

PRECorp News

MARCH 2022

PRECorp to transition leadership roles in 2022

The Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) Board of Directors has announced that long-time CEO Mike Easley will begin transitioning out of his current role. During that time PRECorp Deputy General Manager Brian Mills will assume increasing responsibilities of the CEO. The cooperative is planning that Mills will formally assume all CEO duties on August 1, 2022.

The PRECorp Board and the leadership team have been in discussions about this measured change of leadership to coincide with Mike Easley's decision to depart the cooperative at the end of 2023.

"PRECorp has always had a strategic eye toward the future and proactively addresses challenges and opportunities on the horizon," said PRECorp Board President Reuben Ritthaler. "Succession planning and developing bench strength has always been a part of our strategic focus. Given Brian's development over his years with the company and experience gained since being named Deputy General Manager in 2017, his transition to succeed Mike nearly assures a seamless transition for our membership and the cooperative. The Board and I thank Mike for his two decades of service to the membership and leaving us with a healthy cooperative and a top-notch team of employees who put the members first."

"It has been a fantastic opportunity to lead PRECorp through some significant challenges, however, when



Mike Easley



Brian Mills



Reuben Ritthaler

the time came in 2021 to discuss my future plans with the Board, I determined that after 40 years in the utility business – 21 here at PRECorp – I wanted to turn the page on my career and go in a new direction, one that further leverages my years of leadership experience," said Mike Easley. "I'm confident in the direction we are headed as a cooperative and I'm looking forward to what the future will bring. The Board and I will continue to work closely with Brian over the next year to ensure the change is smooth for our members and employee team."

Mills is a Crook County native who has been at PRECorp for nearly 18 years assuming increasing leadership roles and responsibilities, currently serving as the company's Deputy General Manager and Human Resource Officer. "I am honored and extremely appreciative for this opportunity and the trust the Board is placing in me to

Continued on page 6...

In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

Tampering not tolerated

Know your meter face

Board of Directors election information

Lineman Scholarship fundraiser returns

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

www.precorp.coop



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 cost by 2050.

Just the other day someone asked me if I thought PRECorp had a bright future, especially against the backdrop of challenges we see on the horizon like inflation, rising interest rates, and volatility related to the energy extraction and production industries.

I think you all know that I am an optimist by nature. I also am a firm believer in the saying: "If you believe something is impossible, it will be... for you." I tend to see challenges as opportunities.

And yes, we have many opportunities before us.

There is no question that you and I will be seeing and feeling the impacts of inflation and will experience the pressures of higher interest rates. PRECorp will be experiencing these things as well. The PRECorp Strategy, supported by the PRECorp Team, has positioned us well to withstand these and the other forces acting upon us.

Even with the threat of inflation and rising interest rates, we are not expecting a rate increase for the next several years. I am sure you will agree this is great news! Our power supply from Basin Electric continues to be reliable, stable, and affordable, as they plan to hold rates steady as well.

There is no denying that our energy extraction industries in Wyoming – particularly our coal industry – have had significant challenges. I am cautiously optimistic that baseload generation (think coal-fired power plants) will continue to be something that the markets, and society, will continue to value as they contribute to reliability and affordability.

Baseload generation, and intermittent generation such as wind and solar will all need to co-exist for reliable and affordable power supply in the foreseeable future. Older coal plants will continue to retire as their economics come into question, and plants like Basin's Dry Fork Station will continue to run and provide opportunity to gain experience with carbon capture, storage, and utilization technologies.

The PRECorp Team has and will continue to rise to the occasion and serve you no matter what. Many of you might have already heard that I will be stepping down as CEO on August 1, 2022, and Brian Mills, the current Deputy General Manager, will be the new CEO. I will stick around for a while helping with the transition and supporting the Team as needed.

After August 1, while I will be shifting my focus away from the demands of CEO leadership, I still plan to do what I can to serve others and continue to contribute to the greater good. I look forward to the next several months and our time together, whether through the CEO Straight Talk or our Telephone Town Hall meetings.

PRECorp has a bright future and so do you!

**If you believe
something is
impossible,
it will be... for you.**

Mike

Coming events:

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, and telephone town hall meetings and more.

- **Tuesday, March 22** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Tuesday, March 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Monday, April 4** - PRECorp All-Team meeting, offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette
- **Tuesday, April 19** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 9 a.m., Gillette
- **Saturday, April 23** - PRECorp Foundation Apprentice Lineman Scholarship banquet/fundraiser, 5 p.m., Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall
- **Tuesday, May 17** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance
- **Tuesday, May 24** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, teleconference
- **Wednesday, May 25** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall, member invite call at 6:30 p.m., stream live on Facebook, or dial 888-886-6602
- **Saturday, June 4** - PRECorp Foundation Durham Ranch Buffalo Stampede 5k/10k run
- **Tuesday, June 21** - PRECorp Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sheridan
- **Saturday, August 27** - PRECorp Annual Meeting, Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall

Tampering is not safe, and not tolerated by PRECorp

Incidents of vandalism, copper theft, or other intentional damage to PRECorp poles, lines, meters, and transformers are an ongoing concern.

