

## West Wetaskiwin REA Expands Cooperative Agreement with Battle River Power Coop

In 2017, West Wetaskiwin REA entered into a cooperative agreement with Battle River Power Coop to supply our Regulated Rate, administer billing and member services and to provide communication assistance with our monthly newsletter.

Over the past years, our relationship with Battle River Power Coop strengthened and we began discussions on how to expand the partnership. We determined that we wanted to align ourselves with a company who operates under similar business values, that is co-operative principles.

The West Wetaskiwin REA Board of Directors believes in the value that REA co-operatives bring to their members and the communities they serve. Partnering with a fellow co-op will generate economies of scale that will positively impact both organizations.

While many considerations were taken into account, key attributes were Battle River Power Coop's reputation within the utility industry, their strong relationship with their members and their ability to successfully operate under co-operative business principles.

**Effective November 15, 2021, Battle River Power Coop will assume distribution systems operations for West Wetaskiwin REA.** They will be responsible for new construction, vegetation management, pole replacement, power restoration, and all other daily operations. As of this

date, FortisAlberta will no longer provide any services to our REA.

We see this as a natural progression as West Wetaskiwin REA is currently integrated with the Battle River Power Coop billing system and member access to accounts is available via their website. Over the next six months, additional enhanced integration will occur including embedding our service area into their existing emergency response system. During this time we will provide complete details to members on the changeover and the new contact information for distribution system operations.

With this decision, we will continue to work towards supporting and sustaining the REA way of life in rural Alberta, as well contribute to the economy of our rural communities. If you would like any more information at this time, please contact a Director or the office.



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Ron Holmlund 780.352.4842

Neil Stone 780.586.2106

Ron Stevens 780.352.2681

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Ken Adair 780.352.6318

Dave Watt 780.205.2222

REA Office 780.335.WEST(9378)

*For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473*

*For REA inquiries contact:  
West Wetaskiwin REA  
R.R. #1 Station Main,  
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8  
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)  
E-mail: [westwet@telus.net](mailto:westwet@telus.net)  
[www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)*

*For billing or account inquiries contact:  
Battle River Power Coop  
Box 1420  
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972  
E-mail: [brpc@brpower.coop](mailto:brpc@brpower.coop)  
[www.brpower.coop](http://www.brpower.coop)*

# Stay Safe Around Power Lines

West Wetaskiwin REA encourages members to use caution when working around powerlines. Look up and around and follow these safety tips.

## Check the height and width of your equipment.

When moving equipment it is important to know their height and width. When working around power lines, enlist the help of a spotter. Note the maximum height for equipment for farm yard entrances or field access roads is 4.2 meters (13.7 feet). For width, you need to stay 7 meters (23 feet) away from power lines when parked or operating.

## Create a power line safety plan.

A plan helps you identify power line hazards and how to respond appropriately. A safety plan would include the current measurements of your vehicles and equipment and a grid overlay of where power infrastructure is located.

## Stay 7 meters (23 feet) away from power lines.

Pay special attention when operating grain augers, air seeders, when lifting truck boxes or operating back hoes.

## Plan ahead before moving tall equipment near or around power lines.

Map your route and remember where any overhead power lines are located. If powerlines require lifting, you must contact FortisAlberta at least seven days in advance for a line lift.

## Locate underground wires before you dig.

Before digging or driving posts into the ground, connect with **Alberta One-Call** (1-800-242-4337) to request an underground locate. Utilities can be closer to the surface of the ground than you think.

## Watch out for tree branches.

Overgrown vegetation that is too close to overhead wires can make pruning dangerous. Don't take chances – never attempt to trim trees closer than 7 meters (23 feet) from power lines. Remember, only certified Utility Tree Trimmers are qualified to work around electricity infrastructure.

## Stack and store wisely.

Whether you're storing grain in a bin, a pile of hay bales, or other objects, stack and store at least 7 meters (23 feet) away from power lines. Remember that even non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, straw and hay can conduct electricity depending on dampness and surface dirt.

## Assume downed power lines are energized.

Stay at least 10 meters (33 feet) away and warn others of the danger. Call <911> or the FortisAlberta 24-hour emergency line <310-WIRE (9473)>.



**Look up and around –  
all day, every day!**

**Regulated  
Rate  
Option**



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a 'regulated' rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For May 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.08150 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For June 2021, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.07665.

**Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit [ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).**

**Information on West Wetaskiwin REA's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)**