

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Echoes of the Empire

MAY 2021

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May 2021

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

MISSION FOCUSED

BY ANDY CARTER
MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



ANDY CARTER

Part of Empire Electric Association's primary mission is to responsibly meet your electrical energy needs in an affordable and equitable manner. EEA's new rate options that will become available on September 1, 2021, show its commitment to achieve that mission. The driving force behind the rate structure change is to make rates more equitable, provide better price signals to consumer-members on how their power use profile impacts EEA's costs and improve EEA's financial stability to ensure it is here to serve for years to come.

We held rate forums in April and have three more scheduled for May (see schedule to the right) to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions and better understand the options you have. Updated billing statements you now receive show what your last month's time-of-use percentage split was, as well as your last 12 months' maximum demand. Having these two pieces of energy use data will help you understand the bottom-line impact for available rate options.

EEA is making the new rate option available because it gives you more control over your energy costs and the potential to save money by changing how you use power. The way you use power has a direct effect on EEA's cost to provide service, and choosing the time-of-use demand (TOUD) rate will allow you to realize those savings each month.

The new TOUD rate recovers EEA's cost to serve its membership in a more equitable manner and reduces the amount of subsidization. The TOUD rate will be less expensive than the all-energy rate for members who consistently use more electricity. It also sends a price signal so that

May 4

Noon to 1 p.m.
MEMBER RATE FORUM
San Juan County Library
80 N. Main St., Monticello, CO

May 11

Noon to 1 p.m.
MEMBER RATE FORUM
Ute Mountain Casino, Bingo Hall
3 Weeminuche Drive, Towaoc, CO

May 12

Noon to 1 p.m.
MEMBER RATE FORUM
Dolores Public Library
1002 Railroad Ave., Dolores, CO

June 17

Registration begins 4:30 p.m.
Meeting 5:30 p.m.
EEA ANNUAL MEETING
EEA E&O Facility
23999 Road L.4, Cortez, CO

July 12

Rate Choice Period Opens

August 20

Rate Choice Period Closes

September 1

New Rate Structure Implemented

co-op consumer-members understand what power use patterns are more expensive for EEA to provide service for. If a consumer-member shifts power use from the on-peak period to the off-peak period, EEA's purchased power costs will decrease, and that consumer-member will see a corresponding decrease on his/her bill.

The new TOUD rate improves our financial stability because it allows us to

better match how we pay for our expenses with how we charge our consumer-members for power. It also is in line with our board policy that calls for our rates to be fair and equitable, to minimize subsidies, to be cost based, to generate adequate revenue and to send appropriate price signals.

EEA understands changing how it is charging for power will result in some consumer-members' bills increasing as the existing subsidy within their rate class is reduced. Consumer-members can choose to stay on an all-energy rate come September 1, where the dollar per kilowatt-hour remains the same as it is today. There will be an increase in the grid access charge for some rates to move them closer to what our cost-of-service study says they should be. Keep in mind the higher grid access charge is a move toward the full cost-of-service study price but is still not at the full cost. This sends the appropriate price signal that the expense for the electric commodity itself is less than the physical infrastructure and people required to deliver it.

Account #: 00000000
Statement ID: 1000000000
Billing Cycle: 1

kWh and PCA rates remain the same but are calculated for On and Off-Peak times

Time of Use Data Now Displayed Here

Service Address: 212345 ROAD QQ
My Town, CO, 99999

Billing Detail for Meter 000000000
Previous Amount Billed \$85.56
03/08/21 Payment -- Thank You \$85.56CR
Balance Forward \$0.00 CR

New Charges for 02/22/2021 to 03/22/2021
Grid Access Charge Current \$32.00
On Peak kWh 507 @ 0.09599 \$48.67
Off Peak kWh 201 @ 0.09599 \$19.29
Current PCA On Peak 507 @ 0.00822 \$4.17
Current PCA Off Peak 201 @ 0.00822 \$1.65

Total New Charges \$105.78

Total Account Balance Due: \$105.78

Meter Number	Usage Type	Reading Date		Meter Reading		Multi	Usage kWh
		Present	Previous	Present	Previous		
140841253	Off-Peak	03/22/21	02/22/21	201	0	1	201
	On-Peak	03/22/21	02/22/21	507	0	1	507
	Total	03/22/21	02/22/21			1	708

Usage Comparisons		Days of Service	Total kWh	Avg Per Day
Current Billing Period	28			
Previous Billing Period	31	514	16.6	
Same Period Last Year	29	643	22.2	

Maximum Demand: 4.61 KW

The graph above shows the last 13 month's kWh usage as bars with the On and Off-Peak split for the current month shown as well. kW Demand is shown using the solid line.

