

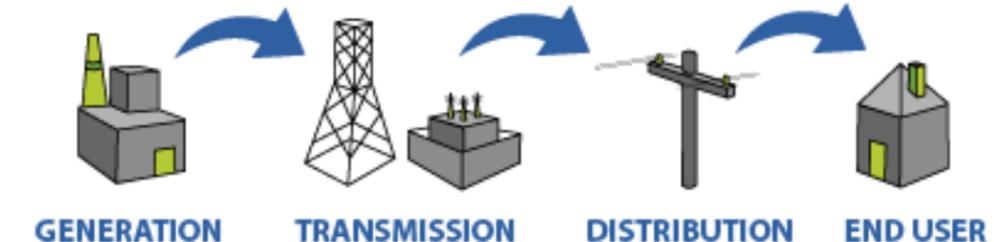
Power Outages

Planned Outages

As part of NPP REA's commitment to providing the highest quality and reliable service we conduct system improvements, equipment upgrades and regular maintenance. This type of work prevents more extensive, unplanned outages in the future. Sometimes it is necessary to temporarily disconnect power to ensure the safety of our employees. These service interruptions involve extensive planning, which is why we call them Planned Power Outages (PPO). We are driven by our Members to do better. We make every effort to contact all NPP REA Members affected to inform them of the intended power outage.

Unplanned outages

Unfortunately, power outages can be caused by such things as wildlife or weather (strong winds, freezing rain, lightening, hail) that can damage power lines and equipment. In such instances, we do our best to restore power to all those affected. The energy that flows through the line, bringing power to your property is a joint effort from generation, transmission and distribution. Any where along this route an unplanned outage can occur that may affect your power.



If you experience a power outage, we would encourage you to check our website to see if there is a scheduled outage first. If your area is not listed on our Scheduled Outages under the Home tab, then we would ask that you report a power outage by clicking the blue button at the top of our website. Look at the top of our webpage for this:

Report a Power Outage 1-866-398-2001 

Recent damage caused by wildlife that affected power in the Lac La Biche region.



**NORTH
PARKLAND
POWER REA LTD.**

Contact Us

Give us a call for information about our services or if you have any questions.

Local: 780-398-2000
Toll Free: 1-866-398-2001
Email: contact@mpprea.ca

Hours Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm
600 - 2 Avenue
Box 501
Thorhild, Alberta
T0A 3J0

Visit us at www.npprea.ca



Board of Directors

Zone 1
George Brodniansky 780-576-2144
Orest Penchuk 780-576-2401
Wes Kirk 780-576-2280

Zone 2
George Vansenandt 780-939-6913
Vice Chairman
Jacob Middelkamp 780-942-3805

Zone 3
Richard Filipchuk 780-656-0522
Charles Newell 780-809-2247
Chairman

Zone 4
Harvey Yoder 780-623-0556
Carl Beniuk 780-689-6430

Feel free to contact them if you have any questions!

**NORTH
PARKLAND
POWER REA LTD.**



Member Owned & Operated since 2000 April 2015 - Issue 6

The past year has seen some improvements at NPP as your board endeavors to continuously enhance the value of the coop. Among the improvements, we have moved away from an in-house brushing program to a contract services with Arbor-Tech Utility Services Ltd. We have had a long standing relationship with Arbor-Tech Utility Services Ltd, as we have used them on an as needed basis for the past 3 years. As a result of this, we eliminated the capital cost for equipment and labor while maintaining control of the brushing program. We still preserve our goal of maintaining a local labor force as the brushing crew has moved over to Arbor-Tech.

Due to the completion of the High Load Corridors (the conversion of overhead to underground wiring needed for the oil companies for transportation of material from Fort Saskatchewan to Fort McMurray), outside revenues have decreased from that project but we continue to look for new opportunities through Northern Lights Energy and Power. A Marketing and Communication Manager has been hired full time to assist with power procurement and sales. Although this coming year will be a difficult one for energy retailer's, with power pool prices at an all-time low, we have faith that with some development NPP will continue to grow stronger. Although electricity prices have reverted back to pre-deregulation pricing, as transmission costs continue to increase, our power bills remain higher than ever.



Looking forward, a recent arbitration hearing between Equus REA and FortisAlberta has opened up the possibility of REA's serving more than agricultural and acreage owners to include other rural based customers. We are awaiting the final outcome of this arbitration but confident that it brings the potential of a huge contribution in making all REA's viable in the long term.

Our REA suffered a terrible loss in November of last year with the passing of our General Manager Glenn Nicol. His time with us will have a lasting positive effect both for the co-op as well as the community. After a considerable search, the board was successful in finding a well-qualified

general manager. The position has been filled by Vicki Zinyk. She brings an extensive background in the utilities sector as well as the municipal sector. We consider ourselves extremely fortunate to find someone with these experiences so close to home. The board looks forward to working with her.

One of the ongoing challenges for all rural co-ops is finding new board members. It is vital that new people come to the board from time to time to ensure that the member owned co-op stays focused on delivering the service its members require. After the required nomination process we can welcome Jacob Middelkamp to the NPP board, Jacob brings experience from serving on the Coronado Gas Co-op as well as other Ag related boards. We look forward to working with Jacob.

In closing the board of directors would like to thank our staff and our members for their continuing support and look forward to another successful year.

Charles Newell
Chairman North Parkland Power REA

In this Issue

- Message for the Chairman of the Board
- Annual General Meeting Results
- Glossary of Terms on your Bill From the Communications Desk
- Outages Explained
- And More!

