



### FENN REA Annual General Meeting | (March 21, 2022) Report

The following Annual Report was respectfully submitted by Philip Jarmin, President FENN REA.

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for attending our annual general meeting.

#### Introductions

The past year has been quiet in regard to changes within our REA. The membership has remained steady – our group remaining loyal to the REA and its principles.

We continue to enjoy our partnerships with Battle River Power Co-Op (BRPC) and the Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations (AFREA). BRPC continues to supply us with our regulated rate energy supply, also generating our monthly billing and maintaining our receivables.

Our per kilowatt energy price has been quite variable throughout 2021. Fluctuations in energy supply caused by failed generators and the phasing out of coal fired suppliers is cited as the main causes.

The AFREA continues to lead us in our efforts to influence government about the importance of REA's as a benchmark for energy supply in Alberta. REA's play a unique and important role in the distribution of electricity! By being not for profit organizations we also show the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC) that the Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) are far more interested in the benefits of their shareholders



than the consumers in our province.

As members of an REA we can contribute to the efforts of the group by lobbying our MLA, Mr. Nate Horner for support and legislative change. Contact your board of directors for more information.

Our in person meetings have been nil, due to government restrictions and in the interest of staying healthy and therefore limiting the pressure on our health care system. Your board of directors has not been idle, however. I have fielded approximately 200 e-mails, Zoomed, Google met and conference called. As it is with life..., COVID forces us to embrace change.

#### Have any of you visited our website?

Our website was launched on Mar. 23 / '18. You can find various news articles there and bulletins regarding our community and REA. Just google [www.fennrea.com](http://www.fennrea.com).

Our REA was registered with the rural utilities branch of the Alberta government on July 9, 1951. That makes this our 70th AGM! We are proud to be the owners of an operating electrical distribution system. Over 120km of line strung over nearly 1300 poles. Our outages are minimal due to the quality of our system and the diligence of our wire system operator, ATCO.

Again, on behalf of the board of directors, I thank you for attending our AGM. I would be glad to answer any questions.

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](mailto:fennrea@gmail.com)  
[www.fennrea.com](http://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](mailto:brpc@brpower.coop)  
[www.brpower.coop](http://www.brpower.coop)

# Trees and Power Lines

Trees are an important part of the landscape acting as shelterbelts and adding aesthetics to a property. However, trees too close to power lines are a hazard. They can cause power outages or momentary power interruptions when branches touch overhead lines. Electrical arcing from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires.

More seriously, if you are standing too near a tree that is in close proximity to a powerline, (particularly if it is wet) electricity can jump from the tree to you. Whether it's the utility line or the service line to your home, long swaying tree limbs can easily make accidental contact with electric wires and once again, cause serious injury to people working around and/or children playing around or in the tree.

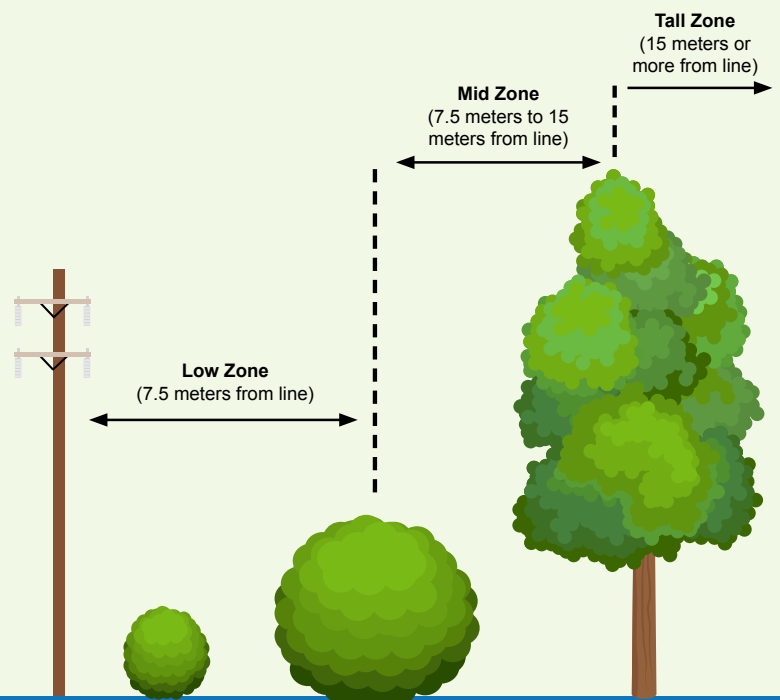
Vegetation management is an important aspect of maintaining a safe, reliable distribution system. While ATCO Electric has this primary responsibility, members also have a role to play when considering where and what to plant as it relates to the powerline location.

Regardless of where you're planting, before digging, you must contact Alberta One Call to have utility lines marked before you begin the project. Once marked, remember to dig very carefully around any electrical infrastructure ensuring that no contact is made.

It's important to know that having powerlines on or near your property does not mean that you can't plant trees. Do your research or check with a greenhouse or landscaper to determine not only how high, but how wide the tree canopy will be, at maturity.

ATCO Electric suggests the following guidelines to ensure your trees and powerlines don't connect.

- Nothing should be planted closer than 5 meters (roughly 16.5 feet) from the base of a power pole.
- Trees or shrubs planted closer than 7.5 meters (24.5 feet) should be low-growing varieties (e.g., berry hedges, roses, honeysuckle, etc.).
- In the mid-zone, lilac and cherry trees could be potential choices.
- Tall trees (spruce, birch, pine, etc.) should be planted at least 15 meters (just over 49 feet) away from powerlines.
- If you have a secondary line connecting your home or farm to a power line, avoid planting trees that will grow into the line and become hazardous.



## 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 May 2022, the RRO is priced at \$0.11572 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For June 2022, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.13531. The RRO rate is also listed on [www.fennrea.com](http://www.fennrea.com).

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

Information on FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan can be found on our website: [www.fennrea.com](http://www.fennrea.com)