

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2021

**MAILING ADDRESS**

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS SERVICE CENTER**

2211 Elk River Road
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



ph 970-879-1160
tf 888-873-9832
fax 970-879-7270
web www.yvea.com

**CRAIG SERVICE CENTER**

3715 East US Highway 40
Craig, CO 81625



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YampaValleyElectricAssociation



@YampaValleyElec



instagram.com/
yampavalleyelectriccoop

Yampa Valley Electric Association

is a cooperative that provides value to its member-owners through technology that delivers safe and reliable electric service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

LEGISLATION AND YOUR CO-OP

BY STEVE JOHNSON

PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER



STEVE JOHNSON

A lesser known part of being a general manager of a cooperative is how actively involved we are with legislation that may have an impact on us as a cooperative. I want take the time to talk about you about the current Colorado legislation that could have an impact us as a co-op and our membership. The two bills that are in the hands of Colorado General Assembly I would like to focus on are co-op governance, and the modernization of transmission.

The first bill, the co-op governance bill, would change our governing requirements as a co-op. Proposed changes include amending election deadlines, defines joint memberships and clarifies how they can vote, changing electronic voting, amending bylaws through a secure and verifiable electronic voting system, requiring associations to post rates and net metering requirements, and making financial audits available to members upon request. When the pandemic took hold this past year, we worked to navigate how to hold elections and voting on bylaws in a safe, responsible way, while also making sure we adhered to all of our governing laws. This legislation makes electronic voting possible, which means our members will have a larger voice when it comes to how we operate as a co-op, whether voting by mail, or casting a ballot electronically.

The transmission legislation bill addresses one of the steps required to meet Colorado's clean energy goals. It would create the Colorado transmission authority, requiring transmission utilities to join wholesale markets. This would benefit the co-op in the way that it has the potential to drive down the cost of wholesale power. YVEA is an electricity provider and we do

not produce our own electricity, meaning we are buying all of the electrons that power your home through larger providers. If we had an opportunity to have more wholesale providers, this could mean more competitive pricing when we're negotiation our purchase power contract. On April 13, the Colorado General Assembly had a second reading and it was passed with amendments.

I have had the ability to sit on committees and present ideas or concerns to our legislature when it comes to the consideration of these bills. My top priority is the co-op membership and how this will impact, and hopefully benefit our membership in the long run. My focus continues to be how we can maintain our high standard of quality when it comes to services we provide to our membership, while adhering to all changing policies. At the end of the day, our mission at YVEA is to provide value to our member-owners through technology that delivers safe, reliable electric service in an environmentally financially responsible manner, and this is why we're actively involved in any decisions which could impact our cooperative.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3uWyUMW> for full details on the proposed bills.

YVEA OFFICES
ARE OPEN

What to Do If You Receive a Disconnection Notice from YVEA



TO AVOID DISCONNECTION



You must respond to YVEA

Call member services at 970-879-1160 or toll free at 888-873-9832, send an email to billing@yvea.com or come to the YVEA offices to speak to a member service representative.

You must contact YVEA by one of these three ways.



Locate your account number

Your account number can be found on the disconnection notice. You will need that account number when you contact YVEA.



Be prepared to discuss a payment plan

A member service representative is available during normal business hours, (Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. MST), to discuss payment options. Call 888-873-9832 or 970-879-1160.

Additional Assistance

If members need additional assistance with utility bills, there are many additional resources in our territory. Visit www.yvea.com/payment-options.



Understanding Your Internet Connection Speed

When you order a home internet package from your service provider, there are usually several options to choose from. But where do you start? Speed is often the most important factor since a faster internet connection will improve your overall online experience. In today's world, we all need an excellent internet connection, which is why it's important to understand how internet connection speeds work to ensure you select the right package for your needs.

How is internet speed measured?

Let's start with the concept of speed, or bandwidth. Measured in megabits per second (Mbps) or gigabits per second (Gbps), your internet speed is the amount of data that can be transferred every second over your internet connection. Your speed determines the type of activities you can do online and how quickly you can do them.