▲ The sample bill above shows the interim bill changes EEA has made. This shows how much electricity you are currently using during the On and Off-Peak time periods, which will be available under the TOUD rate, available September 1, 2021.

The last significant change in EEA's rates was in 2013 when it raised the grid access charge on most rates and had a corresponding decrease in the dollar per kWh energy charge. For the residential rate, the grid access charge increased from \$19.50 to \$30.73 per month and the energy charge decreased from \$0.11271 to \$0.09599 per kWh. That change was a beginning step in the same direction EEA is headed toward today, balancing the need

to recover costs to operate and maintain a reliable system with fair and equitable rates for consumer-members.

Please continue to ask us questions on the upcoming rate structure change, as we want you to understand the options you have and the benefit it can provide you and our consumer-member-owned co-op.

NOTICE OF 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

EMPIRE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Empire Electric Association, Inc. is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2021. The meeting will be held at EEA's Engineering & Operations Center located at 23999 Road L.4, Cortez, Colorado. The following business is scheduled to be transacted:

I. Election of directors submitted by written petition pursuant to Article III Section 4 of the cooperative's bylaws. One director is to be elected from the following districts:

- DISTRICT NO. 1 [Four-year term]
- DISTRICT NO. 2 [Four-year term]

(NOTE: Article III, Section 4 of Empire's bylaws states, "Should there be only one nomination from each district open for election then no ballots will be mailed or cast and the candidate will be declared elected as a matter of law at the annual meeting or within five (5) days thereafter as provided by law.")

- II. Voting upon proposed amendment to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation, if necessary
(NOTE: No Bylaw or Articles amendments are proposed.)
- III. Reports of Officers, Directors and Committees and action thereon
- IV. Any other business transacted which may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Jerry Fetterman, Secretary-Treasurer
Empire Electric Association, Inc.
PO Box K
Cortez, Colorado 81321

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce EEA Director William C. (Bill) Bauer passed from this earth on March 4, 2021. Bill was a director for nearly 28 years and was instrumental in shaping EEA into the electric cooperative it is today.

Bill was raised in the Mancos area and attended Fort Lewis College. He loved his family, was a rancher by trade and faithfully served his community. His ability to lead, build consensus and see projects through to completion are testified by his service as a Montezuma County commissioner and a board member of the Southwest Colorado Livestock Association.

Bill's tenure at EEA included many changes that helped the co-op continue to provide safe and reliable electric service to the membership. These changes included the formation of the Company Health and Safety Committee, the introduction of automated meter reading, the practice of strategic long-range planning and especially the construction of the Engineering and Operations Center. Bill recognized the need for EEA crews to have a more functional building and a safer way to get their line trucks onto the highway. Thus, he became a driving force behind the Engineering and



 William C. "Bill" Bauer

Operations Center. One of Bill's duties as an EEA board member was to represent EEA on the board of FastTrack Communications, a joint venture formed in 2002 between EEA and sister electric co-op La Plata Electric Association in Durango. Bill served with distinction through the many ups and downs of the telecommunications startup, helping to grow it

into a successful venture.

Bill's leadership, care for co-op employees and encouraging words will be missed by our entire EEA family. We convey our heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife, Moeita; his children, Kim Threlkeld (Mike), Rusty Bauer (Valorie), Kelli Brown and Kami Milne (Mark); and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

My Co-op Calendar

May 1

Continuing education scholarships available

May 9

Mother's Day

May 14

EEA's board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Consumer-members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting. Meeting restrictions due to health concerns may require the meeting to be held remotely.