Some incidents involve shots fired at poles or substations. Others involve the removal of copper wire from PRECorp infrastructure as a direct theft. Thefts of copper, aluminum and bronze have been committed locally and across the nation at unguarded industrial or construction sites, empty homes and—most dangerously—at power poles and even substations.

PRECorp takes a firm stance against these types of behaviors because any contact with energized equipment can cause high-voltage shocks with severe burns, or fatal electrocution. Thieves in other parts of the nation have been seriously injured and even killed attempting to steal metal from power facilities.

Another cost is to the law-abiding members. All it takes is one incident to put hundreds of PRECorp members in the dark.

Tampering, theft, and vandalism do not always show up immediately, but eventually crews discover the damage during routine inspections or maintenance. Sometimes the damage causes delayed-reaction outages that must be repaired.

PRECorp crews work very hard in all conditions to provide high-quality power, and man-made outages due to vandalism or theft put them at risk and create unnecessary hardships for our members.

As PRECorp members, we share ownership of this equipment equally and acts of vandalism come at a cost to us all because they can impact the cost to safely deliver power.

We need your help to keep our equipment safe, prevent outages, and protect lives. If you see anyone other than our utility personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, report it to your local authorities, or call the PRECorp 24-hour dispatch number at 1-888-391-6220.

PRECorp works with local law enforcement to investigate the crimes. If anyone has information about specific incidents of vandalism, copper theft, or suspicious tampering with PRECorp equipment, please call local law enforcement. All information will be kept anonymous.

Like us on Facebook and Twitter!

For updates on PRECorp outages, safety, efficiency, cooperative opportunities and more, find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Board of Directors seat information

A powerful aspect of being an electric cooperative member is that you have a voice in how PRECorp is run. Members play a crucial role in the process of who serves on the Board of Directors, from start to finish.

Members serve on nominating committees that put forth qualified candidates for the Board of Directors. Members like you, stand for election to the Board, whether nominated by a committee, or nominated by petition of 25 of the nominee's fellow members. Members also count the ballots during Board elections at the Annual Meeting.

Are you qualified?

Any PRECorp member can run for a three-year term on the Board, providing the member meets the following qualifications:

- Must reside within the service territory of the county from which he/she is elected. However, members taking service outside the counties of Campbell, Crook, Johnson, Sheridan or Weston shall be deemed to be a member of and within the area served by the county closest to the nearest meter serving the members' residence;
- Must be a member receiving electric energy from the Corporation;
- May not be in any way employed by, or have

a substantial financial interest in, a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation.

In 2022, Board seats are up for election in Crook, Johnson, and Sheridan counties. The following are ways members in those counties can stand for election to the Board:

How you can get on the ballot:

- Be nominated by the committee appointed by the PRECorp Board of Directors.
- Return a nominating petition, signed by at least 25 PRECorp members, by June 17, 2022.

Election process dates:

Friday, May 27: Deadline for nominating committees to post their list of candidates.

Friday, June 17: Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions at a PRECorp business office.

Friday, July 15: Publication of director candidates, notice of August 27, 2022 Annual Meeting, mail-in ballot, and Annual Report.

Friday, August 26: Deadline to submit mail-in ballots to a PRECorp business office.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, please contact PRECorp at 1-800-442-3630.

PRECorp leverages revenue deferral plan

As part of PRECorp's ongoing strategy to establish stable and affordable rates, the cooperative has used a financial lever unique to cooperatives to defer revenues to future years.

Because PRECorp is a borrower from the Federal Rural Utilities Service (RUS), the cooperative sought and received approval from RUS to proceed with the revenue deferral plan. PRECorp's revenue deferral plan allows PRECorp to defer excess revenues earned in 2021 to a special fund and to be brought back into revenue in future years. By setting aside revenue from the current year, PRECorp is able to minimize the impact of increasing expenses in future years and delay a change in rates. Prior to the revenue deferral plan, PRECorp had completed a forecast study that determined a 2023 rate study would be necessary to determine future rate needs to meet RUS mortgage requirements. The revenue deferral

plan, part of the company's strategic effort to manage rates, extends the rate study at least one, if not a couple more years.