A connection speed of 1 Mbps, for example, allows you to browse webpages, but it's not fast enough for you to stream HD videos on Netflix. On the other hand, a speed of 1 Gbps (one thousand times faster than 1 Mbps) is blazing fast, allowing you to do anything you can imagine, including letting multiple family members stream 4K video simultaneously. Lucky for you, Luminate Broadband offers speeds up to 1 Gbps so you don't ever have to worry about speed slowing you down.

Download versus upload speeds: asymmetrical internet packages

When you are choosing an internet package, there are two speeds you need to consider: download speed and upload speed.

The download speed is the speed at which data travels from a remote location on the internet to your internet-connected device. For example, if you are watching a video on YouTube, the download speed is the rate at which the information in the video stream travels from the YouTube server to your computer or phone.

The upload speed is the speed at which data travels from your connected device to a remote location on the internet. For example, if you post a video or a photo onto a social media site, the upload speed is the rate at which the information travels from your device to the social media server.

With most internet packages, the download speed is greater than the upload speed. That's why you'll hear talk about asymmetrical internet connections, which means the download and upload speeds aren't equal. For you, this means buffering, long wait times and headaches. With Luminate Broadband, you don't have to stress about which speed is more important to you. We offer symmetrical speeds! Which means your speeds will be consistent, no matter if you are uploading or downloading.

The bottom line

The speed of your internet connection has a big impact on the quality of your online experience. So, when you're searching for an internet package, choose Luminate Broadband, the new technology leader in the valley. Gigabit fiber speeds, symmetrical upload and download speeds, reliability and future-proof technology are just a few of the benefits Luminate offers.

For more information and to sign up for Luminate's fiber difference, visit our website at www.luminatebroadband.com or call us at 970-870-4320.

Small Change Big Difference:

Be a Difference Maker in Your Community



Since teaming up in 2015, Yampa Valley Electric Association and the nonprofit Operation Round Up organization have improved lives and communities thanks to YVEA consumer-members who round up their electric bill to the next dollar. **Application deadline for nonprofits is May 15, 2021.**

Xcel Power Cost Adjustment Notice and Q&A

Starting in May, most consumer-members can expect to see a new line item on their bill, titled “February Xcel Power Cost Adjustment.” This PCA is being assessed due to an Xcel bill we received that reflected the extreme weather events in the Southwest in February. Your PCA is calculated based on your March billing kilowatt usage, which we then spread over seven months to lessen the impact on our membership. **For more details or to get answers to any questions you may have on the PCA, please call member services at 970-879-1160, visit www.yvea.com/xcel-energy-price-cost-adjustment-faqs or read frequently asked questions below.**

What is a power cost adjustment (PCA)?

Yampa Valley Electric Association does not produce energy, meaning we buy our electricity from suppliers. What those suppliers charge us is what we pass on to members in their monthly bills. Sometimes this is in the form of savings and, unfortunately, this time it is in the form of a price increase. When we receive a bill from Xcel, we pass those costs to our members, not at a markup. When we need to make an adjustment, up or down, to the price of kilowatts, we do this via an PCA.

How is my rate calculated?

We will take your March billing and use those kilowatt-hours to determine what your total PCA is and then will spread it over the next seven months. The PCA adjustment is \$.1172 for kilowatts used. For example, if your March billing shows 800 kWh used, your PCA is \$93.76 (800 kWh x \$.1172 = \$93.76.)

Please note that we assessed a PCA adjustment of \$.01 on March 1. If you were charged this, we will subtract it from your total payment. In this example, you would have paid \$8 on your previous billing. We would subtract \$8 from \$93.76, meaning you have a balance of \$85.76. Your monthly payment will be \$12.25 ($\$93.76 - \$8 = \85.76; $\$85.76/7 = \$12.25/\text{month}$).

How will this appear on my bill?

You will see a line item on your bill labeled “February Xcel Power Cost Adjustment.”

What caused the spike in the Xcel bill?