May 31

Memorial Day (EEA office closed)

May 2021 Co-op Photo Contest Winner



 Hesperus Mountain from Transfer Campground
by Sarah Jones

Fight Energy Vampires

Reduce electricity waste and cost

Did you know that electric devices can continue to use energy even when not in use? When equipment is plugged in and left idle, power is drawn from the outlets. This leads to increasing energy waste and higher utility bills. This energy waste is also referred to as “phantom” or “vampire” energy.

Energy Education Council Executive Director Molly Hall explains, “Standby power is used when an electronic device is consuming energy aside from performing its main function. Common phantom power culprits include computers, battery chargers, DVD players and treadmills.”

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, standby power accounts for between 3% and 10% of energy costs. Harvard University and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory report that about 1% of the world’s carbon dioxide emissions result from phantom energy loads.

Safe Electricity provides the following tips for saving energy and reducing the cost of standby power draws.

- When possible, unplug all electronics that are not in use, especially those that you do not use often.
- Consider powering down devices rather than leaving them on standby mode for extended periods.
- Power strips can aid efficiency as they can turn off all devices that are plugged in with flip of a switch.
- Smart power strips use advanced technology to turn off the power from idle electronics automatically.
- When shopping for new electronics, invest in Energy Star products, which have a lower standby rate of energy consumption.
- By using an electronic timer, you can reduce the standby load on items used only in select periods of the day, such as coffeepots.

For more information on energy efficiency, visit EnergyEdCouncil.org or SafeElectricity.org.

My Co-op Employees

EEA is pleased to announce the promotion of **Billy Branson** to systems technician supervisor. Billy started with EEA in April 1999 as an apprentice



Billy Branson

lineman. He completed his apprenticeship in 2003 and worked as a lineman until he began working as a systems technician in 2006, completing that apprenticeship in 2010. As the systems technician supervisor, Billy supervises EEA’s systems technicians and metering department, ensuring that EEA’s communication systems, electronic control and protective devices, and metering system are maintained and operate accurately to provide members safe and reliable power service.

Join us in congratulating Billy on his promotion.

Justin Purkat has been selected to be an apprentice lineman at EEA. Justin joined EEA in May 2019 and worked as a consumer services representative. He will learn the skills to become a lineman through a multiyear, hands-on process that includes on-the-job training as well as written exams.



Justin Purkat

Join us in congratulating Justin and wishing him success as he pursues a career as a lineman.

Scott Willburn, who retired on February 24, 2021, knew in high school that he would work in the electrical field in some capacity. He studied two years of high school electronics and then a third year in an industrial electricity course at San Juan Basin Technical College. Before coming to work at Empire Electric, Scott worked as an electrician for nearly seven years at a uranium mining and milling complex near La Sal, Utah. He gained experience



Scott Willburn

in power systems and motor control, as well as troubleshooting and testing, and ultimately gained a class A rating.

EEA hired Scott as a system operator February 24, 1986. His position required shift work for the newly operational Shell-Western carbon dioxide project and had certain requirements calling for 24/7 coverage. Scott learned about the co-op world and Empire Electric’s system, including the CO2 project. After several years, Scott had the opportunity to get involved with the supervisory control and data acquisition system that was monitoring the CO2 project and increasingly more of the “retail” system, as this was being built at the time.

In 1992, Scott moved out of dispatch and into the technician department. Scott always thought it was perfect timing to be hired when he was because of the many opportunities the tech department presented. While Scott was working on the technical side of the system, he had the opportunity to learn and work on communications systems, such as analog and later digital microwave; telecommunications; revenue metering — both electromechanical and then digital metering; automated metering reading systems; and data management and protection relaying at the power substation level. Scott felt this was probably the most gratifying because it required an in-depth knowledge of electricity and how it behaves in a power system.

EEA started the process of building an ethernet microwave system that ultimately would reach to Monticello, Utah, in 2012. This system allows EEA to consolidate all the communication needs into one communications path. Scott is particularly proud to have had a hand in getting this project up and running.

Scott took on the role of systems technician supervisor in 2002 and held this position until his retirement. Scott felt he had the opportunity to receive training, train others, and work with some outstanding men and women through the years and that’s a big part of why he loved his job. Scott says, “The co-op family is just that: a family. I have counted working at EEA as a real blessing for both myself and my family.”