

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

January 2021

2021 Annual General Meeting Update

While we were fortunate in 2020 to have been able conform to Alberta Health protocols and hold our Annual General Meeting (AGM) later in the year, guidelines have changed for 2021.

Normally in this edition of the newsletter, we begin to promote attendance at the AGM outlining the importance of member attendance both as a networking opportunity but also to benefit from the important role of members as they vote on AGM topics.

As of this writing, REAs throughout the province, including the West Wetaskiwin REA, are in communication with Alberta Rural Utilities on possible ways and means to accommodate 2021 AGMs while adhering to applicable health protocols. We will keep members apprised of results of those discussions.



Who is a West Wetaskiwin REA Member?

Well for starters, to be a West Wetaskiwin REA member you must 'be' within our designated service area. To view our service area, visit: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/service-area.

Membership: A person may become a member of the association:

- if that person owns or has an interest in land within the established service area; in other words is a landowner
- if that person is 16 years of age or older
- if that person, on the approval of the board, enters into an electrical service contract with the association and pays the applicable membership fee.

Rights of Membership: 2 or more persons who own or have an interest in land, jointly or in common, may jointly become a member; however the rights of membership may only be vested with one of them. If 2 or more persons have jointly

signed more than one electric service contract then each one is deemed to be a vested member with rights of membership.

Landowner Responsibility: The landowner remains the vested member regardless of whether they rent their land. Only the landowner has the right of membership, is authorized to make changes to the service and remains responsible for any and all charges incurred to the service.



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
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

www.brpower.coop

Electricity Delivery in Alberta

The Role/Responsibility of the Various Players

In Alberta, electricity delivery is a very integrated activity among several players and each player has a designated role/responsibility to perform. Costs for those delivery components are collected from the end-user, the consumer. West Wetaskiwin REA's role is to operate a reliable distribution system.

Generation Transmission Distribution End-user Consumer

GENERATION

In 2018, Alberta generated 81 terawatt hours of electricity, making it the 3rd largest producer of electricity in Canada with a generating capacity of 16,332 megawatts. Generation facilities are owned by private investors or municipalities who built and operate them. About 91% of electricity in Alberta is produced from fossil fuels with the remaining 8% produced from renewables, such as wind, hydro, and biomass. Generation is paid for by end-user electricity consumption.

TRANSMISSION

In Alberta, transmission facilities are built, owned and operated by Transmission Facility Owners (TFOs). The cost of transmission (facilities and operations) is recovered through transmission rates charged to consumers who pay in proportion to their use of the system (e.g., electricity consumption). Transmission charges are collected via monthly bills and 100% is remitted to the TFOs. Alberta has approximately 26,000 km of transmission lines connected to 235 generating stations.

END-USER/CONSUMER

Consumer locations are metered and consumption is determined by meter reads. Albertans, including REA members, may choose to receive electricity from an approved retail energy provider or remain on the default Regulated Rate Option. As an end-user, your monthly bill includes the cost of generation via your electricity rate/consumption, the cost of transmission (a flow through to the TFOs) and the monthly Distribution Tariff (DT) which is the only charge that accrues to the REA and is applied to the cost to operate your REA.

DISTRIBUTION Electricity reaches the

Electricity reaches the end-user through a distribution system. West Wetaskiwin REA is a distribution system owner and is governed by a Board of Directors responsible to ensure the reliability and longevity of the system. Annually the Board of Directors establishes Distribution Tariffs (DT) to support that goal. The DT is established under cooperative business principles and covers the actual costs of operating and maintaining the system (currently performed by our contractor FortisAlberta) in addition to the administration of the REA.

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 January 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.07305 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For February 2021, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.08558.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit 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