



Okanogon County Electric Co-op Newsletter

September 2017

Office Info:

Summer Office Hours:

Mon - Thurs.

7 am - 5:30 pm

(Switching to Winter Hours Oct 1

Mon-Fri 8 am - 4:30 pm)

Our customer service call center is available 24/7/365 to handle most electric & propane concerns.

(509) 996-2228

OCEC Board:

Chuck Armstrong

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Sara Carlberg

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Curtis Edwards

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Alan Watson

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Contacts:

General Manager

David Gottula

(dgottula@oceec.coop)

Information

(info@oceec.coop)

Electric Rate Increase On The Horizon

The OCEC Board of Directors is proposing to raise electric rates an average of 3% beginning January, 2018. The increase would first appear on bills received in February. The increase is needed to cover an approximately 7.5% rise in the price of electricity OCEC buys from the Bonneville Power Administration, where nearly all of our power comes from. About half of OCEC's total costs is buying power for its members.

The Board will make a final decision on the rate increase in September or October. Rates could also rise another 3% in 2019 if the cost of power increases again as much as expected. That decision won't be made until this time next year.

Along with the overall rate increase there will also be some adjustment in rates for each class of user to keep rates in line with the cost to provide power to each group. Because of that members will see rate increases in 2018 ranging from just over 1% to nearly 4%, averaging out to 3% overall.

The rate increase will affect only the kilowatt hour portion of members' bills. However, the adjustment between rate classes could also have a small effect on other parts of the monthly bill. For those in the G1 rate class, the base rate will drop slightly.

OCEC has been able to absorb past increases in wholesale power costs by cutting operating costs and changing to the system of electric rates we now use.

To see how the rate increase will affect your bill use the rate calculator available at: www.ocec.coop, you will need your account number. Call or stop by the OCEC office Monday-Thursday, 7 am - 5:30 pm and Staff will run the calculator for you.

If you have questions or comments please contact our local office at 509-996-2228, OCEC General Manager David Gottula (dgottula@oceec.coop) or Board President Curtis Edwards (cedwards@oceec.coop)



OCEC Linemen Perform Arc Demonstration At Community Center



Throughout the year OCEC Linemen perform arc flash demonstrations for groups and classes to inform and teach about the dangers of electricity. Arc demonstrations have been done at LBHS, Fire District 6 and the Winthrop Barn for OCEC Meetings.

For more information contact GM David Gottula (dgottula@occc.coop)



Above: Journeymen Linemen Chris Zahn and Dan Foussard draw an arc during a recent demo at the Twisp Community Center.

Right: OCEC Journeymen Lineman Wayne "Bud" Stevie was lucky enough to have his granddaughter attend the arc demo.

Get Updates Faster During Major Outages

OCEC is committed to sending outage texts and email notifications during regular business hours and will make every effort to send them during major off hour outages. During the recent transmission outage on the Loup, Outage Texting was the fastest method of communication with our members.

Visit our website at www.occc.coop, and click on the texting link in the lower left corner for instructions.

You may also call our office at (509) 996-2228 to request text alert setup.

Electronic Billing & Payment Options

Starting with the September 1, 2017 statements, members who sign up for E-Bill notification only and set up an Auto-Pay directly from their checking account will pay no fees on the monthly transaction. To set up an E-bill notification and Auto-Pay from your checking account log onto your account through the Pay Online Tab at www.occc.coop.

OCEC office staff will be happy to help you whether signing up for E-Bills or setting up text notifications for outage updates. We are in the office Monday – Thursday, 7 am-5:30 pm.

