



Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Big Bend Electric Cooperative recently conducted a cost of service analysis and after careful review, the board of trustees approved a 5.2% rate increase affecting all rate classes including residential, commercial and irrigation. The rate increase will be effective April 1, 2020 with the exception of irrigation facilities charges (Horsepower Charges) will be effective February 1, 2020.

The cost of service analysis identified several areas where BBEC rates were coming up short if we continue on our current trajectory. As a non-profit electric utility, our goal is to set rates as close to our actual cost as possible while maintaining sufficient cash reserves for equipment maintenance, infrastructure improvements, and unforeseen events.

There are several factors contributing to the need for increased rates which include:

Wholesale Electricity Prices are Up

The cost to supply electricity changes minute by minute on the wholesale energy market. The majority of our wholesale power is purchased from BPA (Bonneville Power Administration). BPA is projected to increase rates continually over the next several years.

Regulations are Increasing

New state and federal regulations, tariffs and trade wars all affect the cost of providing electrical service to our members.

Inflation is on the Rise

The cost of materials and inventory are directly affected by inflation. The same materials purchased just a few years ago to construct new services are not being sold at the same prices today.

Operating & Maintenance Costs

Maintaining the electrical grid to provide you safe, reliable electricity at any given moment is a full time job that requires expensive equipment and materials. Construction, maintenance and operating costs are rising every year, as is consumer demand on the system. Modernizing the electrical infrastructure to keep up with the rising demand for electricity to power our cell phones, ipads, smart cars, and linked devices takes a toll on cash reserves at the co-op.

Our number one goal is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. Thank you for helping us keep the co-op financially stable and able to weather any storm that may lie ahead.

For additional information on the rate increase or if you would like a complete rate schedule please contact our office at 866-844-2363 or visit our website at www.bbep.org.