



#### ALL NEW AMR METERS FOR TOMAHAWK REA

Tomahawk REA is changing Distribution System Operators (DSO) in January 2021, from EQUS to Battle River Power Coop (BRPC). There are many parties involved in such a change over, and in order to make it work for everyone we have moved from the original date of Sunday, January 3, 2021 to Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

Part of our agreement with Battle River is the complete change out of all Tomahawk REA meters. As most of our meters are up for re-verification next year, this couldn't be better timing! The meters that Battle River will be installing are AMR (Automatic Meter Reading) meters. Once they are installed, there will be no need for manual meter reads! Battle River Power Coop will read all of our meters once a month by airplane.

BRPC will begin meter exchanges after the transfer date of January 5, 2021. The goal is to change 100 meters per day, but this will be dependent on the weather. Exchanges will be done by BRPC employees and BRPC contractors based on Battle River's schedule, which will include minimal planned blackout periods, all of which will be communicated as effectively as possible to Tomahawk REA members in advance of the meter exchange.

#### Here's what you can expect:

- Typically, meter installation will take place Monday to Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.
- Meter installers will have BRPC logos on their trucks and uniforms.
- Installers will knock on your door before starting any work.
- You don't need to be home, as long as we have safe and clear access to our meter please remove any physical barriers that prevent a meter exchange.
- In most cases, the exchange will take less than 10 minutes.
- You will experience a brief power interruption, in most cases it will last 60 seconds. If you have any critical equipment that requires constant power, please double check to make sure that your back-up power supply is working properly. We apologize for any inconvenience.
- If you have a home security system, there is a chance that the alarm may be triggered, similar to when there is a power outage. If you have any concerns, please talk to your security provider.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we take this important step in upgrading our system to ensure you receive the best possible service now and in the future.

### **REGULATED RATE OPTION (RRO)**

With the transition on January 5, 2021 Battle River Power Coop will be Tomahawk REA's Distribution System Operator (DSO). This also means they will be TREA's Wire Service Provider (WSP), Meter Data Management (MDM) and Regulated Rate Option (RRO) Default Supply Provider.

Thanks to the process of deregulation, customers/members have gained access to retailer-provided electricity. In the past, businesses and residents were simply stuck with paying the going rate to whichever utility operated in their area. The passage of the Electric Utilities Act (EUA) changed this. Customers/members gained the ability to choose their electricity retailer, based upon their personal preferences for price, price stability, service quality and other attributes.

Members who do not sign a contract for electricity are served by the regulated rate option (RRO). The regulated rate reflects the current market price, which fluctuates up and down on a monthly basis making prices less predictable for consumers. The RRO is established based on 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. Battle River Wires Division administers the member RRO service on behalf of Battle River Power Coop . Members on the RRO option will be advised of the cost per kWh on a monthly basis.

With BRPC becoming Tomahawk REA's RRO, If you do not choose a retailer, Battle River Power Coop becomes your retailer (RRO) by default. Which means the electricity bills you currently receive from EQUS will change in February, to bills you will receive from Battle River Power Coop.

Everyone is free to purchase electricity services 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 Tomahawk REA.

The graph to the right shows what both EQUS and BRPC charged for RRO rates from November 2019 to November 2020.



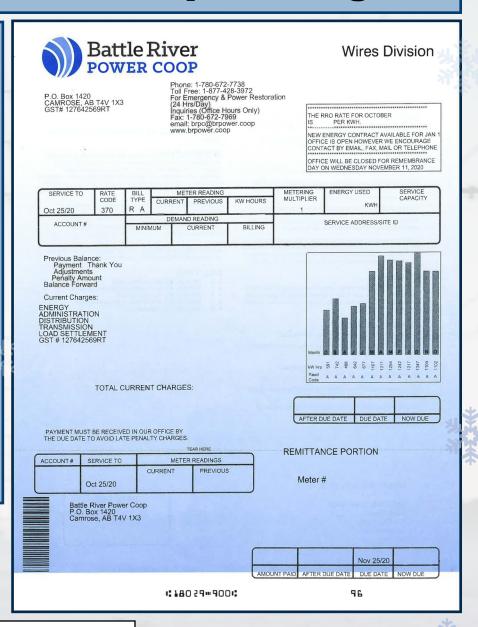
### **Note to All Members**

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).

## **Battle River Power Coop's Billing Info**

Battle River Power Coop's billing is different than the way EQUS does their billing. So if you're used to receiving your electricity bill on a certain day, please note that day will be changing. Since our switch over begins on January 5th, you will receive a bill from EQUS from January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup>. Battle River's cut off date is the 25th of every month. Their billing period is from the 26<sup>th</sup> of the previous month to the 25th of the current month. Bills will go out on the 5<sup>th</sup> business day of the following month. Your first bill from Battle River Power Coop will be from January 5, 2021 to January 25, 2021. You will receive your first bill from **Battle** River February 5, 2021 and that bill

Battle River Power Coop Sample Bill





**MEMBER OWNED • COMMUNITY POWERED** 

Power Outage or an Emergency, call

1-877-428-3972

Please have the following information available:

Land Location \_\_\_\_\_

**Blue Address Sign** 

Battle River Power Coop has supplied us with magnets for all Tomahawk REA members, for ease of reference in the event of a power outage.



### 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 in, with location, at office.trea@gmail.com or text

### **Holiday Hours**

The Tomahawk REA office will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2020 to Friday January 1, 2021. Reopening January 4, 2021. As always, you can contact EQUS if you experience any power troubles anytime during this period. 24/7/365 at 1-888-627-4011.

# WINTER POWER OUTAGE TIPS If your power is out

- Notify your Distribution System Operator (DSO) until January 4,
   2021 that will still be EQUS. January 5th and on, contact BRPC.
- Turn off all appliances, including your furnace, space heaters, water heater, and water pump. Leave on one lamp to know when power has been restored.
- 3. Keep freezer and refrigerator doors closed. Food will stay frozen for 36 to 48 hours in a fully loaded freezer if you keep the door closed. A half-full freezer will generally keep food frozen for 24 hours.
- 4. Listen to your battery-operated radio for regular news and weather updates.
- 5. Open your blinds during the day, cover windows with drapes at night, avoid alcoholic beverages, and gather in a central room where there is an alternative heat source, such as a fireplace or kerosene space heater. If the indoor temperature drops to 55°F or below, open your faucets slightly so they constantly drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
- 6. Remain patient. EQUS has a detailed plan for restoring electricity after a power outage. Typically, one of the first steps a company takes—to prevent injuries and fires—is to make sure that power is no longer flowing through downed lines. Restoration then proceeds based on established priorities.