

**WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
REQUIRED COVER SHEET FOR ALL FILINGS AND APPLICATIONS**

Full Company Name Powder River Energy Corporation

Company ID 10014 Date August 25, 2021

Street Address 221 Main Street Sundance WY 82729-0930

Mailing Address PO Box 930 Sundance WY 82729-0930

City State Zip (plus 4 digits)

Contact Person Stephanie J. Pribilske Executive Staff Assistant

Name

Title (307) 283-4901

stephp@precorp.coop

Type of filing (check all that apply)

Rules & Regulations

10014-218-CT-21

Tariffs included Yes No

Service List included Yes No

Total Amount Requested _____ Increase Decrease Implement New Rate

Amount Requested Per _____ (unit)

Type of Filing and Fees (check all fees that apply)

Interconnection Agreement **\$5.00**

Securities Filing **\$15.00**

Tariff Revisions **\$5.00**

Reorganization **\$100.00**

Transfer of Customer Base Service **\$5.00**

Mergers **\$100.00**

Name Change **\$5.00**

Transfer of Control **\$100.00**

IXC Registration (Reseller) **\$5.00**

Application **\$5.00**

Application Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity **\$15.00**

Compliance Filings **No Charge**

ILEC and CLEC- New Filings **\$15.00**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ 5.00

Compliance Filings

Compliance Filing? Yes No Docket No. _____

Revision/Amended Filing? Yes No Docket No. _____



221 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 930
SUNDANCE, WY 82729-0930
FAX: (307) 283-3527

200 GARNER LAKE ROAD
GILLETTE, WY 82718-0937
FAX: (307) 682-0733

1095 BRUNDAGE LANE
SHERIDAN, WY 82801-1387
FAX: (307) 674-9018

1-800-442-3630

August 25, 2021

Mr. John Burbridge
Wyoming Public Service Commission
Hansen Building, Suite 300
2515 Warren Ave.
Cheyenne, WY 82002

RE: Application for PREPay Meter Service
Docket No. 10014-218-CT-21

Dear Mr. Burbridge:

Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) has filed an Application for authorization to offer PREPay (PP) Meter Service to its residential members. A check in the amount of \$5.00 for the filing fee has been mailed direct to the Commission.

Pursuant to Docket No. 90000-151-XO-20, Record No. 15474 issued on March 19, 2020, no physical original or copies of this filing will be mailed directly to the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E. Easley".

Michael E. Easley
Chief Executive Officer

MEE/sjp

5. This Application is supported by the pre-filed written, direct testimony and exhibits of the following witness:

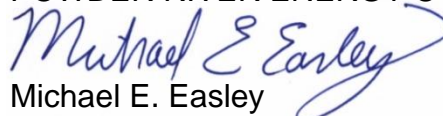
Jeffery W. Bumgarner
Vice-President of Member Service
Powder River Energy Corporation

Mr. Bumgarner will provide testimony regarding the Cooperative's proposed PP meter service.

6. This Application has been posted to the Cooperative's website at www.precorp.coop, with the details regarding the new payment method as contained in this application. In addition, the Cooperative will notify its members of the proposed PP meter service filing in its September 2021 "PRECorp News" section of the "WREN" magazine.
7. Communications regarding this Application are to be addressed to Mr. Michael E. Easley, Chief Executive Officer, for the Applicant, Post Office Box 930, Sundance, Wyoming 82729, and Ms. Kara L. Ellsbury, Attorney of Hirst Applegate, LLP, Attorney for the Applicant, Post Office Box 1083, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003.
8. The Cooperative respectfully requests approval of a PP meter service be effective for residential member participation on or after November 1, 2021, pursuant to the attached testimony and exhibits contained in this filing and hereby made a part of this Application.

Dated at Sundance, Wyoming, this 29th day of August 2021.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION



Michael E. Easley
Chief Executive Officer

**BEFORE THE
WYOMING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
JEFFERY W. BUMGARNER**

**ON BEHALF OF
POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION**

Docket No. 10014-218-CT-21

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Jeffery (Jeff) W. Bumgarner, and my business address is
3 Powder River Energy Corporation, PO Box 930, Sundance, WY 82729.

4 **Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?**

5 A. I am employed as Vice-President of Member Service by Powder River
6 Energy Corporation ("PRECorp" or "the Cooperative").

