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*The official
publication
of the members of
Indian Electric
Cooperative*



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Round Up®

New Rates Less than Three Percent Increase

In 1996 the cost of a loaf of bread was about \$1.11, and a box of breakfast cereal was about \$2.39. Gasoline was slightly more than \$1.27 a gallon.

In the past eight years the cost of just about everything has increased. But the cost of your electricity hasn't increased; it has remained the same.

The cost of doing business for Indian Electric has increased as the price of needed equipment and supplies has increased. And just as you have been impacted by the skyrocketing price of gasoline, so has IEC as it sends a fleet of trucks and cars out into the service territory each day.

"It is because of the increase in the cost of doing business, and our commitment to being in sound shape financially, that the board of trustees feels it's necessary to increase the co-op's rates," explains Jack Clinkscale, IEC general manager.

"Although the increase is necessary, it is a minimal increase, less than three percent," he says.

"The trustees are strongly committed to the cooperative providing reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost. And because of that commitment, they recently completed a review of rate analyses that our staff prepared for them," explains Clinkscale.

"After fully reviewing the analyses, the board decided in order to maintain the co-op's financial integrity and meet the requirements of our lenders in our mortgage agreement, a slight rate increase is necessary.

"Staff recommends a three percent increase, which will increase our annual revenues by \$722,574," he says.

A letter notifying each member of the rate increase was mailed March 1. It included the current rates and proposed rates so members

can see how the increase will affect their monthly bills.

"Several changes are being made to the rates," explains Clinkscale, saying incentive rates for electric heat and water heaters, and interruptible rates are being removed.

For the residential consumer using an average of 850 kiloWatt hours each month, the increase amounts to 42-cents. For rural residential consumers using an average of 1180 kiloWatt hours, the monthly increase will be about \$1.20.

Commercial and large power accounts will experience an increase each month, too.

There is also a slight increase for municipal street lights and security lights.

The new rate structure has been filed with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission and will go into effect June 1.

"IEC is fortunate to have a board strongly committed to maintaining a high level of efficiency and service while keeping rates as low as possible. That's why we haven't needed a rate increase since 1996," says Clinkscale. "Increasing rates is not an easy decision for the trustees. They are consumers also, and they understand how a rate increase can affect a household budget. That is one of the reasons they are choosing to keep the increase minimal."

Clinkscale encourages anyone with questions about the increase to contact IEC.

"I want anyone with questions or comments to call us and let us discuss it with them," he says.

Call (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-472-2850 and speak with Clinkscale, or member services personnel David Wilson or Clara Eulert. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A Conversation Leads to Better Understanding

by Jack Clinkscale, General Manager

At its meeting on Feb. 26, the board of trustees of Indian Electric Cooperative approved the filing of a rate increase with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. The rate increase will be slightly under 3 percent and should return additional annual revenue of \$722,574 to your cooperative and is the first increase in rates since 1996. Several changes are being made in the rate structure including the removal of all incentive credits for electric heat, water heaters and interruptible rates. The rate increase application with the commission requires a 90-day waiting period, so the rates will become effective on June 1.

A rate

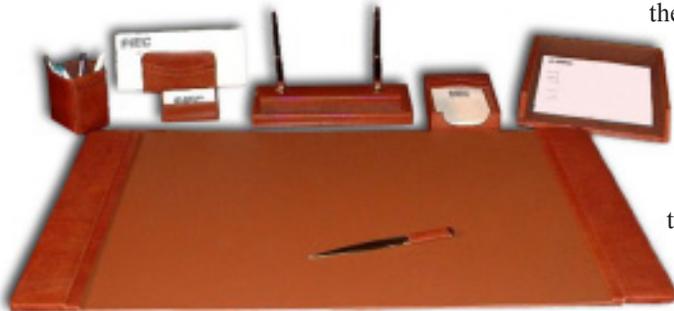
increase is never an easy decision and your board of trustees had a lengthy and lively debate on the rate proposal. Their job as trustees is to be your representative and to keep the cooperative operating in a sound condition. This includes operationally, delivering quality power to members, and financially, seeing that we keep the system in good condition while meeting our financial requirements. They must make these decisions while keeping your rates as low as possible. And let's face it, just like you, the trustees are all members and rate payers and they don't want to pay any more than they have to.

By now you have received notice of the rate increase along with a copy of

the current and proposed rates. Also included was an outline of a petition that can be completed to protest this rate increase to the Corporation Commission. If you feel this rate increase is not fair and equitable,

you may file a petition with the commission that expresses your concerns. This is your right as a member of Indian Electric, but I would ask one thing before you file a petition. Give us a call and let us address your concerns. If we cannot do so to your satisfaction, then file the petition. All I ask is the chance to show why this rate increase is necessary. I am not naive enough to think we are going to make everyone like a rate increase, but I do feel we can make you understand the reasons why we need this increase and the factors that have caused our current revenues to be inadequate. I am not asking you to like it, only to understand it.

In coming editions of *The Lamp*, I will address some of the issues that required us to seek this increase. In the meantime, if you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to give us a call. We will be happy to show you how the increase will impact your particular account(s). Feel free to contact me, David Wilson or Clara Eulert in our member services department at 358-2514.



THE LAMP

INDIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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To Report an Outage

(918) 358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750

24-hour Service Center

(918) 295-9520

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Jack Clinkscale

General Manager

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Operation Round Up[®]

In the Service of Volunteering

by Clara Eulert
IEC Liaison to IEC Foundation

Thanks to the volunteering spirit of an Operation Round Up[®] grant applicant who asked, "Is it possible for me to contribute to Operation Round Up[®]?" the following new opportunities are available.

