



William L. Caynor Sr.,
Price Electric
Cooperative CEO

ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

The signs of the coming season are upon us as the winter solstice of December 21 closely approaches. Although the solstice is the shortest day of the year, the days following allow us to gain our precious daylight by minutes a day. The illuminations of fall have come and gone, all the

leaves have been bagged or shoveled away, and the brisk cold winter wind has begun to blow. Some of us are able to see our neighbor's home once again through the nakedness of the wood line. Chimney smoke of fireplaces and woodstoves on my drive into work in the morning is becoming a common occurrence.

Are you ready for winter? The temperatures are beginning their downward trends, and the Farmer's Almanac is forecasting numbing cold temperatures and a greater snow accumulation this season, beginning by mid-November. Have you stacked the wood, tested the furnace, or checked for air leaks around doors, windows, and outlets? Did you know that 48 percent of residential home consumption is in heating and cooling your home? Technology has enhanced the efficiencies that have caused these numbers to steadily decrease.

Did you also know that your cooperative's load peaks in the winter? This means that the greatest demand on the system is within the colder months, which could be as much as a 60 percent increase from the spring months. Reviewing the heating degree records for this region indicate that the coldest months are typically January and February, but the peak demands usually occur in November through January. Your cooperative is billed based on these peaks as one of its components.

If you're a residential, farm, small commercial, or seasonal member, you're billed monthly for a facility charge and energy consumption. This could differ slightly if you're a partner

in the load management program. The load management program is a way for Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) to reduce load when the demand on the MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) market is high and the cost of purchasing and generating is high. By reducing the load on the 25 cooperatives within its transmission network, Dairyland can save. It's like the stock market—you want to buy low and sell high—which saves all of us, and DPC has done a great job with forecasting how much is needed and when.

Your personal monthly bill is somewhat predictable and driven by factors under your control, as to what you're doing when or how much. In other words, conservation can reduce some of this consumption, and efficiency can reduce even more. You might wish to replace your appliances with Energy Star appliances that can reduce energy by 10 to 15 percent, or a programmable thermostat that can reduce consumption by 10 percent. LED lighting costs have come down quite a bit to justify the investment and maximize your savings. With LED you can reduce consumption by as much as 10 times that of an incandescent bulb and four to five times that of a CFL. And the brightness? It's a cleaner, whiter light.

The uncontrollable part of your usage is weather. Interesting enough, the average kWh consumption per residential household within your system is the lowest among Wisconsin cooperatives. It is 787 kWhs a month in comparison to the U.S. median of 1,171 kWhs. This is an indicator that many of you are already utilizing other forms of energy to heat your home, warm your water, or dry your clothes.

In summary, what does all this mean? To me, it means, "prepare for the worst and hope for the best," as the season is upon us once more.

Stack the firewood, get the snowplow ready, and with any luck you won't need much of either, but rest assured that your cooperative will be prepared to ensure reliability to you, our member/owners.



Price Electric
Cooperative

Your TotalSource Energy® Partner

MY CO-OP



Win a
Thanksgiving
Turkey!

PEC is proud to announce that we will be holding a Turkey Drawing for our members once again this year! Nine turkeys (to represent the nine districts in Price Electric's service area) will be given away to members who return this entry form or email the following information to info@price-electric.com. Winners will be drawn from all entries on November 14.

Price Electric Cooperative WEC News Turkey Drawing

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative, 508 N. Lake St., Phillips, WI 54555



PRICE ELECTRIC RETIRES \$350,218 TO MEMBERS

Price Electric Cooperative (PEC) is a not-for-profit electric utility owned by the members it serves. As a not-for-profit organization, any excess revenue, called margins, is returned to members in the form of capital credits. So how does this work? Below you'll see how capital credit allocations, retirements, and forfeitures may impact you.

Allocations: Margins remaining at the end of the year are allocated back to members in proportion to each member's patronage for that year. Each year, in August, PEC sends an allocation notice to each member with the amount of capital credits allocated for the previous year, and the total accumulated capital credits for that member. Capital credits allocations do not have a cash value until the actual retirement of the capital credits is authorized by the board of directors.

