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www.pioneerelectric.coop



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In Case of an Outage

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, call 888-551-4140. After-hours calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to standby personnel.

Account Management On the Go

A new year is a great opportunity to get organized. That's why Pioneer Electric has partnered with SmartHub to provide our members with a quick and easy way to manage their account.

What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is your all-in-one hub for your Pioneer Electric account information. It gives you 24/7 access to following services through your smartphone, tablet or your computer:

- ▶ View your current and past billing statements
- ▶ Make or schedule payments
- ▶ Check and compare your energy usage
- ▶ Report outages
- ▶ Sign up for text alerts for outage updates and bill reminders



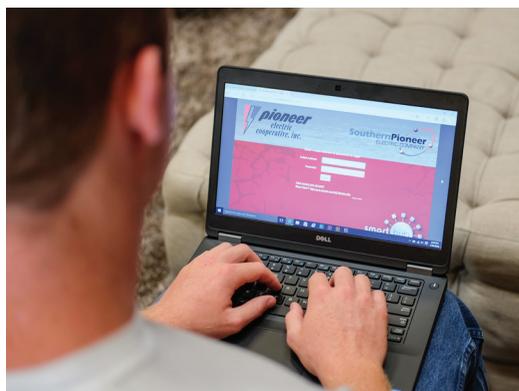
How do you get SmartHub?

SmartHub is available for download on iOS and Android devices. Search for "SmartHub" (not case sensitive but must be all one word) on your device's application store. If duplicates appear, the correct application is provided by our partner National Information Solutions Center.

How do you use SmartHub?

After downloading the application, simply login with an existing e-billing account to begin using the application. Members that do not have an e-billing account will need to follow the step-by-step instructions to get started.

If you have questions about SmartHub, visit www.pioneerelectric.coop for step-by-step video tutorials or call our customer service representatives at 620-356-1211 or 800-794-9302 for assistance accessing your account.



Members may also use many of the same SmartHub features on their computers. Simply click "Pay My Bill" at pioneerelectric.coop to get started.

Apply Now for 2018 Youth Tour and Scholarships

The application deadline for the chance to go on an all-expenses paid trip to the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., or the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado is quickly approaching. That means Pioneer Electric will be out and about visiting local area schools to spread the word. Representatives from Pioneer Electric will meet with sophomores and juniors at eight local high schools.

During the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, students will meet their state representatives, but also meet representatives at the national level while touring our nation's capital, visiting historic monuments and enjoying numerous fun activities. This trip will teach students valuable life lessons and help build a resume.

Nearly 100 students from Colorado, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Kansas will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at the scenic Glen Eden Resort in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. At camp, students build memories rafting, hiking and learning valuable leadership skills.

These trips are just a few of the opportunities the co-op offers to our local youth. Pioneer Electric will award up to \$20,000 worth of scholarships to high school seniors from our service area. These scholarships are available to high school seniors who plan to attend an institution of higher education in the fall of 2018—whether that be a technical school, junior college or four-year college.



Drew Waechter, Communications Specialist, surprises Meleny Jacome with a visit from her parents at school announcing her as the 2017 Steamboat Springs, Colorado, Camp winner.

Students interested in applying for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp or scholarship opportunities may visit pioneerelectric.coop for additional information and an online application. To be considered, an applicant's parents must either receive electrical service from Pioneer Electric or attend one of the following schools in Pioneer's service territory: **Elkhart, Hugoton, Lakin, Moscow, Rolla, Stanton County, Syracuse or Ulysses.**

Applications must be submitted by Feb. 1, 2018. Finalists will be contacted for an interview at the Pioneer Electric office on Feb. 14. Winners will be selected by compiling application and interview scores. Please contact Drew Waechter at dwaechter@pioneerelectric.coop if you have any questions.



Rolla High School's Carson Milburn poses for a picture after being selected as one of two Pioneer Electric winners for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour trip.



A group picture of the Kansas Electric Cooperative delegates during the 2017 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

Co-ops Push for Common-Sense Replacement Rule

BY DAN RIEDINGER, NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a regulation that would have increased costs and impacted many electric cooperatives across the nation. Now the EPA, informed by public comment, must work to develop a common-sense replacement plan.

Electric cooperatives are working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade association, to encourage the EPA to replace the rule with a plan that focuses on individual power plants. We hope the agency will craft a replacement rule to address power plant emissions legally, provide co-ops with the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their members' needs, and support co-ops in their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Electric co-ops depend on a diverse fuel mix to meet the energy needs of 42 million members across the nation, protect reliability of the energy system and ensure affordable power. The fact is that no two electric co-ops are exactly alike. The nation's 900 electric co-ops rely on a diverse fuel mix to meet members' energy needs, maintain reliability and ensure affordability. Each one makes strategic long-term investments in energy sources that make the most sense for them. Any new regulation needs to account for this reality.

This flexibility to pursue a diverse fuel mix allows co-ops to respond to local and regional factors and member preferences while ensuring affordable and reliable power. Past federal policy pushed cooperatives away from natural gas use for electricity to developing coal-based electric generation. In many cases, co-op members are still paying for those facilities—and the roughly \$12 billion in pollution control measures that were added to them since the early 1990s.

