



POWERLINES

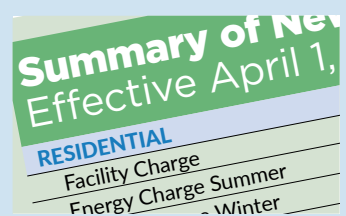
APRIL 2019

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

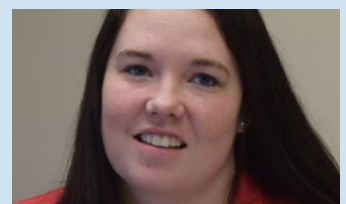
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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO Rate Changes



MARY JO THOMAS,
CEO

“
At WWVREMC, one of our goals is to find ways to help you control energy costs.
”

Over the last several months I have addressed the cost of service studies completed at the cooperative and by our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, and the rate adjustments because of those studies. I will expand upon those items this month.

At the September 2018 board meeting, the directors approved a rate increase based on these studies that will go into effect for electric usage beginning April 1, 2019. The average rate increase is 4.7 percent. We provide service to eight different rate classes. Each class of members has different load characteristics and needs for service, so each bear very different costs which are allocated

appropriately to each rate class. Due to these differences, each class will see a rate change that can vary from the overall 4.7% increase.

Sixty-seven percent, or .67 cents of every \$1.00 goes to pay Hoosier Energy for wholesale power costs. That leaves .33 cents to finance all other operating expenses.

The monthly Facility Charge helps finance the necessities required to provide electricity to each service location; whether any electricity is used or not. The Facility Charge helps pay for:

- wire, poles, meters, and other equipment needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system, labor to

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April Due Dates

The due dates for payment of your electric bills are **April 19 and 26.**

Second WWVREMC Lineman Travels to Guatemala for Project Indiana



WWVREMC line foreman Clay Smith joined a crew of 13 other Indiana electric cooperative lineworkers traveling to Guatemala in late March as part of an international initiative to bring electricity to a developing area in Guatemala.

“Project Indiana: Empowering Global Communities for a Better Tomorrow” works to bring electricity to a part of the Central American country where none is available. Specifically, the village of San Jacinto in east central Guatemala for this year’s trip. After this trip, approximately 110 homes, a school and a clinic will have electricity for the first time. The village will receive electric power generated at a hydroelectric facility in the region.

Smith joined Whitewater Valley REMC in 2008 as an apprentice lineman. He became a lineman in 2012 and was promoted to line foreman in 2015.

This is the Indiana electric cooperatives’ fourth trip to Guatemala. In August 2012, 28 Hoosier lineworkers from 17 of Indiana’s electric cooperatives, spent four weeks working across the mountainous terrain to bring electricity to 184 homes, a church and a school in three villages. In April 2015, 14 lineworkers battled extreme heat and the rugged land to bring electricity to 164 homes, a school and a church. On the last trip in 2017, 14 lineworkers, including WWVREMC lineman Derrick Mullins, endured temperature extremes to power 68 homes, a school, a church, and a health clinic.

Final 2018 Bill Credit Winners Plus First Round from 2019 Annual Meeting

This is the last monthly drawing for an additional bill credit for attending the 2018 Annual Meeting and the first drawing from members attending the 2019 Annual Meeting. Five names are drawn each month from all members registered during the 2018 meeting. The winners are: **Carl Dole**, Williamsburg; **James Snyder**, Fountain City; **Steve Precht**, Connersville; **Patricia Thomas**, Connersville; and **Evelyn Webb**, Cedar Grove.

The April 2019 winners are: **Ron Graham**, Hagerstown; **Tom Rohe**, Centerville; **Lawrence C. Kaufhold**, Liberty; **Sara J. Moyer**, Greens Fork; and **Jack Buckland**, Richmond.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.



Source: energy.gov

build, maintain, and repair the over 1,866 miles of distribution line

- other day-to-day business functions, and
- costs incurred for property taxes, insurance, interest, etc.

Even if we do not sell a single kilowatt-hour (kWh), we still have the expense of maintaining the electric facilities and operating the cooperative. The Facilities Charge has not been adjusted since 2010.

The increase or decrease in the Energy Charge is more reflective of our member's usage patterns in the different seasons of the year.

The Demand Charge is a pricing structure for electricity based on the maximum amount of system power a consumer uses. The increase in Demand Charge is primarily due to the increase by our power supplier, Hoosier Energy, and a shift in their costs from energy to demand.

The increase in the Security Light Charge reflects the actual cost of providing and maintaining the security light service.

We realize any increase, under any conditions, presents a challenge, however this increase to consumer-members reflects our actual cost of doing business. While electricity is still a great value compared to other commodities, we are working hard to:

- provide reliable power and quality customer service at the lowest possible cost, and
- minimize the impact of necessary price increases while maintaining the financial stability of the cooperative.

We design our rates to reflect the cost of providing electric service to you, our consumer-members. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative we are:

- accountable to our consumer-members, not outside investors, and
- our consumer-members have a voice in decision making.

At WWVREMC, one of our goals is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the impact on your wallet.

We offer a number of services to do just that. Whether it's budget billing, energy efficiency incentives, our on-line lighting store, or the Co-op Connections card, our services are designed to make your life a little easier.

