



## NOTICE OF RATE MEETING

The Board of Trustees of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be holding a rate meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Prairie Land Electric office located at 14935 US Highway 36 in Norton, Kansas.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss ways to reduce the immediate impact of the extraordinary power costs incurred during the February energy emergencies.

The Board may or may not take action at this meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

News reports about astronomical electricity bills have our members fearing how much the energy emergencies in February will cost them. The truth is, we don't know yet, but we do anticipate the costs to be exponential. No matter the amount, Prairie Land is committed to doing everything we can to reduce the immediate impact on our members.

In terms of electrical service, the most devastating result of February's widespread severe and sustained cold was the scarcity of natural gas. As wellheads froze, supplies dwindled, and electricity generators were paying extremely high prices for the remaining fuel. Every generator in the 14 states served by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) was experiencing the same temperature extremes and had to pay whatever it cost to generate power that was so desperately needed during the crisis.

Meanwhile, electricity demand surged to levels not usually seen in the winter months. With the need for electricity approaching the limited generation capacity, the grid was at risk of failing, which can cause widespread equipment damage and weeks of outages. To avoid such devastating consequences, temporary controlled outages were required to reduce the overall load.

Our members made extraordinary, voluntary efforts to conserve energy that helped to minimize the number and lengths of the energy emergency alerts and service interruption orders issued by the SPP. This truly made a big difference, and we can't thank you enough for the sacrifices you were willing to make to preserve the integrity of the grid. Now that power demand and generation is back to expected levels, the next concern we have to address is the financial impact to Prairie Land members.

Please understand that you will not see February's high power costs on the current March bill. If you do see any increase on the current bill, it would be from increased usage during the cold. We won't receive our wholesale power bill from Sunflower until after the Prairie Land bills are mailed, so the April bill may be the first one to show the effects of the extraordinary power costs. Our immediate priority, and the purpose of the rate meeting, is to work with the trustees to develop a plan to keep these inevitable charges manageable for everyone. Our members and Prairie Land are one and the same, and we will find a way to reduce the immediate impact of the crisis on our members.

With so many factors contributing to concerns about both power cost and power reliability, I'm sure you have more questions. Please visit our FAQ page at [prairielandelectric.com/EnergyEmergencyFAQ](http://prairielandelectric.com/EnergyEmergencyFAQ) or call us during business hours at 800-577-3323 or 785-877-3323.

*Kirk Girard*

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CEO