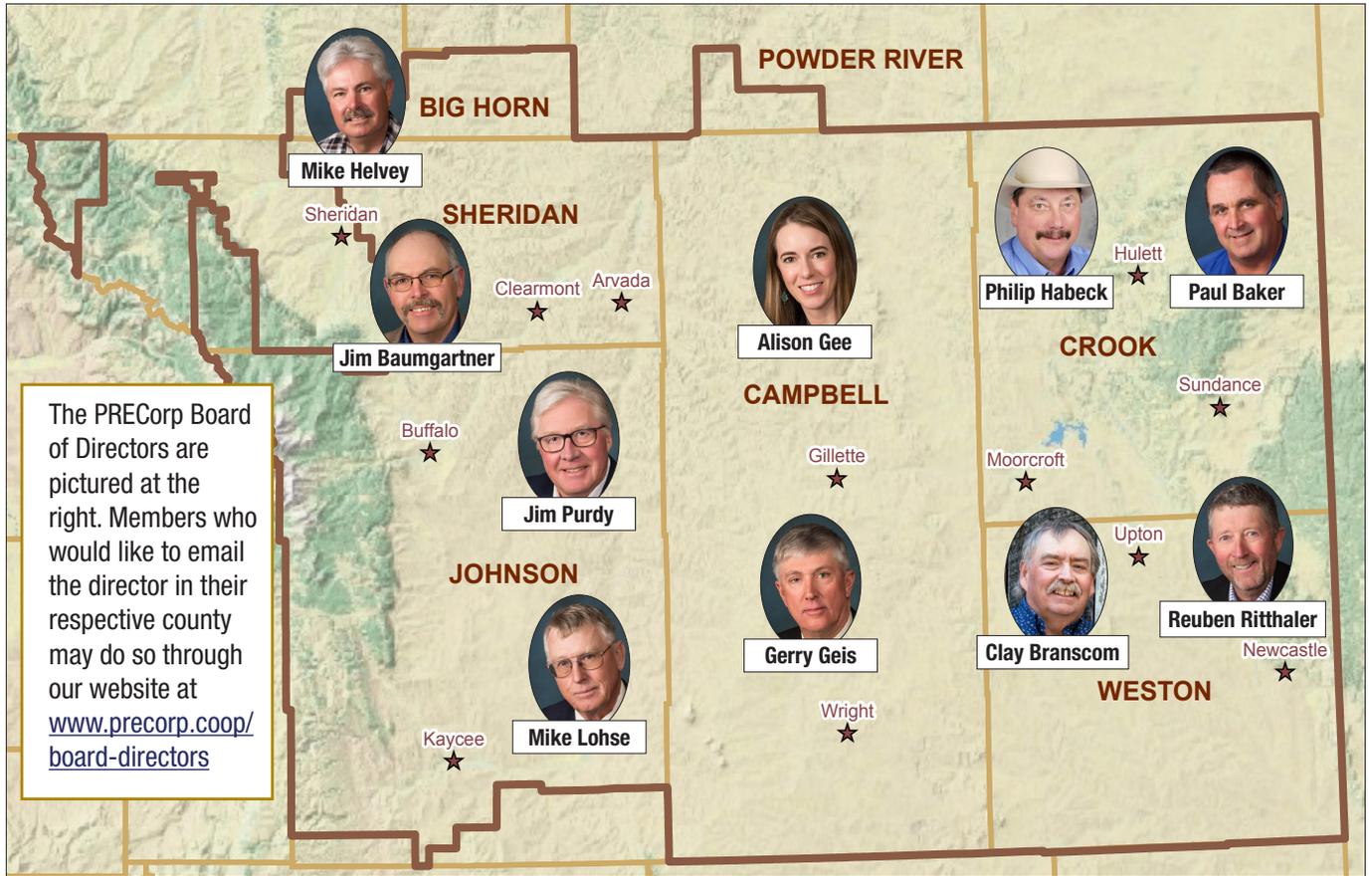
The AMI will also help archive data and create predictive scenarios when combined with weather data. In the near future, PRECorp will have the ability to target areas of the system that are susceptible to weather damage such as icing and sustained winds, which cause galloping lines and power blips and outages.

“I commend the work of our line crews, dispatchers, engineering team, and member service representatives who coordinate all of this data behind the scenes,” Halloran said.

“There is a lot of planning and training that goes into rolling a truck to the location of an outage. We continue to work diligently to provide more reliability on our power grid each and every year. We also appreciate the patience and support that our members show for our crews during those cold, dark nights restoring power.”



Know your PRECorp Board of Directors:



Drive safely...

from page 4.

Know the hazards at an accident scene:

- If you come in contact with a power pole, line, or ground-level transformer, or come upon an accident of this nature, be very careful. Call 911 immediately.
- STAY IN YOUR VEHICLE! Unless the vehicle is on fire, do not get out of your vehicle if a power line is near it.
- Do not touch or attempt to move a downed line.
- Stay back from the scene. Stepping in the direction of a downed power line exposes you to the risk of deadly voltages.
- Use caution. Fight the urge to escape or rush in until you have surveyed the area for potential hazards.

No fooling: Spring meat giveaway is April 1

On April 1, PRECorp Members who are signed up for Operation RoundUp® will be entered in a special drawing for 25 pounds of locally-grown beef and pork.

This is part of the ongoing recognition of cooperative members who round up their monthly power bill to the nearest dollar each month. These members combine to give thousands of dollars each year to the PRECorp Foundation.

The Foundation frequently leverages those dollars and cents for matching donations to local charitable organizations that help families in need, veterans, senior citizens, education and arts programs. In 2020, the Foundation donated more than \$230,000 to charities that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sign up by March 31 to enter the drawing. Call PRECorp Member Service at 1-800-442-3630 for more information.