Report a Power Outage at 1-866-398-2001

From the Communications Desk...

“A Rural Electrification Association (REA) is a not-for-profit cooperative, incorporated or continued under the Rural Utilities Act that owns an electric distribution system and supplies electric energy to members in a rural region of Alberta.”

This is how a REA is described on the Utilities Consumer Advocate website but I think it leaves out so much.

REA's were brought to life when the nearest Investor Owned Utility (IOU) would not provide service to the rural areas, believing that there would be insufficient revenue to justify the capital expense it would require to ensure the agricultural areas had power. When the IOU's declined to provide this service, Alberta farmers made a decision to form co-operatives to bring the much needed electricity to their farms.

This all happened many years ago and REA's continue to serve the agricultural communities across Alberta. REA's come in all shapes and sizes but have some common attributes. They are governed by a Board of Directors that are elected from the membership. They are not-for-profit organizations that produce savings for their members rather than generate profits for stockholders, unlike the IOU's. While both organizations watch the bottom line, it is done for different reasons.

As a self-operating, Member owned organization with a high degree of reliability and service, NPP owns and maintains the power poles and lines (distribution system) located in our operating area. This stretches as far south west as Morinville, Alberta and as far north east as Lac La Biche, Alberta, which equates to 2,200 miles of line and approximately 40,000 power poles. Our team consists of certified Journeyman Powerline Technicians and Apprentice Powerline Technicians that follow provincial and industrial standards. Our office staff, field support, and management team round out our diverse NPP team, providing valuable information and value added service to all our Members.

REA's are rooted in community; they were created to meet a common local need. At NPP REA we are proud to be a part of something bigger than ourselves and take our role in the community very seriously. Community development is important to NPP REA and by living in the region in which we operate allows us to support local businesses and residents through sponsorship, employee volunteerism and youth scholarship opportunities. This in turn stimulates and nurtures our rural economy. Our understanding of the diverse area in which we operate provides our Members with the assurance that their wants are being heard and their needs being met. As a dedicated community contributor we pride ourselves in supporting local first hiring policies and providing employees with career building education opportunities.

Watch for our Survey coming out soon! Help make us better by filling out the survey and returning it to us in a timely fashion.

Have you signed up to receive email notifications of news, interesting facts and other information we send out from time to time? Help us cut costs on mail-outs and stayed informed!

Energy Fee

This fee is charged by NPPREA directly to you. It represents the cost of electricity that you have consumed at a specific site location for that billing period.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE FEE

O&M fees represent the cost of building, maintaining and servicing all the poles, wires, meters, transformers owned by NPPREA. This fee is also directly related to the size of breaker you have on your site. The breaker size reflects how much electricity you are able to use.

RATE RIDER & WHOLESALE SETTLEMENT FEE

A rider is a temporary credit or fee charged by Fortis, approved by the AUC and forwarded on to our members. Riders occur when the actual costs incurred by a utility to provide electricity service to their customers differ from their approved rates. Delivery rate riders are associated with distribution and transmission costs. Energy riders are no longer allowed, but the possibility of delivery rate riders still remains because distribution and transmission rates are often based on forecasted costs that may differ from actual costs.

TRANSMISSION CHARGE

This fee is charged to you by Fortis for the delivery of electricity from the point of energy generation to NPPREA. We in turn deliver the energy to your location. You can find further industry details at www.auc.ab.com or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca.

BALANCING POOL RIDER FEE

The Balancing Pool was established in 1999 by the Government of Alberta to help manage certain assets, revenues and expenses arising from the transition to competition in Alberta's electric industry. Under provisions of the Electric Utilities Act, each year the Balancing Pool is required to forecast its revenues and expenses to determine any excess or shortfall of funds. These fees or credits are passed onto all Alberta energy consumers.



Flickr: David Paul Ohmer

Transmission Talk

An electric power transmission system interconnects generators and loads and generally provides multiple paths among them. Transmission lines distribute the majority of the electric energy in the system.

We've all noticed our energy bills have increased. What we don't understand is why. All consumers, whether you are industrial, commercial, residential or farm pay for transmission. That hasn't changed. The transmission system could not continue to accommodate the projected power transfer that was needed. The increases on all bills is the result of a 20 year plan to ensure that Albertan's energy needs are being met.

The transmission grid is largely owned by public, for profit, companies, but its planning and operation are done by the AESO, which is non-profit. The AESO plans system additions to serve new load and generation needs, operates the system in real-time and determines the charge for using the transmission system.

The AUC regulates the transmission throughout the process. The need for new facilities is brought forth by the AESO to the AUC, as are the costs and location of these facilities to determine if the need is verified. The charge for using the system is fully regulated based on a cost-of-service model. On the whole, the transmission system is still regulated in a similar manner to what it was prior to deregulation, although it now serves deregulated buyers and sellers rather than regulated utility providers. Distribution is also fully regulated and operates as it did under regulation, with minor changes to the regulatory structure to facilitate retail competition.

With the release of the recommendations presented by the Retail Market Review Committee and the report "Enhancing the Retail Market for Electricity" submitted to the Minister of Energy by the MLA Retail Market Review Committee, we know that changes are on the way. We are watching closely for the outcome of the arbitration regarding the Integrated Operations Agreement between EQUUS REA Ltd and FortisAlberta Inc. We strongly believe this will affect all REAs in Alberta and as this all unfolds, we will do our best to keep our NPP REA Members informed.

Check Out Our Website at npprea.ca