

August 2013

HIGHLIGHTS

From Big Horn Rural Electric Company

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Basic Facility Charge... *Charge For What?*

The component of our rate that seems to cause the most confusion is the monthly basic facility charge. Each rate classification has a “base facility charge” component. The basic facility charge on the Small General Service rate is \$27.50 per month. Members sometimes have the mistaken perception that they receive no service or benefit for this monthly

charge.

However, there is benefit in having Big Horn’s distribution system in place and being able to flip the switch and have electricity available any hour of any day of the year. There are costs incurred just from being connected as a consumer, whether or not you use any energy.

In addition to Big Horn’s base distribution system of substations, lines, regulators, etc., an individual electric facility requires a service drop, meter, transformer and distribution line. All those facilities necessitate continued maintenance to ensure that power is available when called for. Interest, taxes, depreciation, insurance, line losses and other operating expenses associated with these facilities continue whether or not any electric energy is used. There are also ongoing customer support, billing and accounting expenses that are independent of the amount of energy used. The monthly basic facility charge is necessary to cover these costs.

These costs are unavoidable and must be recovered through some part of the rate. If a utility company does not set their monthly basic charge at a level sufficient to recover most all of the expenses described above, then they exceed the actual cost to have the service in place. In some instances they could also exceed what was paid for energy consumed.

In the past, low energy usage

customers were being subsidized by the high energy usage consumers. The proper basic facility charge is necessary to ensure that each customer pay an amount that corresponds as closely as possible to the cost of providing their electric service.

Another provision included in our Small General Service rate requires that the basic facility charge be paid for all twelve months of the year, even if a service is connected only for a portion of the year. The reason for this provision is similar to the reason for the monthly basic facility charge – it costs that much to keep the service in place. Expenses are not eliminated when the customer disconnects for a few months. Instead, there are additional costs for linemen, transportation, office procedures and paper work in each instance when a service is connected and disconnected. In truth, those customers who leave their service connected and pay the facility charge year round were subsidizing those who disconnected for part of the year and avoided paying the monthly basic facility charge.

The services connected for a partial year did not cover the expenses of having Big Horn’s distribution system and that service in place. The provision requiring revenue year round is necessary to ensure that each customer pays their fair share.



Big Horn REA will be closed Monday, September 2, 2013, in honor of Labor Day.

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How Much Is Too Much?

Learn How To Estimate Your Home Appliances' Energy Use To See If It's Time For An Upgrade

You've had your fridge forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cool. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home's monthly power bill. Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock between \$65-\$100 off your electricity bill each year. To sweeten the deal, Big Horn REA and our power supplier Tri-State G & T provide further incentives/rebates for folks replacing old appliances with new, energy-efficient alternatives.

This leaves consumers with a question when evaluating older appliances: how much energy use is too much? To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year} \div 1,000 = \text{Kilowatt-hour (kWh) used annually}$$

For example:

Standard, large-screen television (214 Watts)

$214 \text{ Watts} \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 312 \text{ kWh}$

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by \$.09623 per kWh used.

$312 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.09623 \text{ (Big Horn REA's base residential rate)} = \30.02 per year

In contrast, an Energy Star-rated

standard, large-screen TV (151.5 Watts) costs \$21.29 to power annually.

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since some appliances have a range of settings (i.e. hair-dryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

- Clothes washer: 350-500 Watts
- Clothes dryer: 1800-5000 Watts
- Dishwasher: 1200-2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer: 1200-1875 Watts
- Microwave oven: 750-1100 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 Watts

Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models. With incentives bringing down the price of an Energy Star-rated refrigerator or clothes washer, the annual energy savings could be worth an up-front investment. There are other benefits too. For example, not only have clothes washers become 64 percent more energy efficient since 2000—the tub size increased by 9 percent. With a new

model you can wash more clothes for less money every month!

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings. On the website under 'Add Up Your Savings,' you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room, and other common areas. Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill!

Ready for an upgrade?

Remember, incentives are available to help you make an energy-efficient switch. For more details on how you can take advantage of the rebates offered by Big Horn REA and Tri-State G & T, please give us a call at 1-800-564-2419.

Online Bill Payment

Online bill payment - this phrase means different things to different people. Big Horn REA does offer online bill payment through its website. This is done by using a credit or debit card or a check to pay your bill right on the website. The card company does charge a "convenience fee" to use this feature. The fee is 2.45% of the amount charged. The e-check feature does have a \$1 fee per account.

Another form of online bill payment is done through your bank. You set up a payment from your bank account that will be sent to Big Horn REA on a certain date. This service, while convenient, leaves some people in a bind. What the bank may not tell you is that this is not an electronic transfer of funds to Big Horn's bank account. Your bank actually sends out a paper check to Big Horn. While this doesn't seem like a big issue, the problem lies with the delay time that may occur. For example, although you tell your bank to send Big Horn's payment on June 21st, and your bank statement shows that the funds were taken out of your account on June 21st, Big

Horn may not receive the check payment in the mail for 10-14 days. This means that although you believe you sent it in plenty of time to reach us before our due date of the 25th, in all actuality your payment may not arrive at our office until July 9th - by which time you have received both courtesy and delinquent notices in the mail.

Please be aware of this delay time and make sure to schedule your payments accordingly. As always, you may call the office to check on the balance of your account at any time. Also, if you don't receive your bill in the mail, call our office for your balance or check our website. In order to log-in to our e-bill feature the first time you will need your account num-

ber and the password which can be found on your billing statement. If your statement does not have a password on it, or if you have forgotten your password, please call our office and we can reset the password for you.

