

#### MEMBER NEWSLETTER

September 2021

## REMINDER

Change of Distribution System Operator is effective **November 16**, **2021 at 12:01 a.m.** 

New toll-free number is **1-877-428-3972**– available 24/7/365

Over the last months, we have updated membership on the decision to change West Wetaskiwin REA's distribution system operator to Battle River Power Coop.



This means that any type of work that was done by our previous contractor, FortisAlberta, will transfer to Battle River Power Coop effective November 16th.

Battle River Power Coop will respond to all emergency outages – their toll free number is available 24 hours per day. Responsibilities of Battle River Power Coop include, but are not limited to:

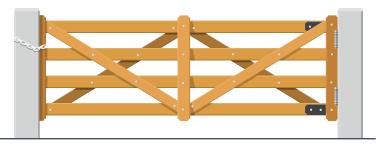
- Meeting with prospective members on new construction and providing quotes
- · Coordinating and performing all new construction
- Liaising with members on any service modifications (upgrades, downgrades, line moves, etc.)
- Performing daily maintenance on West Wetaskiwin REA's distribution system
- Executing all vegetation management in our service area
- Coordinating pole testing and pole replacement
- Being available for questions about line clearance, high load moves, etc.

#### Access to a Member's Property for Distribution System Repairs and Maintenance

Distributing electricity to members in our service area is critical. With that in mind, contractors employed by West Wetaskiwin REA must be able to access any member property which contains distribution infrastructure (meters, poles, line, etc.).

This means if you have a locked gate, or even a closed gate, there must be a contact phone number for the contractor to call to confirm they are accessing your property or advising you to come out to open a lock. Some members have chosen to use commercial lock

boxes, which eliminates the need for an immediate trip to the gate. Please ensure locked and unlocked gates have a phone number on them.



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

# Co-op Week takes place from October 17 to 23, 2021.

**CO-OP WEEK** 17 - 23 OCTOBER 2021

Embracing the future with coperation





Every year, co-operatives, and the people behind them, celebrate the co-operative movement and co-op values in Canada.

Annually they take this opportunity to emphasize that co-operation is the solution to building a better, more prosperous and united future, with a perspective on sustainable development inspired by our cooperative values.

This year's theme is: **Embracing the future with co-operation**.

The chosen theme is meant to doubly qualify the collective future that we want: connected to each other in support of the evolution of community based cooperatives.

West Wetaskiwin Rural Electrification Association (REA) is an electric co-operative. Electric co-ops are unique and only exist in Alberta, although rural electric co-operatives are prevalent in the United States. Like our American counterparts, REAs operating under co-operative principles literally "electrified" rural Alberta when government and for-profit utilities would not.

The West Wetaskiwin REA story is very similar to that of other community co-operatives. We follow seven co-operative principles which are:

- 1. Voluntary and open membership
- 2. Democratic member control
- 3. Member economic participation
- 4. Autonomy and independence
- 5. Education, training, and information
- 6. Cooperation among cooperatives
- 7. Concern for Community

West Wetaskiwin REA celebrated our **70th Anniversary** this year. We are proud of our success and our ability to respond to our members and make decisions in the best interest of the REA.

In particular this year, the 2021 theme "Embracing the future with co-operation" very accurately describes the vision of our future. After careful deliberation, and with the goal of improving our member service and expanding our membership, West Wetaskiwin REA entered into a distribution system operations agreement with Battle River Power Coop.

Over the years, we developed a solid relationship with Battle River Power Coop as our RRO provider. We are both REAs looking to better serve our members, expand our base and maintain the REA tradition in rural Alberta. Affiliating with a like-minded co-operative, rather than a for–profit utility, makes perfect co-operative sense!

### Embracing the Future with Co-operation

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 September 2021, the RRO is priced at \$0.13208 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For October 2021, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.12531.

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).

Information on West Wetaskiwin REA's Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com