7 **Q. What are your duties as Vice-President of Member Service at**
8 **PRECorp?**

9 A. My duties are to manage the member service, communications, and
10 business development functions at PRECorp. As a member of the executive
11 staff, I participate in strategic planning and the general operation of the
12 Corporation.

13 **Q. Please summarize your educational and professional background.**

14 A. I have a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Business Management from
15 the University of Oregon and have completed the University of Idaho's Utility
16 Executive program, among other management programs. I have been

17 employed in the utility field since 1981, having worked at PacifiCorp for 34
18 years prior to joining PRECorp in January of 2016. I have held management
19 positions from customer care and new business development to marketing,
20 demand-side management, and resource planning. Most of my years of
21 experience in the electric utility industry have been working directly with
22 end-use consumers across a variety of service-related matters and needs.

23 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

24 A. I will provide testimony to explain and provide insight into the reasons why
25 PRECorp is requesting approval to add a residential PREPay (PP) meter
26 service to its electric service payment options, and if approved how the
27 Cooperative plans to administer the PP new meter service to the benefit of
28 its member/owners.

29 **Q. Provide, at a high level, what is being proposed in the Application?**

30 A. The Cooperative is requesting the implementation of a new residential
31 meter service, PP meter service, designed to enable residential members
32 more control over how they manage and pay for their electric service. The
33 new meter service also provides members who do not have established
34 credit with the Cooperative an option to paying/posting a security deposit
35 on their account by electing to pay for their electric service in advance, on
36 a pay-as-you go type basis.

37 **Q. Are there other member benefits?**

38 A. Yes, in addition to greater control and not having to post a security deposit,
39 the member receives no paper bill, has no monthly due date to manage to,

40 and can monitor their electricity usage and stay up to date on payments
41 using any mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

42 **Q. Would participation under PP meter service be voluntary for**
43 **residential members?**

44 **A.** Yes, the PP meter service is a voluntary billing and payment service for
45 members who would like to make payment for electric service using a
46 prepayment method. Should a member wish to switch to another authorized
47 billing and payment arrangement with the Cooperative, the member can do
48 so at any time.

49 **Q. Will participants of the PP meter service pay a different rate for their**
50 **electric service than residential members participating in the**
51 **Cooperative's standard end of month billing and payment method?**

52 **A.** Rates charged participants of the PP meter service are based on the
53 Cooperative's approved residential rate schedule in which the member is
54 receiving electric service, the applicable rate(s) are simply metered and/or
55 billed on a daily, as opposed to monthly, basis. The PREPay meter service
56 Tariff is provided in this Application as Exhibit A – "PREPay Meter Service."
57 This Exhibit outlines the basic method in which electric service is billed, as
58 well as PP meter service general terms and conditions.

59 **Q. Can any member participate in the PP meter service?**

60 **A.** Service under the PP meter service is not available to anyone who has a
61 life support system in his or her home, non-residential services, or members
62 repaying a service or product related loan through monthly installments

63 billed to their electric service account. Also, participation is not available to
64 members on Budget Billing or who are enrolled in auto payment programs
65 who wish to maintain these services.

66 **Q. Why can't member accounts with outstanding loans being repaid in**
67 **installments on their monthly electric bill participate in PP meter**
68 **service?**

69 **A.** Currently the PP meter service billing routine, and the Cooperative's
70 accounts receivable system, are not integrated in a fashion that would avoid
71 the double billing of monthly loan installments. Once the loan is satisfied,
72 and providing other exclusions noted previously do not apply, a member
73 could elect to receive their electric service through the PP meter service
74 option.

75 **Q. How do members enroll in PP meter service?**

76 **A.** Members electing to participate in PP meter service must sign a PP meter
77 service agreement outlining the terms and conditions of participation and
78 prepay at least \$50 towards future usage and charges. A copy of the PP
79 meter service agreement is provided in this Application as Exhibit B –
80 "PREPay (PP) Meter Service Agreement."

81 **Q. Are there other requirements of members wanting to participate in**
82 **PREpay metering?**

83 **A.** To facilitate prepayments on participating accounts and to receive PP meter
84 service account balance and discontinuation of service notifications,
85 members must establish a SmartHub account with the cooperative. It is the

86 participating members' responsibility to maintain current contact information
87 in SmartHub for these purposes. Participating accounts will not receive
88 monthly bill statements therefore maintaining current contact information is
89 vital to the management of PP meter service accounts.

