



PRESS RELEASE

Stacy Wemhoff
Communications Coordinator
swemhoff@loup.com
(402) 562-5711

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Loup's Retail Rates to Increase Slightly in 2018

COLUMBUS, Neb. — Loup Power District's retail customers will see a slight change to their electric bills beginning in February.

The average monthly annual cost for residential customers will increase by \$0.65, or 0.5 percent.

While the bills for most customers will increase slightly during the winter months, the average electricity cost will decrease during the summer for those with average energy usage.

These changes are based on the results of a retail cost of service and rate design study reviewed and approved by the Loup Power District Board of Directors at the December 21 board meeting.

The board analyzed the purchased power costs from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), the District's wholesale power supplier. Although NPPD's overall costs to Loup did not change, the costs are shifting from the summer to the winter months. This initiated the need for a change in Loup's winter and summer retail rates.

The increase for an average residential customer during the winter months equates to \$2.58 per month, or 2 percent. The decrease for an average residential customer during the summer months equates to \$3.23 per month, or 2.5 percent. Commercial and industrial customers will see similar changes.

"The District has reacted to changes in wholesale power and operational costs in the past by making changes to the retail rates," said Chris Langemeier, chairman of Loup's Rates Committee. "However, the District Board has worked with management to keep retail rate changes minimal for 2018."

Langemeier added that Loup's board has implemented a long-term strategy to maintain its reserve margin at reasonable levels and keep retail rates competitive.

"Over the past several years, the District's costs have shifted from the summer months to the winter months due to rate methodology shifts from NPPD. This continues to be evident in the rate levels developed by Loup for 2018," he said.

Based on the latest data available (2016) contained in an American Public Power Association survey Loup Power District's overall rates were 24.3 percent below the national average and 13.3 percent below the Nebraska average.

"Loup's rates remain among the lowest in Nebraska and the Nation," said Loup Board Chairman Mike Fleming.

Energy or kilowatt-hour (kWh) usage is always the determining factor in a customer's bill. Customers in all rate classifications continue to have opportunities to reduce their costs by taking advantage of numerous programs offered by the District. For example, Loup continues to offer home/commercial energy audits to customers who are interested in finding ways to use their power as efficiently as possible.

For more information on the District's retail rates and energy-saving programs, visit the District's website at www.loup.com.

ABOUT LOUP POWER DISTRICT: For more than 80 years, Loup Power District has provided reliable, low-cost electricity to customers in Boone, Colfax, Nance and Platte Counties and part of Madison County. The District also provides economic development and five parks in these areas. More information about Loup is available at www.loup.com.

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