The revenue deferred is \$7 million and will be deducted from current year revenues and added back in future years' revenues. Cooperative margins allocated as capital credits, however, will not be impacted by the revenue deferral amount and will be allocated to the membership in August 2022.

"We are very pleased that RUS has approved our application for revenue deferral," said PRECorp CEO Mike Easley. "We have successfully used this financial tool in the past and our members benefitted with periods of rate stability. I can't think of a better time to make this possible for our membership."



WIN 25 lb. of bison, beef & pork!

PRECorp Operation RoundUp[®] members are entered into a free drawing for locally-grown bison, beef & pork.

Drawings will be held on April 1, June 1, Aug. 1, and Oct. 3.

Not enrolled in Operation RoundUp[®]?

Sign up **TODAY** to be entered into the drawings!

Operation RoundUp[®] dollars are donated back to local community charities including food banks, Veterans' causes, crisis intervention programs, arts, education, and community development.



Thank a Lineman in April

PRECorp linemen serve on the front lines of our members' energy needs, and on April 11, 2022, PRECorp, along with other electric cooperatives across Wyoming and the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they are restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

A service-oriented mindset is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Throughout the year, PRECorp members take the time to honor lineworkers on the PRECorp Facebook page with many grateful comments during outage events. If you haven't had the chance to send good wishes, feel free to do so anytime, but especially during Lineman Appreciation Week in April.



Build. Maintain. Repair. Repeat.
That's how linemen power our lives.

On April 11, Lineman Appreciation Day, #ThankALineworker

CEO transition...

From page 1.

lead our cooperative," Mills said. "Taking the baton from Mike, I see a bright future for PRECorp. PRECorp is well positioned to create and take advantage of opportunities that will benefit our members, even amongst the challenges that may arise. This optimism is due to the unmatched employee team we are blessed with, who are dedicated, professional and trusted. I look forward to continuing to serve alongside each of them, every day, to deliver great service to our members."



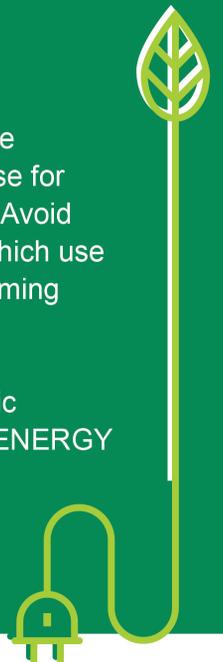
Please contact PRECorp Communications at communications@precorp.coop with additional questions.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment.

Source: Dept. of Energy



6th Annual

2022 Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Banquet

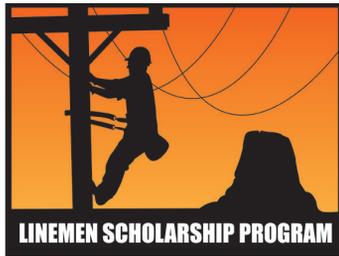


**SATURDAY, APRIL 23 - 5 P.M.
GILLETTE CAM-PLEX ENERGY HALL**

5 p.m. - Social hour, no-host bar
6 p.m. - Prime Rib Dinner
Auction - Following dinner, there will be raffles and auction opportunities for many guns and other prizes.

**EVENT TICKETS:
\$50 per person**
 Call Alyssa Himle at
 307-257-9693 or
PRECorp Member Service
 1-800-442-3630

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



SPECIAL DRAWING!

Special limited-entry drawing for a Street Legal
2022 Polaris Ranger 1000 Side-By-Side.

\$100 per ticket with only 300 tickets sold!

**For tickets call Rick
at 307-283-4930
or Alyssa
at 307-257-9693.**

Others to contact:

Campbell County:
 Rich Halloran, Aaron Meek, Randy Himle, Brad DeLong, Emmy Lou Cook

Crook/Weston Counties:
 Brandon Veil, TC Mulloy, Eric Anderson, Rick Gill, Rob Heiman

Sheridan/Johnson Counties: Tommy Nimick, Travis Geis, Bruce Burr



Street Legal!

From Peak Power Sports of Sheridan.

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.

