



Brad Gaskill, CEO

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## Increase In Wholesale Power Cost Drives Up Rates

Poudre Valley REA's (PVREA) wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (Tri- State), recently approved an average 4.8% rate increase to its 44 member distribution systems effective January 1, 2012. In Tri-State's announcement of the rate increase it listed a number of drivers impacting the increased rate requirement including member load growth, increased coal and rail prices, higher rates from its power suppliers, the loss of non-member sales, increased debt service requirements and increasingly expensive regulatory requirements.

Since wholesale power costs represent approximately 83 percent of our total operation and maintenance expenses; we are not able to absorb a rate increase of this significance. Management is recommending an overall average increase of 4.0% in electric revenues from PVREA consumers to cover the association's additional power bill costs in 2012. If approved by the PVREA Board of Directors, specific rate increases will vary based on individual electric usage across our different rate classes (i.e. residential, small commercial, large commercial, irrigation, industrial, etc.).

In addition the new revenue requirements are proposed to be collected through increased energy charges and increased demand charges, if applicable, with no change in the monthly facilities charge for each of our specific rate classifications. The average residential member is expected to notice an increase of 3.5 percent (or \$3.78 per month). The average small commercial member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.3 percent (or \$6.04 per month). The average large commercial member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.6 percent (or \$143.25 per month). The average irrigation member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.1% (or \$9.57 per month).

The last time PVREA had to pass on a rate increase from Tri-State was in January 2009. At that time we also increased rates to cover PVREA's increasing operating costs. Although the majority of our operating costs have continued to increase since January 2009 your board and management staff have worked hard and made some tough decisions to hold our operating expenses in check over the past three years. Understanding the slow recovery of the economy and the difficulty it has placed on many of our members, I am happy to report that we will not be increasing your electric rates to cover any additional PVREA operating costs. If approved by the board, the electric rates will only be increased out of the necessity to pass on Tri-State's 4.8% wholesale rate increase to PVREA.

A public forum will be held on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at PVREA headquarters office, 7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO beginning at 2:00 p.m. to present the proposed rate increase and receive members' comments. This forum is open to all members, consumers, indirect users and the public. At the conclusion of the public forum the Board of Directors will deliberate and make a final decision about the proposed changes to the rate tariffs, other charges and fees, and the association's rules and regulations. Each PVREA member was recently mailed a notice informing you of the public forum and the proposed changes to the Association's rate tariffs, other charges and fees, and rules and regulations.

Every effort is being made to inform our members of these proposed changes. The proposed changes and increases for each rate classification can be obtained by visiting PVREA's website [www.pvera.com](http://www.pvera.com).

I look forward to visiting with you again!

*Brad Gaskill*

CEO, Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association



## Co-op Month Celebrated at Cookout

Hundreds of members attended the 2011 cookout and celebration on October 1. The event was held at the association headquarters near Windsor to celebrate National Co-op Month.

Susan Moore was live on Tri-102 letting everyone know that there was food and live music. Along with the grilled hamburgers and hotdogs there were cold drinks, face painting for the kids. Folks danced to the music of Plumb Loco and enjoyed the sunny afternoon.

## Paperless Billing

We have made some enhancements to your electric bill with new features and additional information available online. If you already have an online bill pay account you will need to re-register the first time you login. It only takes a moment and will give you access to new features including the option to go paperless.

If you would like to stop receiving your paper bill in the mail simply sign into eBill at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com) and check the paperless option.

## Closed For Thanksgiving

The Poudre Valley REA office will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday November 25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

## Are You A Winner?

If you find your name in this month's issue call 970-282-6422 to collect your prize.



## Protecting Your Private Information

In order to provide better protection of our members' confidential information, PVREA Customer Service Representatives will no longer take payments over the phone. Those payments will instead be processed by an interactive voice response (IVR) system.

We understand that many members prefer to interact with a person rather than a computer, but member security, as well as compliance with industry policy, is very important. Changes in Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards have dictated the way payments are taken by telephone.

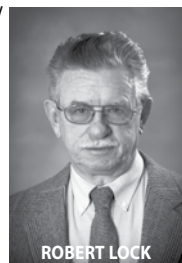
PVREA offers many convenient options for payment of electric bills. Members with checking and/or savings accounts and those with credit/debit card accounts can easily pay online at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com), in person at our office, or by phone using our new IVR system. Checks and money orders are still accepted by mail and cash payments are accepted in person at our office. You may also sign up online for automatic recurring payments from your savings or checking account.

