

FENN RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

January 2023 - Issue 110

Calling All FENN REA Members



FENN Rural Electrification Association (REA) will be holding the 2023 Annual General Meeting as follows:

Date: Monday, March 20, 2023

Start time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Big Valley Royal Canadian Legion Hall

Main Street, Big Valley, Alberta

As an REA member you have the privilege of being able to attend your co-operative's AGM, held in your

service area.



The AGM is the perfect time to network with both fellow members and your Board of Directors to discuss topics that are important to you as a member.

The AGM will include:

President's Annual Report – tabled by President Philip Jarmin

Financial Report – audited financials will be presented

Vote – as REA members you have the right to vote on identified agenda items



Not only is this a time to connect with other REA members, it an opportunity learn about the current issues that may be affecting your REA and to vote on items that may impact its future.

For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: ATCO Electric

Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

FENN REA

Box 31,Fenn, Alberta T0J 1K0 Phone: c/o Philip Jarmin, 1-403-740-9384 Email: fennrea@gmail.com www.fennrea.com

Battle River Power Coop

Member Care & Billing
Box 1420, Camrose AB T4V 1X3
Phone toll-free:1-877-428-3972
Email: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

Surge Protectors Are, Not All Created Equal!

Surge protectors are designed to protect electronic equipment from **power surges** (which last three nanoseconds or more) and **power spikes** (lasting only one or two nanoseconds). If a surge or spike is high enough, it can damage sensitive electronics such as computers, TVs, microwaves, etc.

The role of the surge protector is to divert the additional voltage caused by a surge away from the sensitive electronic equipment to the surge protector's ground.

It is important to note that surge protectors can, and do, burn out – so choosing surge protectors with indicator lights will tell you whether the device is functioning properly.

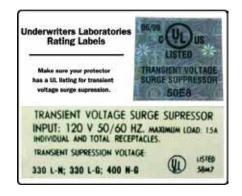
Picking the right protector is a matter of balancing the cost of the system against the cost of losing data or damaging actual electronic devises or equipment, so it is important to find the level of coverage that you are comfortable with.

To protect your equipment, you will need individual surge protectors for each outlet and they come in various levels; the basic power strip, the better power

strip and the surge station, which are large protectors that would fit under your computer.

Surge protectors come with different ratings that you need to consider.

- → Clamping Voltage −There are three levels of protection in the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) rating − 330V, 400V and 500V. A lower clamping voltage indicates better protection.
- Energy Absorption/Dissipation This rating, given in joules, tells you how much energy the surge protector can absorb before it fails. With this rating, the higher number indicates greater protection. Choose at least a rating of 200-400 joules, keeping in mind that 600 joules or more will give better protection.
- Response Time There is always a slight delay as surge protectors kick in, thereby leaving electronic devices and equipment vulnerable. Look for a protector that responds in less than a nanosecond.



To find out what a surge protector unit is capable of, you need to check out the Underwriters Laboratories rating (see UL tag sample left). UL is an independent company that tests electronic products for safety.

Minimally ensure that the surge protector is listed as a **transient voltage surge suppressor**. This identifier means that it meets the criteria for **UL 1449** and is not simply a power bar.

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate 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. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For January 2023, the RRO is priced at \$0.13500 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For February 2023, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.13500. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

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