Deadline reminders for 2021 scholarships

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

To apply for any of the scholarships, students must satisfy the required criteria and complete the scholarship application. Updated 2021 scholarship information is available online at: www.precorp.coop/student-scholarships.

Descriptions and deadlines for some of the scholarships follow:

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

To qualifying seniors and post-secondary students from 14 high schools and up to 5 at-large students in its service territory. Applicant's parents or legal guardians must be active PRECorp members.

The deadline for Powder River Energy Corporation Scholarship is March 1, 2021.

Barb and Bill Geis Memorial Scholarship - \$400 to \$1,000

To qualifying seniors from Coal Country FFA or Gillette FFA in Campbell County, who are pursuing careers benefitting the agriculture industry. **The deadline for the Barb and Bill Geis Memorial Scholarship is March 1, 2021.**

Kathleen Tavegie Memorial Scholarship - up to \$1,000

This scholarship is available to students of PRECorp members from Weston County who are pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. **The deadline for the Tavegie Memorial Scholarship is March 1, 2021.**

PRECorp Lineman Scholarship - \$3,000 and up

The PRECorp Lineman Scholarship is available to qualifying applicants who plan to attend an approved lineworker training program. Awards begin at \$3,000, but can be more. **There is no filing deadline and applications are accepted year-round.**

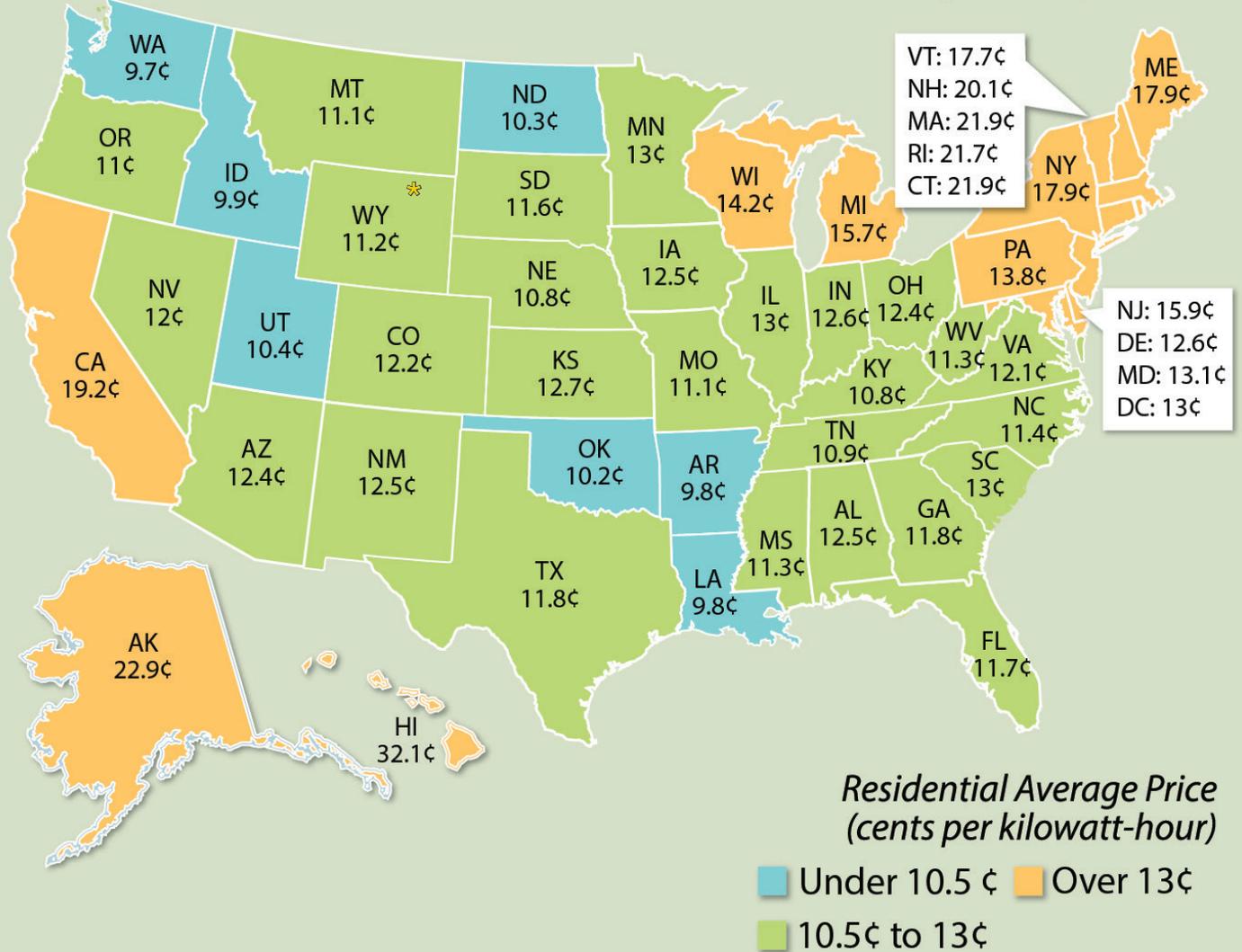
Free 75th Anniversary Books while supplies last!
PRECorp members: Take home a free 75th Anniversary Book when you visit one of our member service offices in Gillette or Sundance. Learn more about the history of your cooperative from noted local historian Shelly Ritthaler. The book is filled with unique stories and images from across northeast Wyoming.



Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2019 figures, in cents per kWh

U.S. Average: 13.01¢ per kWh



* - The 2021 PRECorp Residential rate is 11.1 cents per kWh.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration
Numbers rounded to nearest tenth of a cent



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.