90 **Q. What if a member wishing to enroll in PP meter service has an**
91 **indebtedness with the Cooperative for service previously provided?**

92 **A.** The Cooperative may allow the member to pay the indebtedness or portions
93 of the indebtedness, by deducting a portion, or all, of the indebtedness as
94 a percentage of each prepaid service purchase made thereafter until the
95 indebtedness is satisfied.

96 **Q. What if a member enrolling for PP meter service has a security deposit**
97 **on account with the Cooperative?**

98 **A.** If the member has an electric service deposit with the Cooperative at the
99 time the member elects to take service under the PP meter service, any
100 amount of the deposit and interest more than their outstanding
101 indebtedness will be applied as a credit on the member's account, unless
102 the member requests the amount be refunded.

103 **Q. How do PP meter service participants know when their PP meter**
104 **service account credit is about to runout?**

105 **A.** PP meter service participants receive a notification via email or text when
106 their account credit reaches an amount that is expected to be consumed
107 within the next four days, providing them with ample opportunity to make

108 payment on their account. The notification is provided through the
109 Cooperative's SmartHub member portal.

110 **Q. After receiving notification that their account credit is running low,**
111 **what happens if a PP meter service participant does not make**
112 **additional payment on their account and their prepayment credits run**
113 **out?**

114 **A.** A second notification will be sent to a member when the credit balance of
115 their PP meter service account reaches zero, giving them 24-hours to make
116 a payment to avoid disruption of service. Disconnections for non-payment
117 happen at 11:00 a.m. Monday-Friday, excluding holidays, following the
118 second notification.

119 **Q. What if the member cannot make a prepayment because the**
120 **Cooperative's offices are closed?**

121 **A.** In addition to prepaying for electric service at the Cooperative's offices,
122 payments/purchases of account credits can be made via the internet or
123 telephone 24- hours a day.

124 **Q. What will the PP Meter Service notification process be during the cold**
125 **weather months of November 1 through April 30?**

126 **A.** During the cold weather months, the PP meter service notification process
127 will be the same, members will be notified by email or text when the credit
128 amount in their PP meter service accounts reaches an amount that is
129 expected to be consumed within the next four days, and again when the
130 account balance reaches zero. In addition, PRECorp will make a

131 reasonable effort to contact members in person or by telephone to make
132 sure that they are aware of an impending disconnection.

133 **Q. Can PP meter service participants make payment arrangements to**
134 **avoid disruption of their service due to running out of credit on their**
135 **PP account?**

136 **A.** When members enroll in PP meter service, they agree to pay for their
137 electric services in advance therefore payment arrangements are not
138 available.

139 **Q. What if a PP meter service participant is disconnected for running out**
140 **of credit on their PP account?**

141 **A.** If disconnected, members will be required to establish a positive credit
142 balance on their account of \$20 before being reconnected. Once payment
143 is received, service is automatically restored.

144 **Q. If a PP meter service participant's account is disconnected for running**
145 **out of credit on their account, do they still accumulate account**
146 **charges?**

147 **A.** Should electric service be discontinued, caused by the member's electric
148 usage having consumed the value of the advanced payment, the daily cost
149 of monthly basic charges and any fixed rate charges, such as those for
150 outdoor area lights (minimum billing amounts), will continue to bill and
151 accumulate on the member's account and will be deducted from the
152 member's next advanced payment purchase for electric service.
153 Discontinuation of service for reasons of non-payment do not release

154 members from their obligation to pay the account minimum billings as
155 outlined in Exhibit A – “PREPay Meter Service” tariff.

156 **Q. What happens if the PP meter service account that is disconnected for**
157 **non-payment is not reconnected within 30-days of running out of**
158 **account credit?**

159 **A.** After 30-days, the account will be considered an inactive account and will
160 be processed as a new account if reconnection of service at the location is
161 requested.

162 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

163 **A.** Yes, it does.