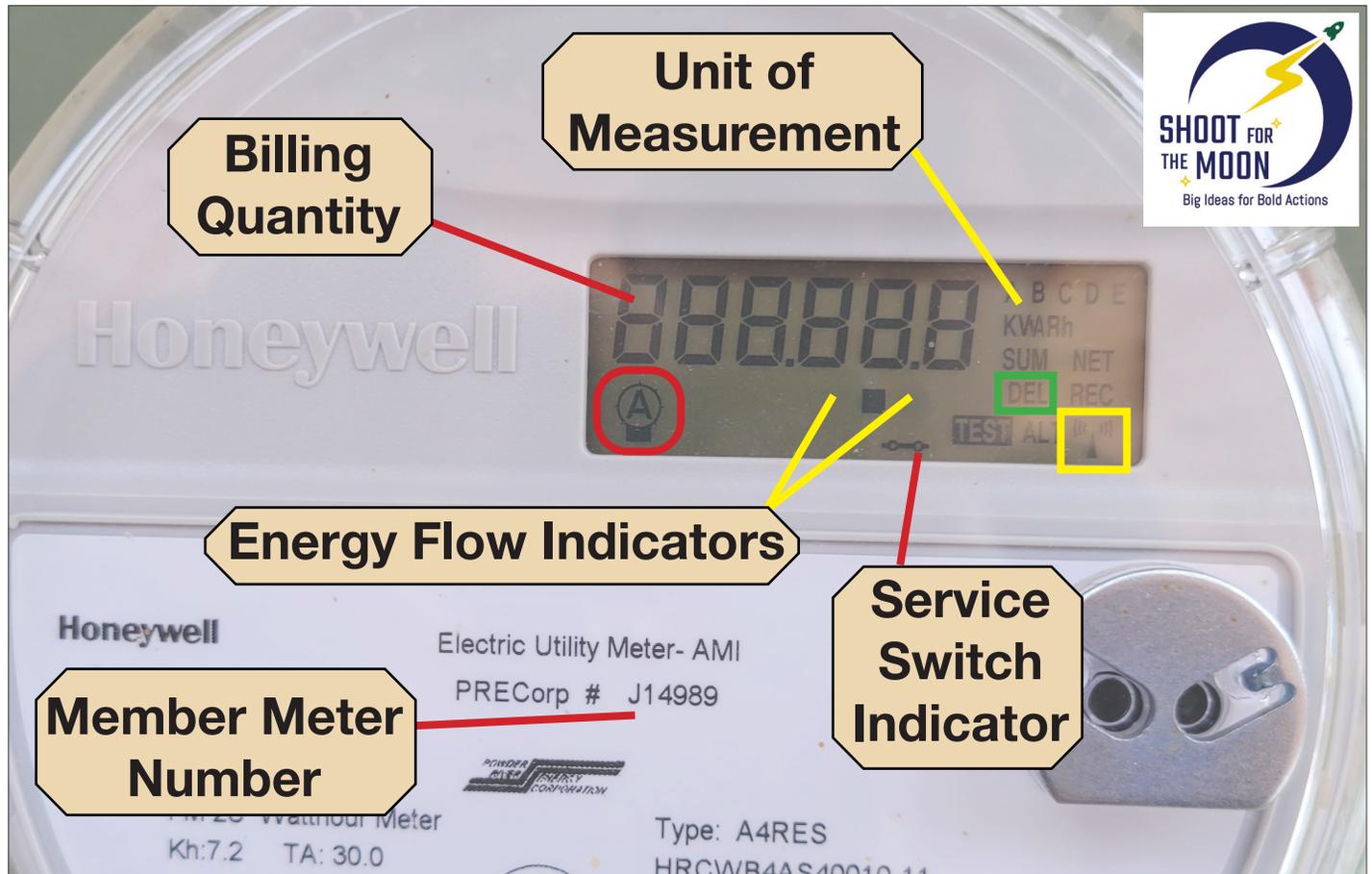
The Apprentice Lineman Scholarship Program is administered through the Powder River Energy Foundation, the charitable arm of Powder River Energy Corporation.



Drawing will take place once all 300 tickets are sold. Need not be present to win. Winner is responsible for applicable federal tax.

What do all those meter symbols mean?

So there's a new meter on your house, well, or other service. What do all of those flashing symbols, letters and numbers mean? Below is a schematic of what your meter is telling you when you look at its face, such as: Does it have power? Is it connected with the network? And, is power flowing to your service location?



Key to Faceplate Information

KWh – Unit of Measurement Billing Value for all members

DEL – **Green Box** Electricity is being delivered to the member's service

A – **Red Box** Indicates the meter has voltage.

Energy Flow Indicators – Black **Square** flashes per Watt hours consumed. Black Arrow flashes per watt hours consumed. The **Arrow** shows direction of energy flow and a faster flash indicates more consumption, compares to the speed of the disc rotation in the old electromechanical meters.

Service Switch Indicator – (Residential 200 amp services only.) Indicates whether the Service switch is closed or open energizing the customer service.

Tower Indicator – **Yellow Box** a solid "tower" (not flashing) indicates the meter is connected to the network. Flashing "tower" indicates the meter is looking for the network or has lost communication with the network.

Member Meter Number – The meter number assigned to the member's account for billing. Faceplate colors vary for single phase, three phase, 200 amp, and 320 amp services.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630

Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

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