

COLUMBUS[®] CURRENTS

NMPRC APPROVES CEC RATE ADJUSTMENT

At Columbus Electric we understand all too well the financial strain everyone is going through. We are all dealing with the stress of the economic situation at home and at work. Your electric cooperative is no different.

We discussed with you at the annual meeting the increases in our wholesale power cost as well as the increased cost for materials and supplies. We are proud to say that we have successfully maintained rates since 2013, but like all of you the rising cost of most everything is putting upward pressure on our cost of doing business.

We had an outside consultant complete a cost of service study to evaluate the amount of revenue needed to cover the cost of providing reliable electric service to our members and how that revenue should be recovered from each of our rate classes so that it is equitable. The study showed what we already knew – costs had increased significantly since our last rate filing, and a rate adjustment was necessary to ensure that we can continue to operate the system and meet the financial ratios required by our lenders. Because we are a not-for-profit utility, the rates are designed only to recover the increased operating costs of business.

On April 3, 2024, we filed with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) for a rate adjustment – the first proposed rate increase that we have filed in 11

years. A Notice of Filing was published in the March Enchantment magazine to notice members of the proposed rate adjustments and described the rates in detail. The NMPRC approved the rate adjustment and the rates took effect on May 3, 2024. The new rates are reflected on your June bill included with this newsletter.

Also adjusted were our fees and charges for things such as connects, reconnects, service calls, returned checks, meter tests, and meter tampering. These fees had not been adjusted since 1989 when they were first established.

We strive every day to hold down costs while still providing the reliable, quality service that you deserve!

If you have any questions, feel free to call our office.



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



SIGNS OF AN

ENERGY SCAM

High-Pressure Tactics

Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.

Sketchy Payment Methods

Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.

Dodgy Communication

Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.



Our office will be closed Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day!

Board Highlights

The Board of Trustees met on May 23, 2024. They approved the 2024 audit agreement with Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss out of Lubbock, TX to perform the 2024 financial audit. The audit will take place in late August or early September.

Save Big With Our Electric Water Heater Rebate Program

As a member of CEC, you can purchase a brand new 40- or 50-gallon electric water heater through our water heater program at a discounted price of \$50 for 40 gallons and \$60 for 50 gallons. For more information about the program call 1-800-950-2667 or visit columbusco-op.org/rebates.



We're Concerned for Our Community

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values. One of these seven cooperative principles is "Concern for Community". Putting this principle into action, we recently participated in a few high school career fairs in our service area.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov

Emergency Response Number
1-800-228-0579

Toll - free Office Number
1-800-950-COOP (2667)

www.columbusco-op.org