Retirement: Each year the board of directors makes a decision on whether or not to retire, or pay, capital credits to the members. This decision is based on the financial condition of PEC. The

challenge is balancing the right mix of member investment and borrowing from outside lenders to fund large capital projects such as constructing new power lines, replacing and repairing existing lines, and undertaking other system improvement projects. Currently, retirement is on a 28–30 year cycle.

This year, the board of directors is excited to authorize the retirement of approximately \$350,218 in capital credits. This amount is further broken down as follows: capital credit patronage will be paid to members active in 1988, a portion of capital credit patronage balance will be paid to those active in 1989, and inactive accounts with a capital credit balance of less than \$25 will be paid in full.

For active members, capital credit refunds are applied to your electric bill received in November. For inactive accounts, checks will be mailed to the last known address of record. For checks returned without a forwarding address, the capital credits are noted as unclaimed. An unclaimed capital credit listing is posted on Price Electric's website and in the *Wisconsin Energy*



Cooperative News. The legal heirs of prior members should contact PEC's office to claim any unretired capital credits.

Forfeiture: Capital credits that go unclaimed for a period of not less than three years, nor more than five years, after retirement are subject to forfeiture. PEC makes multiple attempts via mailings and postings to advise the owner to claim the capital credits by a certain date, otherwise the board of directors will forfeit the funds to the Federated Youth Foundation to be used for charitable and educational purposes.

For any additional questions on capital credits, please feel free to call our office at 715-339-2155 or 1-800-884-0881. PEC thanks all for your continued patronage and support!



2017 Calendars Have Arrived at Price Electric!

PEC's 2017 calendars featuring the winners of our member photo contest are now available! Members are invited to stop by the PEC office in Phillips to pick up their free copy.

HOLIDAY COLORING CONTEST

Youth whose parents/guardians are PEC members are invited to participate in our Holiday Coloring Contest! Color and return the picture on page 17 to win. Two winners will be drawn from all entries on November 30. The winners will receive two movie passes to Cinema North in Phillips or Park Theater in Park Falls and their photos will appear in *WEC News*. Additional copies of the picture are available at the PEC office or via email.



Happy Holidays

FROM THE

Energy Explorers



MY CO-OP

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIP

Remember, safety first! Always ask an adult to help you with any electrical cords or outlets. The Energy Explorers wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



**Price Electric
Cooperative**

Name _____ Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____ Age _____



Price Electric Puzzler

How closely are you reading your issue of *WEC News*? Each month, we will present a question whose answer can be found in the issue. Return the answer, and you could receive a \$25 bill credit!

Please drop off or mail your answer to Price Electric or email your answer to info@price-electric.com. A winner will be drawn from all correct entries on October 31.

The winner of the September PEC Puzzler was Elmer Schweikert. Congratulations!

What is the value of the capital credit retirement paid out in 2016?

Answer _____

Name _____

Account Number _____

Phone _____

Please return to Price Electric Cooperative,
508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI, 54555

DUAL FUEL LOAD MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS TO BE CONTROLLED NOVEMBER 16

As the heating season fast approaches, we are preparing for another Wisconsin winter. This includes a test of our cooperative's load management system. If you currently participate in our Dual Fuel Program, the load management system will be tested beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, November 16. During this time, electric heating systems in the program will be controlled and members will rely on their non-electric heating system backup. All electric heating systems will be turned back on by 10:30 p.m.

If you experience any problems with your heating system during this test, or if you would like more information, please contact your heating contractor or PEC Member Services at 715-339-2155 or 1-800-884-0881.

VISIT THE GIVING TREE AT PRICE ELECTRIC!

Price Electric will be hosting a "Giving Tree" to benefit the Santa's Elves Foundation beginning November 18. Anyone is invited to pick a card off the tree to help brighten a local child's holiday! Gifts will need to be dropped off at the PEC office by December 8 so that they can be delivered in time for Christmas.



HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Members are invited to help PEC as we host a food drive to benefit local food pantries. From November 1–30, bring unexpired, nonperishable food items to the Price Electric office and enter to win a \$25 bill credit.



HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

The Price Electric office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 24, and Friday, November 25.

William L. Caynor Sr., President/CEO

508 N. Lake Ave., P.O. Box 110, Phillips, WI 54555
715-339-2155 • 800-884-0881
www.price-electric.com

Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Greg Bortz, Editor



Price Electric
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner