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Fredonia, KS 66736

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Emporia, KS 66801



4 RIVERS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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FROM THE MANAGER

Trustees Considering Rate Amendment to Service Fees and Net Metering Rider on Nov. 11

Your board of trustees will hold a rate hearing Nov. 11 in conjunction with their regular board meeting to discuss and vote on changes to our rates and services.

Two tariffs will be considered: the Service Fees tariff and the Net Metering Rider tariff. We also plan to include a fee for the new Lightning Shield surge protection devices for our single-phase services.

What is Lightning Shield? It's a whole home electric surge protection system from EMP Shield designed to safeguard your home electronics from power surges caused by storms or other events. For more details, refer to my article in our September issue

of *Kansas Country Living* magazine, which can be found on www.4riverselectric.com. The proposed rate for the Lightning Shield is \$12 per month with the intention of offering this service to members at cost.



Dennis Svanes

We will also consider our Net Metering Rider tariff, which affects members who generate their own electricity, like with solar panels, and interconnect their generation unit to 4 Rivers' grid. The proposed changes would ensure that the installed generation capacity does not exceed a member's usage.

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NOTICE OF RATE HEARING

CHANGES IN SERVICE FEES AND NET METERING RIDER

The 4 Rivers Electric Board of Trustees will hold an open public hearing on modifications to be discussed and voted on relating to two tariffs: (1) Service Fees Rate Schedule and (2) Net Metering Rider. This hearing is in conjunction with the regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting at 6 p.m., Nov. 11, 2024, at 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2731 Milo Terrace, Lebo.

Proposed changes to the Service Fees Rate Schedule tariff include updating some of the fees, removing Meter Reading Fee, adding a line for the EMP Meter Socket Protection Device, and a line for Meter Test Charge.

Proposed changes to the Net Metering Rider include a change to the formula for the solar allowed to be installed, installation of a battery storage system will move the account to the Parallel Generation Rider Tariff (Rider-02), and the overall maximum allowed generation on the cooperative system to use the lower of the prior year's peak or a rolling five-year average.

Any and all rates are subject to review by the Kansas Corporation Commission upon petition pursuant to state law.

THE HEADER PHOTO ABOVE, HIGHLIGHTING THE BEAUTY OF OUR COOPERATIVE TERRITORY, WAS TAKEN BY MEMBER KIMBERLY STITHAM OF RURAL FREDONIA.

4 Rivers Crew Assists Storm-Ravaged South Carolina Co-op After Hurricane Helene

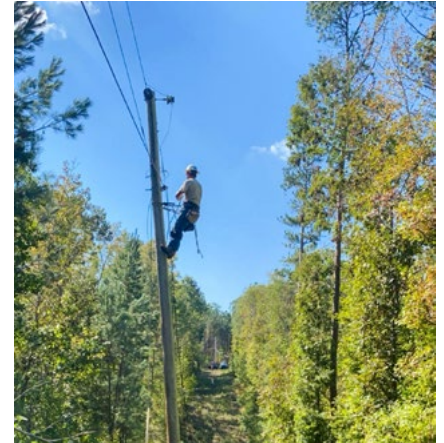
After Hurricane Helene moved through Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and the Carolinas in late September, Kansas electric cooperatives were called to provide mutual aid to our cooperative friends at Aiken Electric Cooperative in Aiken, South Carolina.

On Oct. 3, 4 Rivers Electric, along with 14 other Kansas electric cooperatives, organized manpower and equipment crews to assist with power restoration efforts, including repair and replacement to many miles of poles and conductor. At its peak, 92% of Aiken EC's electric system was down with over 47,000 consumer-members without power.

4 Rivers' mutual aid crew included six journeyman linemen and one heavy equipment mechanic. Our crewmen took five trucks, meeting up with other Kansas sister co-ops to caravan to their destination, a city of just over 32,000 people located 20 miles northeast of Augusta, Georgia.

After the initial safety and area information briefing, crews set up in Aiken's "tent city," before beginning their restoration assistance for the co-op's wrecked electric system. The company housed and fed around 700 linemen who answered the call for help at Aiken Electric Co-op, along with almost a hundred more Aiken employees involved.

4 Rivers journeyman lineman Bryan



Sobba, an 11-year veteran of linework, remarked that he'd never witnessed such widespread damage, and many areas needed entirely rebuilt.

"One local lineman said it took him seven hours to cut his way to work through all the fallen trees," said Sobba. "The days were long, and access was difficult, but it was an honor to be there. The consumers were fantastic and so grateful to have their power back."

After helping to restore power to thousands of co-op member, our 4 Rivers crew returned Oct. 12 to a highly anticipated welcome from friends and family.

"I am proud to hear the positive feedback on the amount and quality of work completed by the Kansas cooperatives in South Carolina after Hurricane Helene," said Mark Doebele, 4 Rivers assistant general manager/COO. "Our crews completed a great deal of work quickly and, most importantly, safely."



HAPPY THANKSGIVING
 Our office will be closed on
 Nov. 28 and 29 for the holiday.

