



# Tomahawk

Rural Electrification Association



## Winter 2019 Newsletter

### December Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

Energy will be: 6.8 cents/kwh

Variable (non-energy) will be: 0.81cents/kwh

for a total of 7.610 cents/kwh

### Note to Members

Our office has moved! You can now locate us in the front of the Intercon Messaging Building, using the west side entrance.

## DSO DECISION

The Tomahawk REA Board of Directors would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the questionnaires that were sent to you! Not only was your input insightful but extremely helpful as well. Out of the 599 packages that were sent out we received back 162 questionnaires and 14 signed membership contracts. 70 people picked FortisAlberta Inc., 70 people chose EQUUS, 19 people chose FortisAlberta as DSO Only (hiring separate contractors) - their second choice was evenly divided between Fortis and EQUUS and there were 3 people that left that question blank.

Your Board of Directors have decided that the Tomahawk REA will sign a Distribution System Operator (DSO) Agreement with EQUUS until a sales proposal from Fortis has been voted on by the membership. (This agreement has a six month notice cancellation policy) The Board of Directors believes this is the best course of action as there was not a clear-cut preference and financially it is more cost effective at this time to stay with EQUUS. Tomahawk REA will save money in the interim. As to switch to FortisAlberta now would mean equipment change outs to be compatible with Fortis' system - all at a cost to the association. If the membership passes the motion to sell, that would mean more money for the members. If the motion to vote to sell is defeated, The Board will take direction from the membership going forward. (Please refer to Sales Proposal Update Section)

## WHAT DISTRIBUTION TARIFFS PAY FOR

- \* Professional fees
- \* AFREA
- \* Annual General Meeting
- \* Load settlement
- \* Maintenance
- \* Administration
- \* Mapping
- \* Meter changes
- \* First breaker upgrade/downgrade
- \* Pole test/replacement
- \* Rebuild credit
- \* Insurance
- \* Vegetation management
- \* Power restoration
- \* System rebuilds
- \* System upgrades
- \* Salvages
- \* Yard light installs

January 2019 to September 2019 your distribution tariffs have paid for \$273.59 in meter exchanges, \$3,605.62 in breaker upgrades/downgrades, \$884.05 in yard lights, \$5,733.50 in salvages, \$2,858.45 in transformer replacements, \$6,112.22 in system rebuilds and \$34,912.65 in pole replacements for a total of \$54,380.08.

## MEMBER INPUT QUESTIONNAIRES

The Board of Directors would like to address some of the questions and concerns that were raised in your member input questionnaires.

Question 13 on the questionnaire asked about your feeling towards a pending sale proposal to Fortis. The answers supplied for you to check off, are comments The Directors have heard from members, and they wanted to know how many people in the association were having those same feelings.

Question #1 – Why do you need to know our land designation?

Answer: For linear tax purposes. We are required by the government to submit a yearly Linear Tax Property Assessment.

Question #2 - What would the payout of Investment Program Loans mean for members in the investment program?

Answer: If/When the Tomahawk REA no longer requires EQUUS to be their DSO and the Investment Program Loans need to be paid, the members who are part of the Investment Program will continue as they have been. The TREA will not ask those members to pay their loans out, as that would be against the terms.

Question #3 - Would there be grounds for a REA member or their insurer to sue the REA if there is ever a loss because of a missing lightning arrester and the REA knew there was not a lightning arrester on that service?

Answer: All current installs have arresters installed at a COST to the member at time of installation. This was the reasoning behind the Boards decision to not pay for these upgrades to a few services. The Board discussed to great length this issue and decided since the arresters are not provided by TREA on any installs then it should be at the discretion of the member (who doesn't have the arrester) to decide whether or not they would like to cover the cost for the install of the arrester. The association paid for the inventory research to find out which services did not have the arrestors to confirm with any member whether or not they need the arrester installed. The Board feels that this is the best solution to ensure that all members are treated equally and that some are not getting a benefit where others did not. The equipment, even without the lighting arrestors is still up to code and therefore TREA should not be held liable on a decision that's truly the members decision on whether or not they want to spend the extra money for extra protection. If the Board had decided the TREA would pay for these services it would mean an increase to each members bill of \$13 a month for an entire year. The current board has made the decision that they feel treats the full membership equally.

## SALES PROPOSAL AND DSO UPDATE

The generic proceeding 24405 initiated by the Alberta Utilities Commission, to review rate treatment of distribution system acquisition costs under performance-based regulation has concluded. The TREA board has already commenced meetings with FortisAlberta on a sales proposal for the Tomahawk REA. This is not a quick process and we ask for your patience while the TREA office works with Fortis to provide them all of the information they need to make an accurate proposal.

Once The Board receives the proposal they will review, once approved, they will be scheduling Open Houses to present the proposal motion to the membership. Fortis will be in attendance to present the proposal and address any questions you may have. The next step will be a Special Meeting for the membership to motion for sale and vote on motion. The vote will result in either a pass or defeat of the sale proposal special resolution.

