



PREMA

January 2024

PLUGGED IN WITH . . .

Panhandle Rural Electric Membership Association

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PREMA Board Approves 2024 Budget

At the October 24 meeting, the PREMA Board of Directors approved the 2024 budget which included an estimated total revenue of \$17,000,000, net margins of \$2,400,000, and a capital credit payment of \$200,000 (1.17% of the revenue) to the membership. Margins at the end of the year will be allocated to the membership.

The Budget reflects purchased power costs from Tri-State at an estimated \$8,777,000 (62% of PREMA’s total operating costs).

A rate increase from Tri-State of 9.1%, general inflation, and to increase PREMA’s cash position prompted the Board to implement the rate increase of 14% for 2024. This increase will be reflected in the retail rates in accordance with a recent Cost of Service Study. Certain components of the rates may get a slightly higher or slightly lower increase based on the study.

Included in the Budget is \$207,000 for replacement/update of equipment and the addition of a Mini Excavator. It also includes funding of preventative maintenance programs such as pole testing, tree trimming, and substation testing.

Each year, certain financial ratios must be maintained to follow PREMA’s mortgage agreements with lenders. The Budget produced ratios that comply with these agreements.

PREMA continues to invest in the utility plant with materials such as poles, wire, and transformers. These investments make PREMA’s electric system more dependable.

PREMA employees are dedicated to the mission of providing high quality electric service at a reasonable rate. We at PREMA look forward to serving your electric needs in the New Year. If you have any questions, please contact our office at 308-762-1311.

TREES — TOO CLOSE FOR (YOUR) COMFORT

TREES CAUSE MAJORITY OF POWER OUTAGES

Safe Electricity.org®

WHY DOES YOUR POWER PROVIDER TRIM TREES?

Although most trees do not present a problem, some of them grow into or crowd power lines, poles or other utility equipment and cause service issues. Unruly and overgrown trees can:

- Cause outages.**
- Create fire hazards.**
- Break off and land on power lines.**
- Cause lights to flicker during high winds.**
- Get weighed down with ice and cause issues.**

Proper pruning techniques are used to preserve tree health, although sometimes a tree must be removed. This is a last resort, but it can be necessary if there are:

- Fast-growing trees directly under power lines.**
- Trees that are leaning into lines.**
- Trees that are declining, cracked or split.**

Unobstructed power lines make it easier and safer for utility crews to repair or service lines.

Power companies trim trees to better serve you.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org



Pictured above is Stevi Buskirk (PREMA HR) and Karen Benzel with United Way.

Giving Back



PREMA's employees donated \$1,848 in 2023 to United Way of Western Nebraska. These donations are given on a volunteer basis and each employee chooses the amount they donate.

ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING

8N TREE SERVICE FROM HYANNIS HAS STARTED OUR ANNUAL TREE TRIMMING. THE 2024 AREA IS GOING TO BE EAST OF HWY 2, INCLUDING THE TOWN OF WHITMAN. AS WELL AS AREAS THAT HAVE BEEN NOTED BY OUR CREWS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS NEEDING ATTENTION. THIS TREE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IS COMPLETED ON A 4-YEAR ROTATION.



These are the vehicles and equipment used by 8N Tree Service.



Notes from Load Management

The Load Management program is in place for the 2024 irrigation season. By participating in Load Management, irrigators receive a discount on the monthly kW charge.

PREMA consumers with irrigation accounts will be receiving a letter explaining guidelines and rates for Load Management. Those not receiving the letter can call the office for information at 308-762-1311 or email Tim Sherlock at tims@prema.coop or Nick Paradeis at nickp@prema.coop.



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