BIG HORN RURAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
 208 South Fifth Street
 PO Box 270 Basin, WY 82410
 Office Hours 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday
 Phone 307.626.2100 1-888-566-8100

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

ACCOUNT NUMBER 100000401	LOCATION # 3843	ACCOUNT NAME BIG HORN RECO	RATE 7	SERVICE ADDRESS ACROSS HIWAY FROM BONZ #1 SU	METER NUMBER 5662																																	
FROM 02/27/11	TO 03/30/11	NO. OF DAYS 31	TYPE OF BILL 3	READING PREVIOUS 34	READING PRESENT 34	MULTIPLIER 1	KWH USAGE 0	CHARGES 27.50																														
BASIC FACILITY CHARGE																																						
DEMAND:	READING	ACTUAL	BILLED																																			
0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000																																			
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TOTAL ELECTRIC CHARGES																																						
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>CURRENT BILLING PERIOD</td> <td>31</td> <td>TOTAL KWH</td> <td>0</td> <td>AVG. KWH/DAY</td> <td>0</td> <td>COST PER DAY</td> <td>0</td> <td>TOTAL NOW DUE</td> <td>\$ 29.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PREVIOUS BILLING PERIOD</td> <td>30</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.38</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>PAST DUE AFTER</td> <td>04/25/11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</td> <td>30</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.38</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>BILL IS DUE WHEN RENDERED</td> </tr> </table>									CURRENT BILLING PERIOD	31	TOTAL KWH	0	AVG. KWH/DAY	0	COST PER DAY	0	TOTAL NOW DUE	\$ 29.00	PREVIOUS BILLING PERIOD	30	2	0	0	0.38			PAST DUE AFTER	04/25/11	SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR	30	2	0	0.38					BILL IS DUE WHEN RENDERED
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Your Electricity Use Over The Last 12 Months 																																						
TYPE OF BILL 0 Regular Bill 1 Estimated 2 Minimum 3 Estimated 4 Minimum 5 Final Bill 7 Budget Bill 14 Meter Change																																						
OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY BIGHORN: Energy Audits Roundup Automatic Withdrawal For Bill Payment																																						
RATE CODES 1 - Security Light 7 - Small General Single Phase 13 - Commercial & Industrial 15 - Irrigation 16 - Seasonal																																						
18 - Hwy Lighting 41 - Time of Use 71 - Medium General 72 - Large General 73 - Small General Three Phase																																						
GENERAL INFORMATION Payment Terms: Payment must be received in the Big Horn RECO office prior to the past due date to avoid late charges. Postmark does not qualify as date received. Public Service Commission Complaint number: 1-888-570-9005																																						
PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT																																						
BIG HORN REA PO BOX 270-BASIN WYOMING 82410 TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED						ACCOUNT # 100000401 LOCATION # 3843 PAST DUE AMOUNT \$0.00 PAST DUE AFTER 04/25/11 CURRENT MONTH'S CHARGES \$29.00 NET AMOUNT DUE \$29.00																																
BIG HORN REA P.O. BOX 270 BASIN WYOMING 82410-0270																																						
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Make School Days — Safe Days

Fresh haircuts, new clothes, and backpacks stuffed with markers, pencils, and binders; everything a child needs to start a new school year. As millions of students return to school this fall, teachers will plan their school supply list, and parents will carefully make sure their child is prepared with each and every item. Safety also should be on every teacher and student's back-to-school list.

Big Horn REA wishes each of our students a healthy, happy and safe school year!

- First Day of School is:
- Basin:**
Tuesday, August 20th
 - Burlington:**
Thursday, August 22nd
 - Cody:**
Wednesday, August 28th
 - Greybull:**
Tuesday, August 20th
 - Lovell:**
Thursday, August 22nd
 - Meeteetse:**
Monday, August 19th
 - Powell:**
Wednesday, August 28th

- Rocky Mountain:**
Thursday, August 22nd
- Ten Sleep:**
Wednesday, August 21st
- Thermopolis:**
Thursday, August 22nd
- Worland:**
Thursday, August 22nd



**CO-OP
Connections
Local
Discount**



Big Horn REA is pleased to announce that we have secured local discounts for those members using their Co-op Connections cards.

A great big thank you to :



Basin Auto Care

607 S 4th ST
BASIN, WYOMING
Free tire rotation with every oil change

David's Candy Shop

212 S 4TH ST
BASIN, WYOMING
10% off purchase

Gottsche Wellness Center

388 US HWY 20 S
BASIN, WYOMING
\$5 off monthly membership

Midway Clinic

388 US HWY 20 S
BASIN, WYOMING
5% discount on all clinic level visits.
Receive an additional 5% discount if you pay at the time services are rendered

Valley Hardware

111 S 4TH STREET
BASIN, WYOMING
2% off purchase

Co-op Connections Card must be presented at time of purchase.

If you own a business and would like to join the Co-op Connections program as a local vendor, please contact Sheila at Big Horn REA, 307-568-2419. Please encourage those businesses you use the most to join our program!



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for a new appliance, consider lifetime operation costs as well as the up-front purchase price. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11, and dishwashers about 10. Check the Energy Guide label for the appliance's estimated yearly operating cost, and look for ENERGY STAR units, which usually exceed minimum federal standards for efficiency and quality. To learn more, visit EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

HIGHLIGHTS

is an official publication of
**BIG HORN RURAL
ELECTRIC COMPANY**



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For Outages or Trouble
Call the office number: **ANYTIME**
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419
After 5 p.m., weekends and holidays
all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s).