If the special resolution (sale vote) is defeated, there will be another vote at this Special Meeting on who will be our DSO for the long term. At the Open Houses you will also receive DSO proposal packages PREPARED BY BOTH FortisAlberta and EQUUS. Delivering these at the same time will allow you time to review and request any additional information from TREA Board or the DSO prior to the Special Meeting.

If the special resolution is passed by the membership at the Special Meeting, the membership at that time must also decide on how the membership wants funds distributed. At that time, transfer will start - this process will also take a few months (hence the six month cancellation notice in our new DSO agreement with EQUUS). Once the transfer process is nearing completion then funds from the sale will be distributed to the membership based on the distribution agreed upon at the Special Meeting.

## Note to All Members

All members are free to purchase electricity services through TREA's regulated rate tariff or from a retailer of their choice. The delivery of electricity to you is not affected by your choice. If you change who you purchase electricity services from, you will continue receiving electricity from TREA. For a current list of retailers you may choose from, visit <http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca> or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

## Cost Comparison Tool

<https://ucahelps.alberta.ca/cost-comparison-tool.aspx> **Tool.**

## Cost Comparison

Compare rates and retailer products based on either your actual consumption or estimated consumption. Depending on what you choose, the end result is delivered costs. See your results in as little as 60 seconds.



### Step 1 Get Started

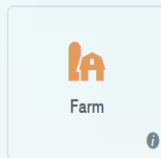
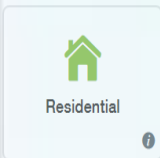
GET STARTED ▶

### Step 2

#### Choose residential, small business or farm

Where do you need your energy?

Are you looking for information about your Home, Small Business, or Farm? Please choose below.



### Step 4

#### Your 13 digit site I.D. (If you don't know it, contact the office)

Enter your Site ID on your Electricity bill

Your Site ID is like an address for your meter. It helps us find options available in your area. Look for a 13-digit number typically found on the second or third page of your bill. See an example. Your site ID can be found on your bill. [See example.](#)

OK ▶

### Step 5 Enter the month and kwh used

CITY/TOWN/POSTAL CODE ▶

I HAVE AN ELECTRICITY BILL ▶

I HAVE A NATURAL GAS BILL ▶

I HAVE BOTH ▶

Enter your usage on your bills

amount of energy you consume. It varies from property to property and can depend on your house size, number of e of heating, use of things like hot tubs and air conditioners, types of appliances and more. To get the most accurate n, enter your own usage from a recent bill. Look for it on the second or third page of your bill. Electricity is shown as kWh (kilowatt-hours) and natural gas is shown as GJ (gigajoules). See an example. Your usage can be found on your bill. [See example.](#)

Electricity \*

Bill Month ▼

Usage in kilowatt hour (kWh)

Billing Demand in kilovolt-amps (kVA)

Farm Usage ▼

OK ▶

### Step 6 Select 3 plans to compare

Nine of your available retailers are on this list. ATCOenergy, Direct Energy, Enmax Energy Corp, Fluent Utilities, Get Energy, Just Energy, Mountain View Power, Park Power, and Spot Power. The seven that are not on the list are Alberta Cooperative Energy, Alberta Power (2000) Ltd., Hudson Energy, Link Energy Supply Inc., Transalta Energy Marketing, Campus Energy Services and Gas Alberta Energy.

Select up to 3 plans to compare.

COMPARE ▶

Retailer Plan Type Contract or term Features Eligibility

All All All All All

Reset All

Show 10 entries

Search:

Showing 51 to 60 of 146 entries

Previous 1 5 7 15 Next

Retailer	Plan Details	Contract	Rates (kWh)	Estimated bill	Compare
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### REPORT POTENTIAL HOTSPOTS

To report a problem in your area, such as rotten or leaning power poles or tree branches dangerously close to a power line, please take a picture and send it to the office, with the location, at [office.trea@gmail.com](mailto:office.trea@gmail.com) or text it to 780-514-TREA.

### Holiday Hours

The Tomahawk REA office will be closed from

Tuesday, December 24 to Wednesday January 1.

Reopening January 2, 2020.

As always, you can contact EQUUS if you experience any power troubles 24/7/365 at 1-888-627-4011.

## Energy Saving Tips

1. Do laundry during off-peak hours, also save up to \$30 a year using cold water.
2. Seal up any drafts! Weather stripping can save up to 10% on your total energy bill.
3. Try a programmable thermostat this season.
4. Set your thermostat at 20°C, you can save up to 2% off your heating bill for every 1°C you turn down your thermostat.
5. Keep the drapes on those south-facing windows open during the day and let the light through. Remember to close the drapes when the sun sets to keep the heat in.
6. Have your furnace, vents, dryer vents and fireplaces cleaned professionally to decrease fire risks and save energy.
7. Insulate your water tank and set the thermostat 2 degrees lower (between 60 and 65°C). This range is midway between "warm normal" or "low medium."
8. Set your ceiling fan to spin clockwise to blow the rising hot air down.
9. Replace the lightbulbs you use most often with LEDs, they last for many years and are 90 percent more efficient than incandescent bulbs.
10. Unplug devices from outlets and save 25% energy.