

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 75 Years

April 2016

What Are Those Charges?

Have you ever looked at your Ark Valley bill and wondered what the charges were for? Here are explanations that we hope will help give clarification to some of the monthly charges our members incur.

Ark Valley purchases its wholesale power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives (KEPCo). The energy cost adjustment (ECA) is a monthly charge on each Ark Valley consumer bill that is dependent on the varying cost of power purchased from KEPCo. It is a direct adjustment in response to the fuel market as it relates to the fuels and natural resources used to generate the electricity the Cooperative distributes.

A base rate of 6.913 cents per kWh is already included in the monthly energy cost.

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Annual Meeting



The 77th Annual Meeting of the Membership is Tuesday, April 19th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Kansas State Fair. We hope to see you there!

Drawing Winner

WARREN DAUER FAMILY TRUST is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

To claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by April 29, 2016 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Lineman Appreciation Day April 11th

They wake up before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee, and kiss their family goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, they climb into their trucks and head out. Our lineworkers form a solid team with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.



We often take power—and the men and women who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely, smart, and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves. On a typical day, our lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses in central Kansas. They have a lot on their plates.

But when our dispatch center calls crews with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineworker's to-do list. These brave men are always on call. Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our lineworkers face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Lineworkers also focus on safety; their own lives and those of coworkers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. When you put your life in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues. They're family.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At Ark Valley, lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested regularly, too. Their safety is Ark Valley's first priority.

These highly skilled men light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Today (and every day), please take a moment to thank them. Ark Valley's lineworkers are the heart of the Co-op Nation, proud and strong.

Ark Valley will have blank Thank You cards in the office during the month of April. Please stop by and fill one out to show our Linemen how much they are appreciated!

New Bill Format

Ark Valley is adopting a new bill format in an effort to better serve our members. The new statement will provide more information on your energy consumption in a larger, easier to read format. An insert detailing the changes will accompany the first new bill.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
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(620) 662-6661
www.arkvalley.com

Unclaimed December 2015 Capital Credit Checks

Below is a partial list of members whose capital credit checks were returned due to improper addresses. If you are able to get in touch with these individuals or their family members, please have them call Ark Valley's office at 888-297-9212.

Carter, Gary G.	Reimer, Kenneth	Schwartz, Janis	Ward, Barbara
Nelson, Loa	Reiser, Paula	Shepherd, Dale	Weaver, Anthony
Newman, Vera J	Revel, Russ	Smith, Kristy D	Weaver, Sheri
Nichols, Larry	Reynolds, Bertha L	Smith, Lance	Weber, Chad
Ochs, Jeremy D	Reynolds, John C	Smith, Wesley	Welch, Julie
Ochs, Scott	Richardson, Bill	Sneath, Tate	Wells, Howard
Oden, Jesse	Richardson, Jeff	Spencer, Becki	Wenzel, Michael
Ogg, William L	Ridge, Jim	Staggs, Terry	Whipple, Shane A
Osenbaugh, Geald	Risley, Mary Lou	Stearns, E D	White, Buzz
Painter, Les	Rocket-Schusterman Oil	Stiles Don Builders	White, Jamie
Paramore, Robert	Rockhold, Hazel	Struble, David	Whitis, William
Pennington, Rene	Rogg, Kevin	Struble, Enrique	Williamson, Virginia
Perkins, Diana L	Rogge, Jessica	Swanson, Mike	Wimer, Robert
Poole, Steve	Rohlman, Jim	Tetrick, Brice	Winter, Jeff
Pottroff, Don	Rowley, Kindra	Theis, Jamee	Winter, Stephen T
Primeaux, Karen	Russell, Brian	Thomas, David	Wisbey, Marie
Proffitt, Roger W	Sandhill Prairie Farm	Thomas, Gary D	Witter, Roxanne
Purrington, Harry	Santin, Ray	Trimmell, Harold R	Wolfgang, Terry
Rains, Keith	Savage, Dolly	Trotter, Judy	Wriston, Alfred
Ramsey, Mike	Scheer, Ed	Troyer, Russell	Young, Richard
Ray, Jackie	Schiffner, Frances	Ullom, Happy	Zimmerman, Steven K
Red River Energy LLC	Schleuning, Steve	Viking Resources Inc	Zolman, Don
Reese, Ed	Schmidt, Carol	Wallace, Tammy	Gallope, Diane
Reeves, Andrew	Schultz, Dennis	Wann, G W	

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of March on March 28, 2016.

Staff spent considerable time presenting the most recent financial audit of the Cooperative, which was conducted by the CPA firm Kevin S. Kelso, CPA, P.C., P.A. The audit covered all the Cooperative's financial activity from December 31, 2014 to December 31, 2015. The auditor issued an "unmodified report" and identified no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. An unmodified report such as this is the best audit finding possible for any company.

Jim Sherry, Operations Manager for Ark Valley, is working with the City of Sterling to coordinate the relocation of power lines. With the upcoming expansion of K-96 Highway west of Hutchinson to west of Lyons, both Ark Valley and Sterling have to move their existing lines for the public right of way to accommodate the new road construction. By coordinating the rebuild, Sterling will have access to the experience of Ark Valley's personnel for constructing rebuild projects and Ark Valley will be able to string its distribution line on Sterling's electric poles in certain areas. Limiting the number of times the line crosses the highway and sharing pole space will save both entities considerable money.

Charges continued...

When the cost of wholesale power rises above the base rate, the difference is passed on to the consumer. Conversely, when the cost of wholesale power is below the base rate, the difference is reflected on the consumer's electric bill as a credit. The ECA charge is calculated monthly and allows Ark Valley to keep consumer's energy rates consistent rather than changing them to reflect increases and decreases in the cost of power.

The service charge is the basic service charge on the bill (\$27.50 for single-phase & WSHP, \$37.50 for three-phase, & \$90 May-Sept for irrigation). That charge is to help cover a portion of the cost that is incurred to supply the equipment and electricity to a meter, as well as the routine maintenance. Previous engineering studies have shown that the average cost per meter is almost \$35/month, and that is prior to any electric usage going through the meter. The service charge makes sure that anyone wanting to have a meter helps to pay a percentage of that cost.

The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.