Now both IEC members and non-members can make contributions to this program. IEC members can continue to have their electric bills rounded up to the next dollar or contribute a specific amount each month in addition to the 'rounded up' amount. Operation Round Up[®] contributions will appear on their bills as the line item 'Operation Round Up[®].' But anyone can also designate a one-time lump sum contribution.

Through committed Operation Round Up[®] volunteers, our nine IEC Foundation Board members, volunteering their time and energies and those members volunteering their monies, the IEC Foundation and Operation Round Up[®] assisted eight individuals and one organization for a total January disbursement of \$2,676.19. During the February meeting, the IEC Foundation board approved three individual and/or family grants. Operation Round Up[®] receives many worthy requests each month, but due to limited funds is unable to grant every application.

Without volunteers making both physical and monetary contributions, Operation Round Up[®] would not exist. Contributions to Operation Round Up[®] are tax deductible. More than the deduction, the contributor receives confirmation they are making a difference in the lives of worthy individuals or organizations in the IEC service area while only costing the contributor less than the cost of one soft drink from a vending machine per month. To the volunteers, IEC applauds you. To those who want to volunteer, IEC welcomes your participation.

If you would like to apply for

assistance or participate in Operation Round Up[®] by having your monthly bill rounded up to the next highest dollar, please contact Clara Eulert or an IEC service representative by calling (918) 358-2514 or 1-800-472-2850, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. or visit our Web site at www.iecok.com and click on the Operation Round Up[®] online sign-up form link. To increase your monthly contribution or make a one-time lump sum contribution, call us or visit the Operation Round Up[®] section of our Web site and

choose 'Additional Contribution Amount' online form or 'One-Time Lump Sum' online form. Non-IEC members can contact Clara Eulert by phone or by e-mail at ClaraE@IECOK.com.

It is a pleasure to be in the service of committed volunteers. Many thanks from the Operation Round Up[®] directors and those individuals and organizations you have helped immeasurably through your charitable contributions.



Volunteering their time and energy to serve on the board of directors of the IEC Foundation are (front, left to right) Anna Harris, Sand Springs; Jan Moore, Mannford; Jackie Larkin, Drumright; Marlene Braught, Sand Springs; and J.W. Casper, Pawnee. Also, (back, left to right) Jack Ditto, Cleveland; Janice Burgess, Terlton; Virgil Cravens, Fairfax; and Gene Perry, Westport.

Keep Our Linemen Safe - Don't Campaign on Our Poles

It's election year and everyone wants to show support for their candidate. Just be careful not to attach your campaign posters to our utility poles.

Staples or nails in our poles are dangerous, and can possibly be fatal to our linemen as they climb those poles. They can cause a lineman's hooks to get caught as he is descending from the pole or can cause them to fall from the pole.

So remember the safety of our linemen when you're campaigning.

GPS Collectors in Mannford, Hominy Areas

Contractors working to gather information for our new mapping program will be moving into the areas between Mannford and Hominy in April.

They are visiting every utility pole on our power lines to gather information needed for the mapping program we told you about in the March issue of *The Lamp*.

They will be carrying their equipment in packs on their backs and will also have co-op photo ID cards.

Currently, there are four contractors, but that number will increase as the weather improves.

If you have questions about these personnel, we encourage you to ask them for their identification and then call us at (918) 358-2514 for verification.

RECIPE



Almond Crescent Rolls

2 Tbsps. butter or margarine, softened
1/4 cup sifted powdered sugar
2 Tbsps. fine, dry breadcrumbs
1/2 tsp. almond extract

1 (8-oz.) pkg. refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
Milk
2 Tbsps. sliced almonds

Cream butter and powdered sugar; stir in breadcrumbs and almond extract. Set aside.

Separate crescent dough into 8 triangles. Spoon 1/2 tablespoon breadcrumb mixture on shortest side of triangle; roll according to package directions. Place rolls, point side down, on a lightly greased baking sheet. Brush with milk, and sprinkle with almonds. Bake at 375° for 11 to 15 minutes or until rolls are golden brown.

YIELD: 8 servings.

Planting the Right Tree for Energy Efficiency

Trees can improve the comfort of your home by providing summertime shade that reduces air-conditioning costs. Landscaping will also increase the beauty and value of your home.

If you choose to plant trees, it makes sense to do some research and planning to maximize their shade and other benefits. Good planning helps avoid mistakes such as putting a large tree in a too-small space or selecting a tree that produces a lot of unwanted litter.

The mature size of the tree is its most important selection criteria. You should consider the tree's height, crown diameter, and size and depth of the root structure. On the one hand, the tree should have room to grow into the space where you plant it. On the other hand, it needs to be close enough to the home to block the sun from different angles throughout the year.

Effective shading requires that trees

block overhead sun near the home's south face and low-angle sun from east and west. Trees in the south yard should be fairly close to the house to achieve roof shading when they mature. However, don't plant the tree any closer to your home than one-half the mature-crown diameter. East and west trees should present a broad screen to the low-angle morning and afternoon sun. For open spaces, one or two broad trees work well. Limited space at property lines may require a row of tall narrow trees. In northern climates, consider planting deciduous trees that lose their leaves in winter and allow sun to warm your home.

Consult your local agriculture extension agent or nursery for advice. The best information may come by looking around your area for mature trees of the varieties you're considering. Bring a tape measure and note the characteristics discussed here in order to determine if the tree is right for your site.



Youth Program Winners Announced in May Lamp Issue

Winners of our Youth Tour and Energy Camp contests will be included in the May issue of *The Lamp*.

Judging on these programs was not finished by the time this issue of *The Lamp* went to press.