## Directors Earn Certifications

PVREA Board Secretary/Treasurer Robert Lock has earned his Board Leadership Certification and Director Roger Alexander has been awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"Achieving CCD and Board Leadership certification reflects a director's commitment to cooperative principles and dedication to service," said PVREA CEO Brad Gaskill.

CCD certification is earned by attending five required courses and successfully completing a learning assessment for each. The Board Leadership certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director.



ROBERT LOCK



ROGER ALEXANDER

## Green Power Winner

This fall Poudre Valley REA members were invited to join the co-op's Green Power program and they responded enthusiastically. From the 352 new subscribers to our renewable energy program one was selected for a \$2,000 Home Energy Makeover.

The winner is:  
Raymond Lyons Jr. from Berthoud.

Congratulations to the Lyons family!

# PLUGGING INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Sometimes being safe is simply a matter of thinking about something you never think about. Take extension cords for example. Nobody ever spends time wondering if the cords they plug their stuff into are safe. We all just plug in and move on. But, next time you need to extend the reach of a particular appliance or device, stop for just a second, and think -- is this safe?

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that each year, about 4,000 injuries associated with electric extension cords are treated in hospital emergency rooms. CPSC also

estimates that about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords each year, killing 50 people and injuring about 270 others. In many cases these cords are either misused or, simply, old. Like many things in our electricity-powered world, new technology often means better, safer stuff. And that even applies to something as simple as an extension cord. (Winner: Deanna and Sean Martinez)

For example, older cords don't have polarized grounding type plugs. Polarized plugs have one blade slightly wider than the other and can only be inserted one way into the outlet. Polarization and grounding ensure that certain parts of appliances that could have a higher risk of electric shock when they become live are instead connected to the neutral, or grounded, side of the circuit. Newer cords also have safety closures, for the protection of children and now must be constructed with #16 gauge or larger wire as compared to the formerly-used # 18 gauge cords.

So, you see, newer can be better. In addition to replacing old cords with newer ones, here are some simple things to consider to keep your family safe.

- Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis.
- Use polarized extension cords with polarized appliances.
- Make sure cords do not dangle from the counter or table tops where they can be pulled down or tripped over.
- Insert plugs fully so that no part of the prongs are exposed when the extension cord is in use.
- When disconnecting cords, pull the plug rather than the cord itself.
- Teach children not to play with plugs and outlets.
- Use only three-wire extension cords for appliances with three-prong plugs. Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong, which is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- In locations where furniture or beds may be pushed against an extension cord where the cord joins the plug, use a special "angle extension cord," which is specifically designed for use in these instances.
- Never place an extension cord where it is likely to be damaged by heavy furniture or foot traffic.
- Use special, heavy duty extension cords for high wattage appliances such as air conditioners, portable electric heaters, and freezers.
- When using outdoor tools and appliances, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.

## NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE TARIFFS, RULES AND REGULATIONS OF POUDBRE VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

You are hereby notified that Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association, Inc. (PVREA) proposes to change the Association's Tariffs, Rules and Regulations to become effective for electric billings rendered on or after January 1, 2012.

PVREA will hold a public forum concerning these proposed changes on November 29, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the Association's headquarters, 7649 REA Pkwy, Ft. Collins, CO 80528. This forum is open to all members, consumers, indirect users and the public. At the conclusion of the public forum the Board of Directors will deliberate and make a final decision about the proposed changes to the tariffs, rules and regulations. Anyone who desires to complain about the proposed changes shall file a written complaint with the Association at 7649 REA Parkway or mail to PO Box 272550, Ft. Collins, CO 80527-

2550 no later than November 18, 2011 under the Rules and Regulations of the Association. Final decisions by the Board of Directors regarding any written complaint may be appealed to the Public Utilities Commission.

Following is an explanation and illustration of proposed changes to certain rate classes. A copy of the complete changes to all rate classes is available for inspection at the PVREA headquarters office during normal business hours or on the PVREA website at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com).

