

Watts New

October, 2022

From The Desk Of... Don Smith, Manager

It's official! Fall is on the way! Yesterday was in the 90's and today the high is forecast for the mid 60's. I love this time of year and the changing of seasons!

As I write this, we are in the middle of our area meetings discussing our recent announcement of the rate changes. As you read in my letter announcing the changes, we are changing how we charge for costs between the facility charge and the energy (or kWh) charge. Yes, the facility charge is going up a good bit, HOWEVER, the energy charge is being reduced. The reason for this change, or reallocation of costs, is that it costs your REA a "fixed" amount to have a service to your house, well, barn, etc. no matter how many kWh you use. It does not matter if you use 100 kWh or 10,000 kWh, the cost to have the system run to your meter does not change. We need to charge our "fixed" costs with a "fixed" charge. By putting "fixed" charges in a variable cost item such as energy, the more energy you use, the more you get to pay of the "fixed" costs for everybody else's system. By increasing the facility charge, we are moving more toward putting the costs where they need to be. This jump does not get us all the way, but it is significantly closer. If you would like to discuss this more, please give me a call and we can chat.



On to other happenings at your REA—as many of you are aware, Black Hills Energy is proposing to build a transmission line between Glenrock and Cheyenne through our area. Their proposed project route was to the west of town. Following a couple of meetings at the Wyoming Public Service Commission, we met with some of the right-of-way folks from Black Hills and discussed possible alternative routes, as well as potential benefits of the overall project to both the REA and Black Hills. This was a very preliminary discussion, and no commitments were made by either of us, but the conversation has been started. We will see what the future brings. You, as landowners, may very well hear more information before we do, but if you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call and we will be happy to look into things for you. The weblink for the project is <https://www.blackhillsenergy.com/ready-wyoming>. This will give you more information on the project overall.

The Wyoming statewide association is looking into the future of the statewide publication of the WREN Magazine. There have been some requests for a digital, or on-line, version of the magazine, while others prefer the hardcopy version. There are costs either way, and some duplicate costs, if you have both versions. We are interested in your thoughts on this. At this time, we are not sure how we will gain your opinion on your preference, but please be watching for some type of survey or questionnaire looking for your opinion. The more that respond, the more we will know what our members want for communication!

This is a year that I can love and hate at the same time. I love that we have the right and the ability to vote for those who will decide legislative issues, but I absolutely despise all the garbage that goes along before the election, and sometimes after the election. I encourage everyone to get out and vote! Regardless of your political leanings, please get out and vote on November 8th to make sure your voice is heard! No matter your leaning, this is a critical year, and it is not only your constitutional right, but also an obligation to ensure we maintain our freedoms!

As always, thanks for being such awesome members of Wheatland REA! We appreciate you and so love the culture you have built in the region. You don't have to look very far in either direction to see areas that do not share our values, some that are even contrary to our own. Let's stay strong and keep our area strong! Please stop in and let us know your thoughts and let us help with any questions you may have about happenings in the power industry.

Thanks again everyone!

**Watts New is a publication of
Wheatland Rural Electric
Association.**

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**REA WINTER HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

OUTAGES-OPEN 24/7

**OUTAGE PHONE NUMBERS
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24 hours a day**

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From the Office of RKA.....

Happy October 2022! We are heading into the 4th quarter of the year. WOW! The fall season is showing its beautiful colors, fall sports are going on and harvest season is in full force.

October is National Cooperative Month across the United States. As employees of a cooperative and you as members of this co-op, we should take the time to reflect on the principles and values of belonging to a cooperative. I think the quickest and easiest way to inform someone of why it is valuable to be a part of a cooperative is to share with them the 7 Cooperative Principles:

- 1) Voluntary and Open Membership – Anyone can join a co-op; no discrimination involved.
- 2) Democratic Member Control – Members control the business by voting.
- 3) Members' Economic Participation – All co-op members invest in their cooperative.
- 4) Autonomy & Independence – Co-ops never compromise their autonomy or democratic member control.
- 5) Education, Training, and Information – Co-ops provide these things to their members so they can contribute effectively to the success of the co-op.
- 6) Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Co-ops believe working together is the best strategy to empower their members and build a stronger co-op economy.
- 7) Concern for community – Co-ops are community minded by contributing to the development of their communities by sourcing and investing locally.

We, here at the REA, strive to maintain the 7 Principles while making decisions that affect you, as members. Sometimes, the decisions that are made are difficult and uncomfortable but we strive to work hard in gathering information and doing extensive work before deciding on anything that will affect you.

One decision that has been made by the board of directors is a rate adjustment to be effective October 1st. We held area meetings throughout the territory for you, as members, to attend and get all your questions answered. If you still have questions, please feel free to call the office. You will see an increase, or decrease (depending on your monthly usage), in rates on the bill that will be billed on November 1st. Again, please call the office with any questions!

During the month of October, you should be receiving your capital credit allocation statement for the calendar year 2021. This is to let you know what was allocated to your account for that year based on operating margins for the year and what you paid to us in energy \$\$\$. This is NOT a notice of the check that you will get in 2023 if the board decides to retire capital credits. Again, any questions, please let me know.

The computer system conversion that I have been discussing with you is going fast and furious. Every day there seems to be various deadlines in all departments of the co-op from financials to mapping and staking. We are constantly checking and re-checking data and reports to see if our information is downloading correctly. Again, once we get closer and closer, we will keep you informed of any changes or situations that will affect you. Stay tuned....the conversion is picking up steam!
[\(Continued On Page 3\)](#)



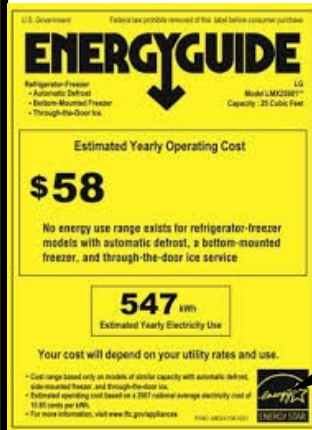
(Continued From Page 2) Homefront is quiet and headed into fall hunting. The dogs have been out already and loving it. I am told that the pup is doing pretty good in the field. Hoping that he gets quite a bit of hunting in so it will take his mind off of making our yard a golf course with all the holes he is digging!!



Until next month....

ENERGY STAR REBATE PROGRAM

When you're buying a new appliance, don't forget that Wheatland REA gives rebates for certain Energy Star rated appliances. Look at the yellow energy guide on your appliance to



find out if it qualifies for a rebate. Call Becky with questions: (307) 322-2125.

This is what you are looking for.

PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOUR POWER GOES OUT...



Top arrow... **Your meter**
 If the meter readout window is blank, you have no power to your service. **CALL US.**

Bottom arrow... **Your breakers**

If the readout window is on, check your breakers below it. If they are in the "off" position, try to reset them. If they will not reset, the problem is somewhere in your wire or equipment. We are not allowed to work on the member-owner's side of the service and you need to call an electrician. One last step, which should probably be your first step. Before going out to your meter, check the breakers in your home's breaker panel.

Are You Or A Family Member Using An Oxygen Concentrator Or Other Electric Medical Device In Your Home?

If so, please give us a call and we will add you to our Medical Necessity Member Call List!

Doing so will help us keep you informed during power outages.



November 6th Daylight Saving Time Ends! FALL BACK! (One Hour)

Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Out & about on Halloween? Watch out for our little "trick-or-treaters", they can be very hard to see in the dark!

Has your phone number changed? Please let us know!

Veterans Day, November 11th

Let us honor you and your service on Veterans Day!

Friday, November 11th at the Agriplex

59 Antelope Gap Rd., Wheatland, WY

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is a joint effort by Wheatland REA, the members of VFW Post 3558, and the members of Ora Call American Legion Post 10.

The Veterans Day luncheon, sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary, will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wheatland REA is very proud of our Veterans. If you, or someone you know has military memorabilia from the service, we would be honored to include it in our Veterans' honor display. Let the community see what you or a loved one did for our freedom. For more information, please call (307) 322-2125 and ask for Al or Becky.

STEFFES Heating Systems



HEATING SEASON IS HERE!

Has your home heating system had a tune up? Winter and cold weather is not a good time to be waiting for the "repairman" to fix it if it stops working. Think about having it serviced, you might be glad you did.



STAY SAFE AND BE RESPONSIBLE!

(NO SHOOTING POWER POLES OR ROAD SIGNS)



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