But as it turns out, electric co-ops and other utilities are already making significant changes in how they generate power. Co-ops and

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their members value a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities. Market forces and members' interests are driving co-ops to further diversify their electric generation portfolios. As a result, co-op-owned coal-fired generation has dropped 9 percent since 2014, and co-op solar capacity has increased five times in just the past two years.

We live in a carbon constrained world and electric co-ops are reducing our carbon footprint. In fact, since 2005, co-ops have increased electric generation by 15 million megawatt-hours while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10 percent.

Given the progress happening without the Clean Power Plan, you may ask why we want the EPA to go back to the drawing board to come up with a replacement rule. The main reason is certainty. A workable, common-sense rule that adheres to the law clarifies the rules of the road

for co-ops, which will then be better able to make smart, long-term investments in electric generation. Regulatory certainty is an essential ingredient in ensuring a reliable supply of affordable power.

Co-ops are looking forward to working with the EPA on a plan that gets it right this time around.

DAN RIEDINGER writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Virginia-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Members of the Kansas State Legislature tour Sunflower Electric's Holcomb Station during a Co-op Votes event. The event is an opportunity for co-op staff to meet with government officials and discuss the needs of our members.

Notice of Proposed Rate Adjustments

After reviewing the cost to provide electrical service to members and the existing retail rates, the Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees has authorized management to present the following distribution rate adjustments to members.

The proposed adjustments will cover operating costs, ensure reliable service and make debt service payments of the cooperative. For most rate schedules (not all), these adjustments represent an increase to the customer charge rather than a change to the kilowatt-hour (kWh) energy or kW demand charge.

If approved, the increase will be effective on Feb. 1, 2018, and will be reflected on bills received in March. To the right is a comparison of the current and proposed increase in customer charge or per kW/kWh rates. Concurrent with the above referenced distribution rate adjustment, Pioneer Electric anticipates a \$0.002 per kWh reduction in wholesale power cost, which will be passed through the Energy Cost Adjustment. The result of the distribution increase and the wholesale power cost decrease should be net neutral. In other words, this reduction should eliminate any increase to a typical bill.

Please take notice that the Board of Trustees of

PROPOSED RATE CHANGES			
Rate Class	Current Rate	Proposed Adjustment	Proposed Rate
Single Phase (A-18), \$/mo	\$16.40	\$2.00	\$18.40
Three Phase (B-18), \$/mo	\$31.50	\$2.50	\$34.00
Single Phase All Electric Rural (A-2-18), \$/mo	\$16.40	\$2.00	\$18.40
Three Phase All Electric Rural (A-2-18), \$/mo	\$31.50	\$2.50	\$34.00
Single Phase All Electric City (A-2-18), \$/mo	\$16.40	\$2.00	\$18.40
Irrigation (I-18), \$/kWh	\$.0762 / \$.0872	\$0.0020	\$.0782 / \$.0892
Large Power Service (LP-18), \$/kW	\$11.13	\$0.87	\$12.00
Large Commercial and Industrial (LCI-18), \$/kW	\$11.25 / \$13.25	\$1.00	\$12.25 / \$14.25

Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Inc., will meet on Jan. 17, 2018, at 8:30 a.m. at the cooperative headquarters, 1850 W Oklahoma, in Ulysses, to discuss and vote on the adoption or modification of any or all of the customer charge or per kW/kWh rate schedules. This meeting is open to any member that wishes to attend. Members have the right under K.S.A. 66-104d (g) to request Kansas Corporation Commission review of any rate change.

If you have any questions please attend the meeting on Jan. 17, or contact our office at 620-356-1211 or 1-800-794-9302. You may obtain a complete summary of the proposed rate adjustments at Pioneer Electric's office or by visiting www.pioneerelectric.coop.

Pioneer Employees Honored for Years of Service



5 Years

Pictured from left: Jean Franco, Accounting Clerk; Ashley Gibbons, Consumer Account Specialist; Kady Jackson, Accountant. Not pictured: Martin Herrera, Journeyman Lineman; and Ryan Wilken, LAN/WAN Administrator.



10 Years

CEO Steve Epperson (right) congratulates Scott Hittle (left), Journeyman Lineman; and Sarai Garza, Billing Specialist, for 10 years of service. Not pictured: Maggie Carrithers, Senior Warehouse Person; Nate Gillespie, Crew Foreman; Wade Koehn, Journeyman Lineman; and Benji Wilmore, Journeyman Lineman.



20 Years

CEO Steve Epperson congratulates those with 20 years of service (from left): Clint Meier, Apparatus Metering Coordinator, and Annette Fink, Accounting Clerk.



30 Years

CEO Steve Epperson (right) congratulates Steve Leiker (left), Journeyman Lineman, and Michael Haney, Manager of Engineering and Operations, for 30 years of service.

It takes a lot to help keep the lights on across southwest Kansas. Last December, Pioneer Electric Cooperative recognized 16 employees for their continued years of service to the cooperative.

Congratulations to those Pioneer Employees who were recognized for their service to our members and the communities we serve.

NOT PICTURED:

15 Years

Danny Law, Manager of Safety and Compliance