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**PRAIRIE LAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

Board Approves Rider for February Power Costs

Most of our members saw a new line item on their bill that went out the first week of April. The “Feb 2021 Winter Weather PCA” is an installment of February’s power costs.

Loc: EXAMPLE			Desc: EXAMPLE		Rate: P110 Residential/Farm-Rural	
Meter Reading Details		Meter 125179848	Detail of Charges			
Current Reading	03/31/21	79281	Energy Charge (kWh)		407.05	
Previous Reading	02/28/21	75394	3887 KWH @ .10472		407.05	
Total Usage		3887	Service Access Charge		20.00	
			Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) @ -.0176300 PER KWH		-68.53	
KW Demand Reading	03/31/21	13.080	Property Tax Surcharge @ .0022700 PER KWH		8.82	
Total KW Usage		13.080	Feb 2021 Winter Weather PCA		32.95	
			Norton County Tax		3.00	
			Total This Service		403.29	
You have 35 months remaining of \$32.95 for Feb 2021 Winter Weather PCA charge.						

Increased February Wholesale Power Costs

During February 2021, every state in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), including Kansas, had historic, extreme cold weather that increased the demand for electricity and impeded the ability to generate it. Controlled service interruptions were implemented across the SPP for the first time in its 80-year history, and the cost to purchase power increased exponentially.

Prairie Land’s wholesale power bill increased over \$14 million in February — more than six times higher than a normal monthly billing. While many components factor into the cost of purchased power, the main drivers of the increase in February were a record demand for natural gas coupled with a reduced supply. Natural gas is one of the primary resources used to generate electricity at power plants, and as a commodity, it responds to supply and demand to determine the selling price. The reduced supply and high demand situation caused historic high natural gas prices. Before the winter storm, electric providers had access to natural

gas ranging from \$2.75 per MMBtu to \$4.15 per MMBtu. During the winter storm, natural gas prices ranged from \$339 per MMBtu to \$999 per MMBtu.

“We knew that news reports about astronomical electric bills had our members fearing how much the energy emergencies in February would increase their bills,” said Kirk Girard, CEO. “But Prairie Land’s board was committed to finding an equitable and manageable solution for our members.”

Girard also pointed out the extraordinary, voluntary efforts that Prairie Land members made to conserve energy. These efforts helped minimize the number and lengths of the SPP’s energy emergency alerts and service interruption orders. “This truly made a big difference, and we can’t thank our members enough for the sacrifices they were willing to make to preserve the integrity of the grid.”

What is a Power Cost Adjustment, and How is it Billed?

Prairie Land electric rates include a cost per kilowatt-hour that is based

upon an expected cost of purchased power. However, the actual cost per kilowatt-hour fluctuates from month to month dependent on wholesale power costs, including natural gas, wind, solar, coal, hydro, and nuclear generation. Those fluctuations are reflected on the member’s monthly billing through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA); Prairie Land does not profit from the PCA as it is a direct pass-through from the power supplier. For most of the previous year (10 of the 12 months), the PCA on Prairie Land’s bills had been a credit due to purchased power costs being lower than expected. However, it reached record-highs during February.

How Did Prairie Land Minimize the Financial Impact to Members?

Prairie Land understood that by assessing this extraordinary power cost in a single month, the PCA could cause many members financial hardship. In fact, assigning the full amount of the February event could have resulted in members receiving bills totaling three

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Help us keep our linemen safe.

Utility poles are not bulletin boards. Foreign objects can tear utility workers' protective clothing leaving them vulnerable to electrocution.

Anyone posting items on utility poles is also at risk of exposure to electricity pulsing overhead. Always stay at least 10 feet away from utility lines.

Think before you post!

Board Approves Rider for February Power Costs

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to five times higher than normal. An average residential member with a typical bill of \$125 (1,000 kWh usage) would have seen an additional \$305 on the February bill. The board of trustees voted in February to hold a rate meeting on March 23, 2021, with the intent to find an equitable and more manageable method to mitigate the immediate impact on Prairie Land members.

Board of Trustees Approve Deferred Cost Ride (DCR)

With that goal in mind, the board of trustees unanimously voted to approve the February 2021 Deferred Cost Rider (DCR) to lessen the immediate financial impact on Prairie Land members.

The rider allows the extraordinary costs to be broken into thirty-six (36) equal installments, including carrying costs. The amortized expense is being added as a separate line item on the monthly bill ("Feb 2021 Winter Weather PCA") and began with the

April 2021 statement. The monthly bill also includes a message providing the number of installments that remain. Members with a total DCR balance of \$36 or less had only one charge on the April billing statement, with no additional installments.

"Our members and Prairie Land are one and the same, and we only succeed if our members succeed," explained Girard. "While Prairie Land cannot control cost impacts such as fuel prices, we are committed to implementing an equitable and manageable solution to mitigate any direct impacts to our members and ensure our rates remain affordable. We will also work with individual members to make sure payment options are in place, and bills are manageable."

If any Prairie Land member is concerned about being able to pay an electric bill at any time, please call the Prairie Land office toll-free at 1-800-577-3323 and ask about payment assistance options available to members.

Happy
Mother's
Day



May 9



Remember & Honor

★ ★ ★
Our offices are closed on May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.

★ ★ ★
If you have an outage, please call our 24-hour service at 1-800-577-3323

Congratulations Prairie Land Employees!

Prairie Land extends its congratulations and appreciation to Kevin Black, Jim Coash and Cory Johnson for their years of service to our members and the cooperative.



