

Powerline Press

NEWSLETTER



A Supplement of Oklahoma Living Published by Lake Region Electric Cooperative for its members. **March 2024**

Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

What is Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)?

Rather than generating our own power, LREC purchases the power at wholesale cost and delivers it safely to members' homes and businesses. The PCA is a separate line-item (added on our printed bills). The PCA reflects the increases and decreases of the fuel cost of our purchased power from KAMO and AECL.

Understanding: Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)

When the cooperative sets the rates, they are based on the cooperative's operating expenses. The cost of purchasing power is the most significant expense, roughly 65 percent of operating total expenditures.

Suppose our purchased power rates change due to the cost of generating electricity, mainly caused by natural gas prices, at our power plants. In that case, this has a major impact on our three-tier distribution system, and LREC will evaluate having to pass on these costs to our members to help cover our wholesale power cost.

A major portion of LREC's power cost is already included in the energy charge, or kilowatt hour (kWh) charge. When the cost of power is greater than the amount included in the energy charge, the PCA will reflect the increase. When the cost of power purchased is less, the PCA appears as a credit on electric bills. Please be sure to review your



Breakdown of Current Charges

Service Availability	\$43.50
Energy Charge 1,180 kWh @ 0.0792	\$93.46
PCA 1,180 kWh @ 0.000	\$0.00
Total	\$136.96

billing statement and PCA line-item, as we may have to adjust the PCA on the bill to cover our wholesale power.

Who is affected by the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)?

The electric industry has experienced high costs in the generation of electricity. These increases are caused mainly by the natural gas price spikes but are also believed to be the results of inflation and government regulations. Essentially, all electric consumers are affected by these events and are experiencing increased power costs due to the cost of generating power.

LREC prices remain below the national average price of electricity, and we continually work with our power suppliers to ensure that remains the case.

Building Beyond Co-op Borders

Gibson Grove Internet Now Powered by LRTC



Lake Region Electric Cooperative subsidiary Lake Region Technology and Communications (LRTC) strives to provide superior internet service, bringing the newest standards in fiber optic technology. The electric cooperative members came to their local trusted co-op asking for help over 10 years ago. Lake Region listened and constructed a fiber optic network throughout the co-op's electric distribution system.

The word has gotten out that LRTC has the best internet and customer service in several communities. With this

Noe Degollado, LRTC tech, working in Gibson Grove fiber pedestal.

comes more off-system customers pleading for service. This is another example of how LRTC is going the extra mile, helping the residents and businesses outside of our electric distribution system gain access to better broadband internet.

LRTC has achieved success with several off-system builds, and Gibson Grove, a new housing development in Wagoner, OK, stands out as a success story. Gibson Grove was stranded in an area with no internet options. Developers built several duplex apartments, and no internet service provider, Windstream, ATT, or Optimum, would build service into these new homes. The developer came to LRTC pleading, and after a few months of construction, Gibson Grove residents and future lots now have access to broadband internet.

“Before Lake Region was available, my only option was a satellite system. We had endless problems with the satellite, streaming was brutal, and we spent most of the time waiting for the internet to load. Eventually, I paid to get out of the contract with the satellite provider! Lake Region is faster and more reliable at home than my work internet, so I often move Zoom meetings, etc., to my house for a better connection. Thank you, Lake Region, for helping us,” said Gibson Grove resident Michelle Suarez.

Residential Internet

Fast Internet

100 Mbps	\$58.94/mo
500 Mbps	\$108.94/mo
1,000 Mbps	\$118.94/mo

Even Faster Internet

2,500 Mbps	\$148.94/mo
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The approach is still the same now as we continue to build off-network; there are northeast Oklahomans who lack access to adequate internet, and if LRTC can help, we will consider it.



918-772-2526 / LakeRegionFiber.com



FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

Subject to availability. Installation costs zero for residential home owners and no contract. \$10/mo optional. Wi-Fi router fee & \$6 additional mesh router. Internet speeds up to 2.5 Gig for wired connections. *2.5 Gig internet packages require a consultation with Lake Region tech support 918-772-2526.

NOTICE

The Affordable Connectivity Program May Be Ending Soon.



- 📶 **WHO:** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has announced that the ACP could end.
- 📶 **WHAT:** The ACP provides eligible households with a monthly discount up to \$75 on internet service.
- 📶 **WHEN:** ACP enrollment ended February 7. April is expected to be the last fully funded month the ACP is offered.
- 📶 **WHY:** ACP will end unless Congress appropriates additional funding. We happily participated in the ACP to offer you service at a discounted rate, but with the FCC's announcement, we can no longer offer this program.

Unless Congress appropriates additional funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program; the ACP will end this spring. The ACP provides eligible households with up to a \$75 monthly discount on internet service. April is expected to be the last fully funded month of the program.

This program is essential in our efforts to close the digital divide. We urge you to contact your elected officials in the US House of Representatives and Senate to request they continue funding the ACP. Find and contact your US Reps and Senators by visiting <https://www.congress.gov/contact-us>. You may also call the ACP Action Hotline at 800-397-2937 to express your concerns.

Meter Man Graduates

LREC is dedicated to offering comprehensive training for cooperative employees. Recently, Leonard Loveall, a Meter Technician, successfully completed the Northwest Lineman College metering technology certification program. The program is structured into three modules, with each module consisting of 10 books, totaling 30 books overall. The training encompasses a wide range, from high-level generation and transmission to distribution, covering basic safety to advanced practices. It addresses all aspects of electric cooperative operations, spanning from lineworkers' responsibilities to metering technology.



Left to right: Mohamed Bassime, Safety Coordinator, presenting Leonard Loveall, Meter Tech his certificate of completion.

Companies that invest in employee training tend to experience higher retention rates, significantly increased productivity, and improved service for the cooperative membership. Additionally, preserving co-op knowledge is a valuable outcome.

"I appreciate the training provided by our management team. The information provided was concise in gaining knowledge and understanding the complete process of our co-op electric distribution system to advance metering technology, thank you," said Loveall.

Enroll in Auto Bank Draft and Score a \$10 Credit

You have options when it comes to paying your bill. Which one is right for you?

Time to level up your bill-paying game! LREC and LRTC have rolled out several payment options, but the real MVP is Auto Bank Draft. Ditch the hassle, sign up for Auto Bank Draft, and receive a **\$10 one-time bill credit** on your next statement.

Sign up online at: www.lrecok.coop/automatic-bank-draft or call 918-772-2526.



Auto Draft
Automatically pay from your bank account each month.

Online Computer
Visit your SmartHub account at:
www.lrecok.coop/pay-electric-bill



Drive-Thru
Use our drive-thru at our Hulbert office during business hours.

Phone
Call 918-772-2526 or use SmartHub app on your smartphone.



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Hidden Account Number

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The amount increases by \$10 with each issue your prize goes unclaimed to a maximum of \$50.

Cooperative bylaws are available upon request at Lake Region Electric Cooperative's office in Hulbert.