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION

RATE SCHEDULE INDEX

TARIFF RATE RIDER	PAGE NUMBERS
Residential (A).....	1
Residential Time of Day (TOD)	1
Residential Time of Use	1
General Service (GS)	2
Large Power (LP)	2
Irrigation (I).....	2
Outdoor Lighting (OL).....	2
Street Lighting (SL)	2
Large Power Transmission Coal Mine (LPT-CM).....	2
Large Power Transmission General (LPT-G)	3
General Service Time of Use (GS-TOU).....	3
Large Power Time of Use (LP-TOU)	3
Large Power Transmission Coal Bed Methane (LPT-CBM)	3
Idle Line Retention (IS).....	4
Green Tag (GT).....	4
Small Power Production (SPP)	4
Heat Rate (HR)	4
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Residential – Time of Day ((TOD)	7-8
Residential Time of Use (RTOU).....	9-10
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General Service – Time of Use (GS-TOU)	25-26
Large Power – Time of Use (LP-TOU)	27-30
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Billing Adjustment (BA).....	34-41
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<u>PREPay Meter Service (PP)</u>	<u>49-50</u>

POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION

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PREPay Meter Service (PP)	49-50

Rate Schedule: PREPay (PP) Meter Service

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to single-phase Residential members of the Corporation for residential uses requiring less than 50 kVA of transformer capacity. Dependent on residential rate schedule, this may include seasonal uses. Seasonal uses include stock water wells, recreational cabins, and rural community buildings. The capacity of individual motors served under this payment service method shall not exceed ten horsepower (10 HP).

Members taking electric service under this PREPay Meter Service (PP) must have Corporation approved and installed electric meters capable of metering electric service on hourly intervals, have meters installed that are capable of being remotely disconnected and reconnected, have signed a PP meter service agreement, and have prepaid at least \$50 towards their PP account.

AVAILABILITY

Available within the certificated territory of Powder River Energy Corporation.

TYPE OF SERVICE

Single-phase, 60 cycles, at Corporation's standard secondary voltage.

RATE PER METER:

Basic Charge – Based on applicable residential rate schedule, divided by 30.

ENERGY CHARGE

Based on applicable residential rate schedule kWh rate(s), plus the COPA factor shown on Sheet No. 1. The COPA mechanism is described in detail beginning on Sheet No. 34.

MINIMUM BILLING

The minimum charge shall be the monthly Basic Charge of the applicable rate schedule, plus other applicable monthly fixed rate schedule amount(s) and charge(s) (including applicable COPA factors and taxes), divided by 30.

BILLING ADJUSTMENT

This rate is subject to all billing adjustment charges, and such adjustment charges shall be billed in addition to the minimum charges.

LIMITATIONS

Service under the PP meter service is not available to anyone who has a life support system in his or her home, is repaying a service or product related loan through monthly installments billed to their electric service account, members on Budget Billing payment method, or members enrolled in auto payment programs. PP meter service participants will not be sent a monthly statement and will not be eligible for payment arrangements. The Corporation will furnish, maintain, and own all the PP meter service equipment. Electric service usage and basic charge(s) will be billed at the Corporation's applicable residential rate schedules, other charges will be billed at the Corporation's applicable and approved fixed monthly rates and charges.

Issued by
Michael E. Easley, Chief Executive Officer

Rate Schedule: PREPay (PP) Meter Service

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payment for service shall be made in advance. When the value of the service consumed equals the value of advanced purchases, the member will have until 10:30 a.m. the following morning (Monday through Friday, excluding holidays) to make additional payment to the Corporation. If no payment is received by the Corporation by that time, electric service is subject to immediate disconnection until additional purchases by the member are made.

Discontinued members will be required to establish a positive credit balance of at least \$20 before being reconnected. The Corporation shall attempt to make actual contact with the member either in person or by telephone, after member verification, before discontinuing service during the cold weather period November 1, through April 30.

Member participation under the PP meter service is voluntary for members who would like to make payments for electric service using a prepayment method. Should a member wish to discontinue their participation in the PP meter service and switch to another authorized payment arrangement with the Corporation, the member can do so at any time.

Should the electric service be discontinued, caused by member's electrical usage and minimum billing charges having consumed the entire value of the advanced payments, all minimum billing charges (based on their daily calculation) will continue to accumulate on the member's account and will be deducted from the member's next advanced payment purchase for electric service. Discontinuation for reasons of non-payment does not release members from their obligation to pay the minimum billing charges required of participation in PP meter service. After 30-days of service discontinuation for lack of sufficient prepayment, the account will be considered an inactive account and will be processed as a new account if reconnection of service at the location is requested.

