

West Wetaskiwin REA works with two organizations to manage our distribution system operations and billing and communications to members. It is important to note the responsibilities of each entity.



In May 2017, West Wetaskiwin REA entered into a Cooperative Communication and Billing Agreement with Battle River Power Coop.

With the Agreement, Battle River Power Coop provides the following services to members of our REA.

- Communication support including assistance, publication and mailing of the West Wetaskiwin REA newsletter.
- Purchasing and administration of the Regulated Rate Option (RRO) electricity on behalf of West Wetaskiwin REA for members who are on the RRO option. It is important to note that the RRO is not a regulated rate; rather it fluctuates monthly depending on the price of electricity in the market.
- Monthly billing, including all associated member services tasks, related to RRO invoicing. **For any RRO billing and account inquiries, members must contact Battle River Power Coop.** (For members who have retail electricity contracts with other companies, they must contact the appropriate company for billing inquiries.)

Battle River Power Coop offers several convenient options for payments of RRO accounts which include:

- Pre-authorized Withdrawals (PAWs). Simply call Battle River Power Coop and they will forward

the forms to begin PAWs. This way whether you are travelling or in the middle of a heavy work month, payment is processed on time.

- Establishing preauthorized debit for credit cards.
- Paying your monthly bill when you do your regular banking.
- Mailing your monthly payment to Battle River Power Coop, Box 1420, Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3.



FortisAlberta is the company that is contracted to operate West Wetaskiwin REA's distribution system and they do so in consultation with, and direction from, the Board of Directors.

Responsibilities include:

- Construction of new services and/or modifications to current services.
- Daily operations and maintenance of the West Wetaskiwin REA system to maintain reliability.
- Vegetation management, as required, in various locations within our service area.
- Responding to emergency outages and performing system restoration as needed.

It is important to note for all power troubles or service requests members must contact FortisAlberta at 310-WIRE (9473) or toll-free 1-855-333-9473.

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

The Importance of Guy-Wires

A guy-wire, guy-line, or guy-rope, also known as simply a guy, is a tensioned cable designed to add stability to a free-standing structure.

Some utility poles buried in the ground have sufficient strength to stand on their own; but others need guy-wires to support loads and to resist ground movement. The lower end where the cable enters the ground is often encased in a length of yellow or orange plastic reflector to make it more visible so that people or vehicles do not run into it.

However, not all free standing poles or structures may have reflectors. Annually, farmers are reminded during seeding and harvest season to check your surroundings all day/every day and be certain that they can safely navigate around the power poles, power lines and guy-wires.

Additionally, members who are snowmobilers in rural areas should watch out for guy-wires, as snow depth and weather conditions (in particular snow glare on a sunny day) can compromise the visibility of these guy-wires.

While guy-wires are not energized that doesn't mean they may not occasionally conduct electricity, in particular if they are compromised by uncommon forces.

Cautions about contact with guy-wires are also pertinent to livestock. For example, cattle rubbing on a guy-wire (see photo below) will cause a utility pole to shake and move, decreasing the stability of the pole. An unstable utility pole could result in a single member power outage and/or a distribution system disruption.

West Wetaskiwin REA members, who have cattle pastured or corralled where guy-wires are present, can improve the reliability of their own electricity and the safety of their herd by installing a fence post on either side of the guy wire. Members are encouraged to check their property for potential livestock and guy-wire interactions.



**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 July 2020, the RRO is priced at \$0.06946 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For August 2020, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.07041.

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