



October 2023

Newsletter

POWER SUPPLY COSTS TO INCREASE FOR 2024

OCEC has received the final wholesale power rates from our power supplier, PNGC Power and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), for the coming two-year rate period. OCEC will be experiencing a nearly 10% increase in wholesale power costs as a result of a drastic change in the cost of wholesale power BPA is charging for energy needed above our federal power allocation.

What is causing this change? For all of our energy needs above our federal allocation of cost-based hydropower, BPA charges a market-based rate and that wholesale power market cost has roughly tripled in the last 18-months. With the growth OCEC has been experiencing our system will purchase about 15% of our total power needs at this higher market rate.

The cost of purchased wholesale power is roughly 50% of the total cost of OCEC's service to our members with the other 50% being made up of operations, materials, labor costs, debt service, and other expenses necessary to deliver reliable power to our membership. Upward pressure on expenses continues and in combination with the large increase in the cost of wholesale power may result in upward pressure on rates to ensure the cooperative is financially strong.

The OCEC Board will be reviewing the 2024 budget in the coming months and will communicate any planned changes to rates as soon as decisions are made.



STAY CYBER AWARE

Don't fall for phishing scams. OCEC will not make aggressive demands for immediate payment over the phone especially through prepaid cards, gift cards or other unusual methods of payment. You can always call OCEC at 509-996-2228 if you have a question about your account.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy

