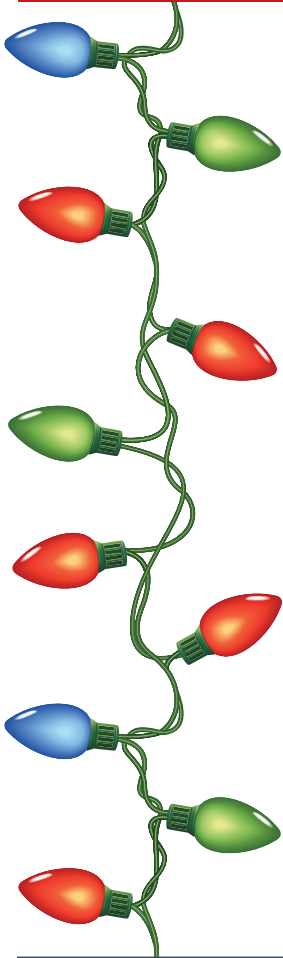




*One of the greatest joys of this season is the opportunity to say thank you to our members for your support and loyalty.*

*On behalf of the West Wetaskiwin REA Board of Directors and staff we wish you*

*Merry Christmas*  
**and Happy New Year!**



## *Enlightening* **Tips for Holiday Safety**

**Keep safe this holiday season and follow these safety tips.**

- ✓ Ensure all outdoor cords, plugs and sockets are designated for exterior use. Don't connect several shorter cords together and keep electrical connections off the ground.
- ✓ Use CSA approved Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlets when plugging 'in' outdoors.
- ✓ Before decorating, check all light sets for frayed wires, damaged sockets, or cracked insulation. If you find any defects, replace the entire set.
- ✓ Do not connect different types of light strings together; for example, don't plug an LED string to an incandescent light string.
- ✓ When replacing bulbs, unplug the light string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.
- ✓ Choose the right light for the job ensuring that indoor lights and decorations are only used inside and use lights that have accredited certification (e.g., CSA Approved).
- ✓ For all electrical Christmas decorations, be sure to insert plugs fully into outlets and avoid plugging too many lights and decorations into an outlet. Overloaded circuits can overheat and start a fire.
- ✓ Be sure to turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or when leaving your home.

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)



# West Wetaskiwin REA News, Facts and Information

## Service Changes Facts (Upgrades/Downgrades)

It is important to note that as a cooperative convenience service changes, such as upgrades and downgrades, is the financial responsibility of the respective member.

During initial construction, we encourage members to accurately assess their electrical needs to ensure they have the appropriate equipment installed.

We continue to work with members on a case by case basis to coordinate current scheduled maintenance work with upgrade requests to mitigate costs.

## Distribution System Information

We want to remind members that all equipment attached to the distribution system belongs to the REA. This includes items that exist on an individual member's property.

Tampering with any of the system equipment, including breaker boxes, can cause serious damage and produces a significant liability as it relates to the integrity of the system as a whole.

All REA distribution system components are the property of the West Wetaskiwin REA. Tampering with, or modifying, the distribution system in any way is illegal and anyone doing so will be charged.

## Urban / Rural Annexation News

Despite collaboration with fellow Rural Electrical Associations and the Alberta Federation of REAs (AFREA), arguments put forward regarding the issue of rural/urban annexation failed to persuade the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) to decide in favor of the REAs and their respective members. While no REA, including West Wetaskiwin REA, experienced a significant loss of membership, collectively we all lost.



In summary, the AUC cited the municipal franchise agreement between municipalities and FortisAlberta as a key rationale to alter REA designated service area boundaries to align with municipal corporate limits. While the decision was disappointing, the AUC decision also clearly stated, ***Existing REA members may continue to be serviced by the REA until the respective municipality passes a bylaw requiring that REA member/resident to transfer to FortisAlberta. If the municipality does not proceed with a by-law, the REA member may choose to remain an REA member until a change of ownership of the applicable site occurs and/or a mandatory site transfer is applicable.***

We are hopeful that municipalities will not immediately proceed to a by-law that would arbitrarily force REA members to change. Rather, we remain encouraged they will allow the changeover to occur as land use is modified; a process that has taken place in the past. We continue to collaborate with other REAs and the AFREA with regard to possible next steps.

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 November, 2018 RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For December 2018, the Battle River Power Coop monthly rate as calculated under the RRO regulation is \$0.07031; the billing rate charged to WWREA members is \$0.06800.

**It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.**

**For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or [www.ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca). If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)**

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