Robert A. Lock  
Secretary-Treasurer, Poudre Valley REA  
7649 REA Parkway, Fort Collins, CO 80528

### Explanation:

The proposed change in rates is a result of a wholesale power rate increase of 4.8 percent from PVREA's power provider, Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. This translates to an average increase of 4.0 percent to PVREA's revenue requirements. Specific increases will depend on the rate classification and usage of each member. If the proposed changes are approved, effective January 1, 2012 the average residential member's

electric bill will increase by approximately 3.5 percent (or \$3.78 per month). The average small commercial member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.3 percent (or \$6.04 per month). The average large commercial member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.6 percent (or \$143.25 per month). The average irrigation member's electric bill will increase by approximately 4.1% (or \$9.57 per month).

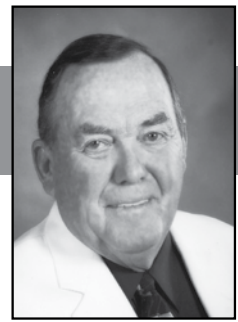
Other rates including residential time of use, commercial time of use, lighting and industrial rates have proposed changes and are available for inspection at the PVREA headquarters office during normal business hours or on the PVREA website [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com).

### Fees and Charges:

Existing fees and charges have proposed changes. A new meter reading fee of \$20.00 per month is proposed for members who choose to opt out of the Association's Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Program.

### Rules and Regulations:

There are proposed changes to the association's Rules & Regulations. Changes include but are not limited to; a new format and new AMI rule & regulation.



## A Trip to Washington DC and a Week in Steamboat Highlight Two PVREA Youth Programs



### Washington Youth Tour

Next summer 1,500 high school students from all across America will travel to Washington, D.C. for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. They will cruise the Potomac, attend a play, meet members of Congress and see all the monuments. And one of them will be sponsored, 100%, by Poudre Valley REA.

If you have a son or daughter, or a grandson or granddaughter, who is a Junior or Senior in High School and lives in a

PVREA household they can enter the contest. Just fill out the entry form here, or visit [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com) to print one out.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that is offered by your co-op to help students learn more about our government and how it can affect electricity supply and costs. And it's also very fun and educational.

Entering the Youth Tour is easy and the rules are simple. All your student needs to do is send us an application along with a brief essay explaining why he or she would like to attend the tour.

Finalists will be interviewed in person and a winner and an alternate will be chosen. The runner up will spend a week at the Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs next summer.



### Youth Leadership Camp

Every July Poudre Valley REA sponsors two high school students to attend, free of charge, the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs. This is truly a special opportunity

to experience the wilderness and beauty of Colorado and make memories that will last a lifetime. Students stay at the Glen Eden Resort in furnished two-bedroom, two-bath cabins complete with pool and hot tubs.

Activities include riding the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner, exploring Steamboat Springs and just having fun playing sports, attending the camp dance and pizza party or enjoying the hot springs pool. Students, also, learn how a cooperative works and visit Craig Station Power Plant, the largest electric generating station in Colorado.

### ENTRY FORM WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PVREA ACCOUNT HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ ACCT# \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR GRAD. \_\_\_\_\_

HS PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for application is January 21, 2012 • Mail or deliver, along with your essay, to: **Poudre Valley REA Youth Tour, 7649 REA Pkwy., Ft. Collins, CO, 80528**  
Send this application along with a brief essay explaining why you would like to attend the tour.

**For more information or to apply visit the Poudre Valley REA website at [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com) or stop by our headquarters**

I encourage every PVREA member with a Junior or Senior in High School to apply for both the Washington Youth Tour and the Leadership Camp. The deadline for applying to both programs is **January 21, 2012.**

**THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING TO ALL OF THESE PVREA YOUTH PROGRAMS IS JANUARY 21, 2012**

## 13 College Scholarships Offered To PVREA Students



Each year 13 scholarships are offered by Poudre Valley REA to high school seniors and college undergraduate students who will be, or are, full-time students. Ten of these scholarships are for \$2,000 one for \$1,000 and two are for \$500.

The scholarships are awarded every year to dependents of parents (or consumers themselves) who currently receive electric service from Poudre Valley REA. If the PVREA consumer is a business, that business may appoint a candidate of its choice. Previous winners may reapply if they still qualify. Visit [www.pvrea.com](http://www.pvrea.com) for an application form you can print from your computer or stop by and pick one up at the PVREA Headquarters at 7649 REA Pkwy, Ft. Collins, CO (just east of I-25 at the Windsor exit) Applications must be postmarked no later than January 21, 2012.

In addition to the funds Poudre Valley REA has established for scholarships, Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation & Transmission also donate to the program. Winners' names will be drawn at random. One winner and one alternate will be selected for each scholarship.