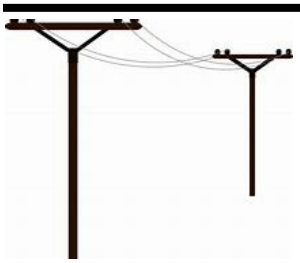
MID-YELLOWSTONE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

406-342-5521

P.O. BOX 386, HYSHAM, MT 59038



ALONG THESE LINES . . .

UNDERSTANDING DEMAND & DEMAND CHARGES

Although the 2021 irrigation season is almost over, we would like to answer the questions of 'What is demand, and why does MYEC charge a demand on irrigation meters?' "Demand" is the total amount of electricity being used by a consumer at any one time. Demand varies from hour to hour, day to day and season to season. This usage, which is expressed in kilowatts or kW (not kilowatt-hour) is called the "demand" on the system. For irrigation, MYEC uses meters that measure and record the actual maximum kW/demand reading. MYEC monitors demand over a 15-minute period. The irrigator is charged for the highest 15-minute average recorded on the demand meter.

To answer 'Why does MYEC charge a demand?' The simple answer is that MYEC is billed by our power supplier in that way. MYEC's power bill is then passed on to the member based on their energy and demand needs or requirements. The larger the motor, the higher the demand. Our wholesale power supplier invoices MYEC on a calendar-month basis. They read our wholesale electric meters on the last day of each month at midnight. It is MYEC's intent to read our irrigation meters as close to that time as possible. Once you have irrigated during a calendar month, you can start your pump as many times as you want during that same month and still pay for only one maximum kW demand charge. If you are planning to start your pump for the first time during the month and it is close to the end of the month, waiting until the 1st of the next month can save you that month's demand charge. After each meter is read by a lineman, the meter gets 'reset' which resets the demand reading, but not the usage reading.

Prior to the 2018 season, the demand rate was based on a per horsepower charge; but that charge does not represent a true demand on the pump or motor. MYEC is billed on kW. For this reason, starting in 2018 the per horsepower was converted to kW, which is equal to $9.58 a kW. This allows us to be more accurate and fair with our rate charges.

Demand charges are how MYEC shares the costs of being ready and able to deliver enough electricity, whenever it's required, among all irrigation members. Meters are designed to sample individual member's power draw (or load) at continuous 15 minute intervals and to identify the highest "demand" level reached during the entire billing month. This is the demand that will be billed since it reflects the level of power that had to be ready to supply when the member needed it. In this way, all irrigators pay their fair share of the overhead for always having sufficient power capacity available.

FIRE AWARENESS

With all of the fires that have, and still are, destroying homes across our country, here are a few tips that may help to prevent your home from burning up in a fire:

⇒ Have a **qualified** electrician do all electrical work.
⇒ To prevent an electrical shock, make sure all your outside electrical receptacles are **GFCI** (ground-fault circuit interrupter) protected.
⇒ Use lighting and power tools that are listed by a qualified test laboratory and make sure they are made for **outdoor** use.
⇒ **Store** your electrical tools indoors.
⇒ Keep electric tools away from **children**.
⇒ **Check** lighting and extension cords for damage before using. **Replace** any damaged cords right away.
⇒ Use **extension cords** that are listed by a qualified test laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
⇒ **Clear** leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
⇒ **Remove** dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
⇒ Screen in areas below patios and decks with **wire mesh** to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
⇒ **Remove** flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and out buildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
⇒ Wildfire can spread to tree tops. **Prune** trees so the lowest branches are 6 or 10 feet from the ground.
⇒ Keep your lawn **hydrated** and **maintained**. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
⇒ Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. **Dispose** of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
⇒ Inspect shingles or roof tiles. **Replace** or **repair** the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
⇒ **Cover** exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
⇒ **Enclose** eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.

LOOK FOR HAZARDS ON THE FARM!

BE AWARE

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air.

Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and a power line may be closer than it looks.

USE A SPOTTER

Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.

REALIZE THINGS CHANGE

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year. Power lines also may sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact your electric cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

LOOK AROUND, TOO

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself.

Whether it's on the farm or in the city, there's something inspirational about common folk banding together to work as a community to better their lives. That's what we call the cooperative way.

COOPERATIVE — Businesses people trust.

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