

The Twin Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

"Owned By Those We Serve"



March 2007

501 Huston St. ❖ P.O. Box 368 ❖ Altamont, Kansas 67330-0385

Phone: (866)-784-5500

Fax: (620) 784-2464

From the Manager... New Billing Procedures

This year has gotten off to a fast start. The installation and implementation of the new TWACS metering system is almost complete.

All residential meters have been changed to the new technology, and meters are being read from the Twin Valley office.

We upgraded our computer software the first week of January. The new software, in conjunction with the new metering, gave us the ability to read your meters and send you an itemized bill each month rather than having you read your own meter and calculate your own bill before sending us the payment.

We have had several phone calls from members wondering where their bills were at the beginning of the month.

We read the meters at midnight on the last day of the month, transfer this data into the billing system, and process the bills after validating them for accuracy.

All bills should be mailed about the 10th day of each month. You will still have 15 days to make your payment, as the due date is now the 25th of the month.

The new billing statements have provided you with much more information regarding your account and usage, including a complete breakdown of the charges.

We understand that the breakdown of the charges on your electric bill can be confusing. All of these

charges, except the ECA Adjustment, have been a part of your electric billing for many years. There's a customer charge, a kWh charge, and an energy cost adjustment charge.

What Is the Customer Charge?

Customer charge (also known as: service charge, service availability, availability charge, service availability charge, base rate charge, or basic service) is a flat charge applied each month regardless of the amount of kilowatt hours (kWh) used.

The charge covers such items as member accounting, mailing, billing and metering. Therefore, the customer charge will be applied even if the customer has had no usage for that month.

What Is the kWh Charge?

The kWh charge (also known as energy charge, usage charge, charge for electric service, or referred to by rate schedule or rate code name) is the charge for the electricity used by an electric customer during the billing period, measured in kWh, multiplied by the applicable rate.

What Is the Energy Cost Adjustment Charge?

Energy cost adjustment (ECA) (also known as: power cost adjustment, fuel cost adjustment) is used to "adjust" the rates charged to members when the price of fuels

used to generate the electricity spike and fall over time.

The reality behind the headlines describing increases at the gas pumps, higher heating oil prices, record natural gas price levels and inflated coal price expenses is that these prices have a direct bearing on the cost of our wholesale electric power.

Twin Valley has been forced to absorb these increases the past two years, but with the new billing software and metering technology, we are now able to pass on these costs as they fluctuate, either as an adder or a credit if the prices fall.

At the time that the current retail rates were set by Twin Valley, an amount to recover the ECA was included in the cooperative's monthly base rates. The cooperative compares the amount of ECA collected through its base rates and the actual ECA billed by our power supplier on a monthly basis. The difference between the ECA actually incurred by the utility and the amount recovered through its base rates is either refunded to or collected from members through the monthly ECA.

The ECA is a way to reflect changes in our cost for wholesale power without completely restructuring our existing rate schedules.



Ron Holsteen

Nominating Committee Meeting Scheduled

The bylaws of your cooperative provide that the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee prior to each year's Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has appointed the following members to the Nominating Committee: Bobby Myers, David Peterson, Keith Tucker, Bill Billman, Kim Geren, Everett Becker, Tom Nading, Joe Robinson, Dale Coonrod, and Tom Jackson.

The terms of Daniel Peterson, Norman Leistikow, and Larry David Hubbell will expire as of the date of the next Annual Meeting of Members, April 20, 2007.

The Nominating Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 6, 2007, for the purpose of making nominations for Directors to fill these positions. The Committee will post a list of such nominations at the office of your cooperative.

Additional information concerning each candidate will be

published in the Annual Report, which each member will receive prior to the Annual Meeting.

Other nominations may be made by a signed petition of 15 or more members, not less than five days prior to the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall also be posted in the cooperative office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors consists of nine members. The present Board members are: Daniel Peterson, President; Bryan Coover, Vice-President; Norman Leistikow, Secretary; Larry David Hubbell, Treasurer; Robert Webster; Wayne Revell; Tom Ellison; Mike Allison and Ronald McNickle.

The next Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007, at the Labette County High School Cafeteria, Altamont.

Avoid Outdoor Electrical Hazards at Home & Work

The arrival of spring brings warmer weather and an increase in outdoor work, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). ESFI notes that following safety rules can reduce electrical deaths and injuries:

- Ladders that contact a power line can prove fatal, even if the ladder is made of wood.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing and repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass when using electricity.

Twin Valley Encourages You To Be Prepared for Severe Storms

The arrival of spring and warmer weather also brings the potential for severe thunderstorms and tornados. Twin Valley Electric advises everyone to be prepared for these storms and the electrical hazards they can leave behind.

Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and a radio. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes Twin Valley Electric, (620) 784-5500. Be prepared for the possibility of prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.

Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand.

Keep a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.

During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave your porch light on or a lamp inside your home for signal for when your power has been restored.

If after a storm or disaster, and the power to your home has been out for a prolonged period, know important safety rules, such as never using a charcoal or gas grill to cook inside.

If you use a standby generator, make sure a transfer safety switch

is used, or connect the appliances directly to the generator. This prevents electricity from traveling back through the power lines, what's known as "back feed". Back feed creates danger for anyone near lines, particularly crews working to restore power. Also keep the generator outside where it is well vented.

Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords or wires while you are wet or standing in water.