In the event the member has an indebtedness with the Corporation for service previously provided, the Corporation may allow members to pay the indebtedness or portions of the indebtedness, by deducting a portion, or all, of the indebtedness as a percentage of each PP meter service purchase made thereafter until the indebtedness is satisfied.

In the event the member has an electric service deposit with the Corporation at the time the member elects to receive service under PP meter service, any amount of the deposit and interest more than the outstanding indebtedness will be applied as a credit on the member's account, unless the member requests the amount be refunded.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Service supplied under this schedule is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Corporation's Rules and Regulations on file with the Wyoming Public Service Commission.

Issued by
Michael E. Easley, Chief Executive Officer

PREPay (PP) Meter Service Agreement

The undersigned, (Member) hereby applies for participation in the PREPay (PREPay) Meter Service Program offered to members of Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) and agrees to the following terms and conditions:

1. I understand that participation in PREPay is voluntary.
2. I understand that I am solely responsible to regularly monitor the balance of my account and that I will not be mailed a monthly statement of electric usage and other applicable fees or charges.
3. I understand that I will be required to establish a SmartHub account with the cooperative.
4. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide and maintain current contact information (i.e., email address, phone number) for the receipt of PREPay alerts and notifications.
5. I affirm that no household member has a life-support system.
6. I agree that prepayment, in the amount of \$50.00, is required to participate in PREPay. If am converting from a traditional account to PREPay, any outstanding bill, including unbilled usage through the date of conversion to PREPay, must be paid, in addition to the establishment of the \$50.00 credit.
7. I understand I will not be required to pay a deposit that a traditional account may require. If I have an electric service deposit with the cooperative at the time of conversion to PREPay, any amount of the deposit and interest, more than the outstanding indebtedness, will be applied as a credit on my account, unless I request the amount be refunded.
8. I understand that payments may be made via internet or telephone 24 hours a day or during normal business hours at the cooperative offices.
9. I understand that any payment assistance (LIEAP, ERAP, etc.) will not be applied to my account until the payment is received in the office and that approved payment assistance amounts will not prevent my account from being disconnected if my PREPay balance is depleted.
10. I understand that I shall pay any returned payment or service fees and agree that all such applicable fees are required to be paid in full before any payments are applied to the balance of the PREPay account or outstanding PREPay amount.
11. I understand that PREPay accounts not eligible for budget billing, automatic payment programs, or payment arrangements.
12. I understand that there is a shortened period for advanced notice of service disconnection with PREPay compared to a traditional account and the notice given will typically be provided via email or text message only.
13. I understand that during the cold weather period from November 1st through April 30th, PRECorp shall attempt to make actual contact with me either in person or by telephone, before disconnecting my service.
14. I understand that I will receive a notification when my PREPay credit balance reaches an amount that is expected to be consumed in the next four days and am not entitled to any additional written notice.
15. I understand that to dispute the reasons for the pending disconnect, I must contact PRECorp or the Wyoming Public Service Commission.
16. I understand that I will receive notification that my PREPay balance has been depleted and will have 23 ½ hours to make payment on my account to avoid disconnection of service.
17. Disconnections occur at 10:30 am, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

- 18. If my service is disconnected, payment of the full outstanding balance, plus a \$20.00 credit, is required. Once received, my service will be automatically restored.
- 19. I understand that disconnection of service for non-payment does not release me from my obligation to pay the minimum billing charges on the PREPay service. After 30 days, my account will be considered inactive and will be processed as a new account if reconnection is requested at the location.
- 20. I understand that I may, at any time, elect to convert my PREPay account back to a traditional account. I understand that in this event, normal rules for a traditional account will apply, including the payment/establishment of a security deposit on my account if applicable.
- 21. I understand that I am signing up to receive alerts (via email/phone/text) regarding my PREPay account balance and pending disconnection and agree that my disclosing a mobile, landline, or other phone number, PRECorp can call the me on that number using an automatic prerecorded telephone dialer and/or that PRECorp can leave a prerecorded and/or text message on that number.

- I acknowledge that I have read and accept the terms and conditions of the PREPay Meter Service Agreement.
- I understand the difference between a PREPay and traditional post-payment account service and am voluntarily choosing to participate in the PREPay Meter Service Program. I agree to hold Powder River Energy Corporation, its directors, and employees harmless from any resulting damage due to an automatic disconnection or reconnection of my service.

Date: _____

Member Number: _____

Member Name: _____

Joint Member Name: _____

Account #: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____