



Tomahawk
Rural Electrification Association

**Fall 2022
Newsletter**



Want to SAVE Money on Your Electricity Bill?

Entering a fixed-rate contract with a retailer could save you **HUNDREDS** a year!

Retailers are currently offering fixed rates at \$.0899 and above. The October default rate, otherwise known as the Regulated Rate Option is at \$0.22443/kWh and there is no indication of when this will go down.

If you are on the default RRO for October and you use approximately 1200 kWh for the month, you will pay \$269.32 in energy charges alone. If you are in a fixed-rate or locked-in rate of \$.0899 you would pay \$107.88 in energy charges. That would be a savings of \$161.44 in one month.

Thanks to the process of deregulation, members have access to retailer-provided electricity. You have the ability to choose your electricity retailer, based on your personal preferences for price, price stability, service quality and other attributes.

If you haven't shopped around for the best price for your electricity, you most likely have the defaulted Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO is established based on the inclusion of the 100% spot market price, a further risk margin adjustment inclusive of the purchase price of power, and other adjustments reflecting the prudent

owner's costs incurred by BRPC to provide the RRO rate.

Fixed-rate plans can offer consistency for members. No matter what happens in the electricity market, you'll always know how much you'll pay for the energy you use. Some even offer senior discounted rates. Be sure to check their terms and conditions for cancellation of the contract, most only require a short notice period.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit www.ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll-free in Alberta).

Current Available Retailers in TREA (Also listed on the website at www.tomahawkrea.com)

- Abode Power
- Acorn Energy
- Adiago Energy
- Alberta Cooperative Energy (ACE)
- Alberta Utility Source
- Bow Valley Power
- Brighter Futures Energy
- Camrose Energy
- Direct Energy
- Echo Energy
- Emco Energy
- Fluent Utilities
- Foothills Energy Coop
- Get Energy
- Hudson Energy
- Just Energy
- Link Energy Supply
- Mountain View Power
- NewGen Energy
- Park Power
- Ridge Utilities
- Sandstone Energy
- Solarmax Power
- Spot Power
- Tassa Energy
- Utility Net
- Vector Energy
- Wholesale Power
- Xoom Energy

Below is a comparison of the Regulated Rates (RRO) since January 2022 in ¢/kWh

	EPCOR	ENMAX	Direct Energy	BRPC
January	16.406	15.876	16.411	16.280
February	15.972	16.520	16.557	14.594
March	10.732	10.580	11.028	9.412
April	10.825	10.316	10.756	9.482
May	10.722	9.971	10.018	11.572
June	12.066	11.840	10.982	13.531
July	15.093	14.777	14.393	15.474
August	17.345	17.341	16.879	17.034
September	16.202	15.699	15.259	15.536
October	19.501	18.031	18.190	22.443

Sales Vote Results

256 people voted out of 574 eligible members
118 voted not to sell
138 voted to sell

2/3% of the members casting votes are required to approve an extraordinary resolution.

Battle River has hired two new power line technicians for our area. They will both be living in or near Drayton Valley in October/November. We're confident these new hires will improve response times.

2022 Brushing/Vegetation

Patrolling and consenting for 2022 vegetation was completed in July and the total volume of work is extensive, coming in at \$563,145.00. This is 61% higher than our annual budgeted amount of \$350,000.00 to complete the 2022 cycle. For this reason, the Tomahawk Board of Directors has chosen to extend our brushing cycles by one year. This year Davey Tree will be completing our out-of-cycle hotspots along with the priority "hot" sites in each township. In addition to these "hot" priority sites, the area of 51-07 will also be completed. This will reduce our costs for this year to approximately \$367,163.00. The remainder of this cycle, which is 41 sites, will be completed next year. The cycle that was to be completed next year will be completed in 2024 and so forth. For all the members who have work that was consented to, but will not have their brushing completed this year, you will receive a phone call from TREA Administrator, Melanie. We thank the members who have consented and are working with us to make the system more reliable. Removing vegetation that interferes with the electrical system decreases power outages caused by vegetation making contact with the lines.

Davey Tree workers have mobilized two of their top trim crews into Tomahawk and they've estimated two to three months to complete all the work. The amount of work to be done is substantial and the best crews have been chosen to be the most cost-effective for their company. Davey Tree does not invoice us on an hourly charge. In fact, we are billed a predetermined set rate (lower than last year even) per square meter of trimming, mulching, and slashing and we are charged per tree removal. If you've been watching them work, you may have asked yourself or your neighbour, "Why are they all over the place? Why don't they do each site down the road right after another?" When a site is consented, each site is marked on a Priority Level, 1, 2 or 3. Davey Tree has been instructed to complete the Priority 1's first then 2's then 3's. Another reason is some members may require a call ahead, to make sure their gate is open, or their dogs are put away or maybe they just want to be home while they have workers in their yard. In these cases, Davey Tree may not be able to go to your neighbour's site immediately after they've completed yours because the neighbour may not be available that day.

We ask you all to stay vigilant and keep an eye on the vegetation around your areas. If you notice a tree that is close to the power lines, call or email the office right away and report it at 780-514-8732 or office.trea@gmail.com.

This is an updated Vegetation Cycle Map to reflect the changes to the cycles. You may visit our website at www.tomahawkrea.com to view all TREA Operation Cycles in a larger format.