To help you monitor your energy usage, we offer Smarthub on our website at www.vremc.com and in the Smarthub app. By using this free service, you can keep tabs on your energy use.

As a member of WWVREMC, you can take advantage of our energy efficiency programs. We have rebates for HVAC equipment and heat pump water heaters. We also pay you money to recycle your older refrigerators and freezers. We will haul it off for you too.

If you are interested in renewable energy, visit our website or contact us for more information. We offer My Solar, a community solar program for consumers who wish to participate in renewable energy without the investment of installing equipment at their home or business. Members who opt to install wind or solar at their home can earn credit for excess production through the cooperative's Distributed Generation program.

For more information about any of these programs, energy saving tips, and to view all rate tariffs, please visit www.vremc.com.

Summary of New Rates Effective April 1, 2019

RESIDENTIAL	Facility Charge	\$33.11
	Energy Charge Summer	\$0.12778
	Energy Charge Winter	\$0.10947
	Energy Charge Shoulder	\$0.08050
RESIDENTIAL TOU	Facility Charge	\$33.11
	Energy Charge Summer On-Peak	\$0.33470
	Energy Charge Winter On-Peak	\$0.29472
	Energy Charge Shoulder & Off-Peak	\$0.08050
GENERAL SERVICE	Facility Charge 1-ph	\$36.00
	Facility Charge 3-ph	\$46.00
	Energy Charge Summer	\$0.12833
	Energy Charge Winter	\$0.12354
GENERAL SERVICE LARGE TRANSFORMER	Energy Charge Shoulder	\$0.08384
	Facility Charge 1-ph	\$48.50
	Facility Charge 3-ph	\$58.50
	Energy Charge Summer	\$0.13136
	Energy Charge Winter	\$0.12665
SMALL POWER	Energy Charge Shoulder	\$0.08685
	per KVA Charge (Over 25 KVA)	\$.50
	Facility Charge 1-ph	\$51.95
	Facility Charge 3-ph	\$61.95
	Energy Charge	\$0.04230
	Demand Summer	\$29.92
LARGE POWER	Demand Winter	\$24.84
	Demand Shoulder	\$14.52
	Facility Charge 1-ph	\$60.00
	Facility Charge 3-ph	\$70.00
	Energy Charge	\$0.04470
IRRIGATION TOU	Demand Summer	\$28.95
	Demand Winter	\$24.33
	Demand Shoulder	\$13.95
	Facility Charge 1-ph	\$41.00
	Facility Charge 3-ph	\$51.00
	Energy Charge Summer On-Peak	\$0.18726
SECURITY LIGHTS	Energy Charge Winter On-Peak	\$0.17716
	Energy Charge Shoulder & Off-Peak	\$0.09492
	per KVA Charge (Over 25 KVA)	\$0.75
	Up to 175-Watt	\$11.14
More than 175-Watt	\$16.40	

TOU rates are available for all rates.

All rate classes subject to a Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA) charge. Visit www.vremc.com for a complete list of rates, including on-peak and off-peak hours.



Each month we hide an account number in Powerlines. Did you find it?

KATHY WALKER WINS!

Kathy Walker, Liberty, found her hidden account number in the March newsletter and won a \$25 bill credit. Be sure to keep reading the Powerlines each month because the next hidden account number could be yours.

Payment Options

US Mail

Whitewater Valley REMC, P.O. Box 3199, Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

SmartHub

Log-on at wwwremc.com

Pay-by-Phone

Call 844-827-4759. Set up your PIN. Follow prompts.

Liberty Office

In person or in the drop box.

Automatic Withdrawal

Simply request a form and submit it to our office.

FCN or Franklin County National Bank

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)

First Merchants Bank (Richmond Location)

In person or in the drop box. (Bring payment stub.)



For more information about payment options, please call us:

765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557

Helpful Information

Liberty Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

CLOSED SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

To Report an Outage or Emergency

Call 1-800-776-0493, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Login to your SmartHub account or sign up for outage texting at wwwremc.com.

Be ready to provide the following information:

- The name and account number under which your electric service is listed.
- Map location number.
- Your phone number - needed to call back or confirm power restoration.
- The type of problem you are experiencing - flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Welcome Brooke!

Brooke Reiboldt joined the REMC in February 2019 as a Member Support Representative. She has been a Union County resident her entire life. Brooke graduated from Union County High School in 2014. She went to Rio Grande University to pursue her dream of playing college softball. The hidden account number is 1072102. Brooke enjoys spending her extra time with her friends and family. The directors, staff and employees of WWVREMC want to welcome Brooke.



Thank A Lineman!

National Lineman Appreciation Day is April 8. It's a time to express our appreciation to the great folks who work so hard for us every day. It's our honor to celebrate their hard work, innovation, and dedication.



#thankalineman



CAUSE	#	%
TREES	21	28.77
DECAY	13	17.81
VEHICLES/PUBLIC ACTIVITY	10	13.70
MEMBER	9	12.33
ANIMALS	8	10.96
MATERIAL/EQUIP. FAILURE	4	5.48
LIGHTNING/WEATHER	3	4.11
UNKNOWN	2	2.74
CONSTRUCTION/MAINT.	2	2.74
OTHER	1	1.37
TOTAL	73	100



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