



Office Info:

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Summer Hours:

Office hours Monday - Thursday
7:00 am - 5:30 PM.

Okanogan County Electric Co-op

July 2019 Newsletter

Transformer Safety

With warm spring weather comes yard work. Members with neighborhood high-voltage equipment and transformers in their yards can do a lot to help themselves, their neighbors, and OCEC work crews stay safe by maintaining clearance around the green metal utility boxes.

Remember to keep ten feet of space around this equipment, especially in front of any access doors, when planting trees and shrubs or building fences and other structures. Proper clearance helps OCEC crews restore power more quickly and safely during a power outage. It also helps them perform scheduled maintenance more safely and efficiently. The clearance is a legal requirement, as regulated by the National Electric Safety Code.

Before starting to shovel, smart and safe digging means calling 811 or visiting

callbeforeyoudig.org/washington to request a utility-locate before starting job. Using the website for your notification can save time and there is no cost for the member. Utilities will respond to mark the locations of their underground lines avoiding an accidental dig-in, which can be dangerous and result in injury and expensive repairs. The notification is valid for 28 days so if the excavation project goes beyond this timeframe, notify 811 again for an extension. For businesses, or if a homeowner hires someone, it's the law to request a utility-locate a minimum of two full business days before any digging occurs. But for do-it-yourself homeowners, it's the way to stay safe and avoid financial and legal responsibility for repairs and/or injuries.

For safety's sake, never climb on, plant, or dig around neighborhood electrical transformers.

OCEC Hires New Employees

OCEC is pleased to introduce Katie Sigler as our new Customer Service Representative. She has lived in the Methow Valley since 2013 and has multiple years of customer service experience. Katie recently married Robby Sigler and they have purchased their first home outside of Winthrop. Welcome Katie!



Katie Sigler



Udi Medrano

OCEC would like to welcome Uriel (Udi) Medrano with his fiancée Brooklyn and their one year old son Easton to our ranks. Udi completed his apprenticeship training with Northwest JATC; he has been working in the Northwest as a contract Journeyman Lineman since 2012.

OCEC Board of Directors:

Sara Carlberg (scarlberg@ocec.coop) | John Kirner (jkirner@ocec.coop) | Chris Legler (clekler@ocec.coop) | Michael Murray (mmurray@ocec.coop)
Ray Peterson (rpeterson@ocec.coop) | Dale Sekijima (dsekijima@ocec.coop) | Alan Watson (awatson@ocec.coop)

OCEC's Special Capital Credit Distribution

OCEC Board of Directors approved a special payout of discounted capital credits for members who are at least 80 years of age.

The current schedule calls for applications to be received in the office by 7/31/19. Distribution is scheduled for August.

Some of the conditions of the program are as follows:

- Maximum amount of special capital credits to be retired by OCEC at this time is \$25,000.
- Member must be a natural person (i.e. only actual person and not a business, LLC, governmental entity, etc.) who is 80 years of age or older by August 1, 2019.
- In the case of joint memberships, only one member needs to be 80 years or older.
- A copy of a government issued ID (Driver's License, passport, birth certificate, etc) will be required to verify qualifications.
- A member's capital credit amount will be discounted at the interest rate of the Co-op's

outstanding debt similar to how estate payouts are now handled. There are no member requested partial payouts.

- Request must be on the official application form and delivered either by e-mail to info@ocec.coop, regular mail, or hand delivery by July 31, 2019. Application forms are available on the OCEC website or at the OCEC office.
- If the total amount of Special Retirement distributions sought by qualified members exceeds the total amount approved by the Board, then distributions will be made to retire the oldest capital credits of qualifying members first, such that capital credits retired in this manner occur on a first-in, first out methodology.

In the case that the amount of Special Retirement Distributions requested by qualified members is greater than the amount approved by the board, the capital credits members earned in 1999 will be paid out first. This will be followed by capital credits earned in 2000 and so on for all qualified members until the amount approved by the Board of directors is reached.

Please call our office or check our website if you have any questions.

OCEC Board Meeting Schedule

All members are invited to attend any OCEC Board meeting. You may have an issue you wished discussed, a question to ask, or just want to see what is happening at the co-op. Meetings are usually the 4th Monday of the month at 3 PM. This may deviate because of holidays ect. Future OCEC Board meetings for the rest of the year are:

July 22nd
August 26th
September 23rd
October 28th
November 22nd (Friday)
December 16th (Monday)