Texas and the Southwest experienced an extreme weather event that led to an increased demand in natural gas. The increased demand was caused by a lack of supply when it comes to natural gas. Pipes and natural gas headends were not properly winterized, meaning they froze and not enough natural gas was available for homes or power plants. As natural gas is a commodity, the increase in demand and lack of supply drove prices to historical levels. When Xcel purchased their power, they were doing so at the elevated level, roughly 100 times the price of natural gas the previous day. To see a letter from Xcel, please visit <https://www.yvea.com/sites/yvea/files/news/YVEA%20Letter.pdf>

What about area lighting?

Area lighting will also be paying the PCA and it will be reflected on bills as “February Xcel Power Cost Adjustment.”

What if I disconnect my service?

You will be expected to pay the remaining balance on your final bill.

Is YVEA taking actions to challenge this?

We are working with regulatory commissioners to get a full understanding of the how and why these things happened. At the very least, we are pushing to put rules and regulations in place to try and prevent something like this from happening again.

Supply Chain Lead Times Longer Than Normal

We at Yampa Valley Electric Association are alerting contractors, builders and consumer-members that lead time on materials is longer than normal. This may impact line extension, service upgrade projects and programs in 2021. We are working to maintain a healthy inventory of equipment to minimize the potential delays, yet we encourage stakeholders to review their projects estimates and timelines closely. To ensure realistic expectations, please reach out to our engineering department regarding any changes to your project timeline.

Summer Construction Update

YVEA has three upcoming summer projects that are slated to begin on May 1: **Town of Yampa, Stagecoach and North Steamboat Boulevard.**

You can expect to see YVEA employees, locate contractors, city and utility employees, surveyors and YVEA contractors on or around these sites. For any questions, please visit <https://www.yvea.com/current-construction> or call the capital projects coordinator at 970-871-2253.



Notice of 2021 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Yampa Valley Electric Association is held annually for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. The 2021 Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021, and the location is scheduled to be held at the Steamboat Springs campus, at 2211 Elk River Road, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487. This gathering is pending COVID-19 public gathering restrictions, and we will keep you updated as we get closer to the date.

Director Districts up for election are:

- **District 1 — Baggs, Savery, WY: Glynda Sheehan**
- **District 8 — Steamboat Springs: Scott McGill**
- **District 9 — Yampa, Toponas, Bond: Ken Rogers**

The area served by the association is divided into nine districts. No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director who is not a bona fide resident in the director district for which they are elected or appointed. Legal descriptions of each district can be found in Article XVI, Director Districts, in the Bylaws of the Association, or at www.yvea.com/yvea-bylaws.

Directors are elected for a three-year term by the members of the association. Each member of the association is entitled to vote in the election of all directors, excluding appointments. Ballots will be mailed on Friday, May 21, 2021. To be valid and counted, each ballot must be signed by the member whose name is on the label and the ballot must be received at the location of the third-party ballot counter by Thursday, June 17, 2021. If you are unsure if your ballot will be received at the location of the third-party ballot counter by Thursday, June 17, 2021, please plan to attend the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, where you will receive a replacement ballot to be completed and submitted at the meeting.

Election Process

Nomination packets due May 8

A nomination for director may be made only by written petition signed by at least 15 members of the association. The nomination period opened on Friday, April 16, 2021. At that time the nominating petition and director qualification affidavit will be available at www.yvea.com/yvea-bylaws or picked up at the YVEA offices in Steamboat Springs or Craig. All petition materials must be filed at the Steamboat Springs office no later than Saturday, May 8, 2021.

YVEA offices will be closed on May 31 in observance of Memorial Day.



◀ New YVEA board director Sasha Nelson.

YVEA thanks Jean Stetson for her four years of service. ▶

NEW DIRECTOR

YVEA welcomes Sasha Nelson as the new District 3 board member. Sasha will be filling Jean Stetson's remaining time on the YVEA Board of Directors. We thank Director Stetson for her four years of service on the YVEA board. Her contributions were numerous and we thank her for her dedication to the co-op.



Go Paperless

Switch and save with paperless billing

No Paper Bills – Easy to Access – Safe & Secure – Convenient

If you haven't gone paperless yet, you can sign up for paperless billing and receive a \$5 one-time credit on your bill.

Enroll for paperless billing by contacting Member Services at 970-879-1160.