Kevin Black
35 Years

KEVIN BLACK began his career with Norton-Decatur on May 1, 1986, as a lineman in the Oberlin area.

In April 1989, he moved to Norton and began working on the construction crew. In 1995, he advanced to warehouseman. In 2006, he became the purchasing/work order clerk, the position he currently holds with Prairie Land.

Kevin and his wife, Tami, have three children and six grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, camping and an occasional round of golf.



Jim Coash
35 Years

JIM COASH was hired at Centel as a division engineer on May 19, 1986, advancing to operations manager in 1992. He continued in that position with Prairie Land after the 2007 Aquila acquisition.

“One thing that hasn’t changed over my 35 years working here is the satisfaction I receive from assisting members with whatever question or problem they may have.”

Jim and his wife, Teri, enjoy spending weekends with their two grown children, friends and family.



Cory Johnson
15 Years

CORY JOHNSON began his employment on May 12, 2006, as a summer intern and was then hired as an apprentice lineman for the Stockton area.

In 2007, he moved to Phillipsburg. In 2010, he advanced to journeyman lineman, the position he currently holds.

Cory and his wife, Lindsey, have four children, Kobie, age 7; Kamrie, age 12; and Kylie and Lexi who attend the University of Kansas. In his spare time, Cory enjoys hunting, fishing, roping and spending time with his family at the lake.

Prairie Land Welcomes New Employee

CHRISTY BLOODWORTH began her employment on April 6, 2021, as a customer service representative. She grew up in Norton and recently returned after living in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to Prairie Land, she had been working at the Norton Medical Clinic.

Christy has six children: three adult daughters, along with Zeke, age 14, Juan, age 14, and Manny, age 13. She is also blessed with two granddaughters and is expecting a grandson in August.

In her spare time, Christy likes to walk, run, read and spend time with family, as well as attend her kids’ sporting events.



Christy Bloodworth

KILOWATT’S TIPS

Prevent Water Electrocutation Accidents



Kilowatt

May 22-28 is National Safe Boating Week. Boating and swimming are fun pastimes and a great way to cool off when temperatures get hot. However, there is a hidden danger of which many are unaware — electric shock drowning (ESD). ESD happens when electrical current seeps into water from a nearby electrical source, such as a boat or marina dock. As a person swims in or near water that is electrified, his or her body can become a conductor for that electricity. Once the electricity moves through the body, a person can become paralyzed and drown. Prairie Land Electric urges water recreation enthusiasts to learn about ESD and prevent water electrocution accidents.

Here are four tips to help you stay safe during water recreation activities:

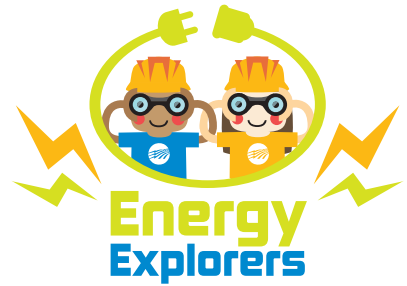
- ▶ Do not swim around docks with electrical equipment or boats plugged into shore power.
- ▶ If you are in the water and feel electric current, shout to let others know, try to stay upright, tuck your legs up to make yourself smaller and swim away from anything that could be energized. Do not head to a boat or dock ladders to get out.
- ▶ If you are on the dock or shore when a swimmer feels electrical current, do not jump in. Throw them a float, turn off the shore power connection at the meter base, and/or unplug shore power cords. Try to eliminate the source of electricity as quickly as possible; then call for help.
- ▶ If you own a boat and/or dock make sure it has proper safety equipment, complies with applicable standards and codes, and is maintained at least once a year.

KILOWATT was adopted by Prairie Land after the December 2006 ice storm. She now brings you energy and safety tips each month.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH WORD SEARCH

May is Electrical Safety Month!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle all the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



E	J	E	Q	L	V	T	S	O	K	F	A	B	T	T
L	S	R	Y	S	D	E	D	D	E	H	N	Y	X	J
E	D	A	M	A	G	E	D	B	I	J	L	G	E	V
C	N	V	J	L	H	W	M	E	B	U	R	I	T	O
T	S	C	N	K	R	W	C	D	M	S	Q	A	N	A
R	B	M	Z	D	G	D	S	R	R	N	R	I	Q	I
I	J	Z	O	F	Y	D	F	O	C	O	D	O	L	F
C	S	C	Y	K	R	Z	D	O	V	N	U	V	I	D
A	Z	U	T	O	E	F	Q	M	T	T	B	R	B	Q
L	K	Y	C	K	X	A	P	N	L	A	E	J	B	W
K	I	M	W	A	Q	A	L	E	Z	R	N	L	Y	E
E	Z	K	T	A	L	M	T	A	I	G	P	X	I	D
D	R	A	Z	A	H	S	Y	S	R	F	J	J	I	J
E	F	E	B	A	S	P	K	L	V	M	Z	H	L	M
E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	S	S	N	W	T

WORD BANK

- ▶ Do not use any electrical **cords** that feel warm to the touch or are **damaged** in any way.
- ▶ Remind parents or adults in your home to test **smoke alarms** every month. Alarms should be installed in every **bedroom**, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- ▶ Do not overload electrical **outlets**. Overloading creates a potential fire **hazard**.
- ▶ Keep all **liquids** away from **electronics**, including TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- ▶ Do not run **electrical** cords under rugs or carpet. This creates a **fire risk**.