Cold Weather Accommodation

Effective Nov. 15 through March 15.

As provided in the Cooperative's Rules and Regulations, the provisions of the Cold Weather Accommodation allow a qualifying residential member the opportunity to retain electric service throughout the cold weather period, which extends from Nov. 15 through March 15.

The cooperative will not disconnect a member's service between Nov. 15 and March 15 when the local National Weather Service office forecasts the temperature will drop below 35 degrees Fahrenheit within the following 24-hour period unless:

- A.** It is at the member's request;
- B.** the service is abandoned;
- C.** a dangerous condition exists on the member's premises;
- D.** the member violates any rule of the cooperative which adversely affects the safety of the member or other persons, or the physical integrity of the cooperative's delivery system;
- E.** the member causes or permits unauthorized interference with, or tampering of as defined in Section 3-A-4-c of the Rules and Regulations, the electric service situated or delivered on or about the member's premises;
- F.** the member misrepresents his or her identity for the purpose of obtaining or retaining electric service; or

G. the member tenders an insufficient funds check as the initial payment or an installment payment under an arrearage payment plan and does not cure the insufficient payment, including the returned check charge during the 10-day period after a disconnection notice is sent to the member.

Under (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service immediately. Under (f) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service two days after a disconnection is provided to the member of record or 10 days after a disconnection notice is sent, whichever is quicker. Under (g) above, the cooperative may disconnect the service 10 days after a disconnection notice is provided if that member has not cured the insufficient payment during that 10-day period.

The day prior to disconnection, the cooperative may make at least one telephone call attempt with the member of record or make one attempt at a personal contact with the member of record on the day prior to termination of service.

Prepay Power Program participants are not eligible for Cold Weather Accommodation; however, members can work with the cooperative to stay connected with reasonable payment arrangements if needed.

Trustees Considering Rate Amendment ...

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Finally, if you are interested in serving on the 4 Rivers Board of Trustees, petitions for nomination to the ballot will be available Dec. 1. This is a great opportunity to get involved and make a positive impact in your community.

One board seat from each district will be open for nomination.

▶ **DISTRICT 1, POSITION 7**

INCUMBENT DAVID KUNKEL

▶ **DISTRICT 2, POSITION 8**

INCUMBENT STACY HEINS

▶ **DISTRICT 3, POSITION 9**

INCUMBENT LOREN DICKENS

You can find more information about the election and the rate hearing in next month's *Kansas Country Living* and on our website. Also, feel free to reach out to me or any of the trustees if you have any questions about serving on the board.

Remember, your voice matters! Stay informed and involved in your electric cooperative.

As I wrote this column, seven of our employees, along with others from Kansas and around the nation, headed to South Carolina to assist with power restoration in the aftermath of hurricane Helene. My thoughts and prayers go out to those working on restoration efforts along with those affected by the devastation of the storm.



4 RIVERS OFFERS MEMBER REBATES ON SELECT NEW ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

As a co-op member, you may qualify for a rebate when you install a new water heater or heat pump at your 4 Rivers service!

4 Rivers Electric, in cooperation with our power supplier, Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), offers rebates to our members on purchases of new electric water heaters, air source heat pumps, and geothermal systems.

Rebate forms are available online www.4riverselectric.com. You may also bring a completed rebate form and proof of purchase to any 4 Rivers office location to apply for a rebate. Terms and conditions apply.

READY YOUR HOME FOR WINTER



Prepare your home for winter with the checklist below to ensure safety, efficiency and comfort.

INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally serviced.
- Replace air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are not blocked for efficient heat distribution.

MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test detectors to ensure they function properly.

PREPARE PIPES AND WATER SUPPLY

- Insulate exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- Drain and shut off outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the location of the water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- Clear gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- Trim trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- Ensure downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- Service and store equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.
- Gather winter tools such as snow shovels and ice melt.

INCREASE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Seal gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to circulate warm air.
- Lower your thermostat a few degrees to save on heating costs.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

May Your Holidays Be Merry and Bright

As November kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, our team at 4 Rivers cares about your wellbeing. This month, we want to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

SAFETY FIRST

We all enjoy decorating our home for the holidays. Before decking the halls, always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This will give peace of mind, knowing your holiday lights are ready to safely brighten your home. Also, double check the lights you use outside to make sure they're rated for outdoor use.

Many also enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. Good practice is to test on the first day of each month. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR SAVINGS

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really

impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

It is good to remind your guests to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is one of the best places for savings. Lower it a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Other ways to save energy is by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food — not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtime and energy savings.

We hope you implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans. For additional advice, visit our website at www.4riverselectric.com. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round.

From your friends at 4 Rivers — we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEE!

CHRISTI SPILLMAN joined the 4 Rivers team in June as a member services representative. Christi is based in the Lebo office bringing years of service experience and quickly embracing the Kansas electric cooperative spirit after working for an energy utility in Oklahoma. She and her husband, Dan, have five children and live in Gridley. Welcome to 4 Rivers, Christi!



Christi Spillman